



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Libby Stroup	Jill Rickard
Ellie Fajer	Shelly Russell
Chris Kolker	Christine King
Lindley McCrary	Sierra Loar
Michele Hanna	Mary Michael Hawkins
Victor Rosales	Laura Mutton
Tonya Brier	Cindi Seidel
Leslie Csikos	Kira Antram
Erin Weaver	Karen Johnson
Kirsten Roen	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
David Lewien	Jack Reutzell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mandy Leensvaart	Crystal Reid
Patti Turner	

1. **Welcome, DAC Business**

Karen Johnson, DAC chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

2. **Long Range Planning Committee School Start Time Proposal**

Karen, who is a member of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) provided information about the committee's work that led to its school start time recommendation, which will be presented to the Board tomorrow evening. She mentioned the research that the committee reviewed and its decision-making process.

Members discussed the proposal with their table groups and mentioned the following: traffic concerns, especially along Broadway; available study time for high school students before school, and a greater than expected impact on the transportation department in Cherry Creek School District following its start time change. Based on survey data, two-thirds of those surveyed want a change, and they are evenly split between option 1 and option 2. The handout is attached.

3. **English Language Development: Newcomer Presentation**

Mandy Leensvaart, English Language Development (ELD) specialist, and Crystal Reid, ELD instructional coach, presented the findings of a newcomer task force that was convened in spring 2016 to investigate better ways to support students new to the US in educational settings through effective programming and other instructional recommendations. All students need to show adequate growth, which is defined as advancing one proficiency level in one academic year. On average, LPS newcomers met the adequate growth target in half the recommended time.

The task force identified three key findings, which led to recommendations related to each of the key findings: 1) Newcomers' success requires that the entire district assumes responsibility for these students and their families. 2) Schools and general education teachers must be culturally competent and culturally responsive. 3) Programming must be tailored to the grade level of the student; although adolescent newcomers are a small group in LPS, they are high-risk. Mandy explained that the Board of

Education recently adopted a resolution about inclusion of all students as a reminder that “All Means All.” DAC members engaged in a short activity designed to better understand that everyone belongs to different cultures. The PowerPoint presentation and the task force report are attached.

4. **Assessment and Accountability Update**

Patti Turner, director of learning services, reviewed the preliminary 2017 District Performance Framework, which is the state’s tool for determining school districts’ official accreditation rating based on state assessments given annually each spring. The district is accredited with distinction for the eighth consecutive year and is the only metro area district to have that rating. The Board of Education accredits schools, and all LPS schools have a Performance Plan rating, the highest rating possible for schools.

Patti reviewed the Performance Indicator Rating totals for the district, the assurances the district is required to meet, and the test participation rates at the district level. She explained that the framework includes academic achievement and growth by level and disaggregated by student group. Patti said high school participation rates have been low the past two years. With the change to the PSAT college readiness assessments, she believes participation will return to the high numbers LPS has historically seen as students see the value of these tests. She said there is less testing time required for students at some grade levels.

Patti commented that the district uses other data besides state assessments to evaluate and analyze student achievement. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

5. **Board Liaison Report**

Jack Reutzel said the Board is continuing its review of all district policies, using the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) recommendations, and it is a very deliberate process. The Board is hearing annual reports and 2017-2018 charges from the district advisory committees. Discussion items at recent Board meetings included a report on the second year of summer school for K-2 students, which is designed to help students maintain the skills they have learned, and a change of venue for LPS high school graduations, which is driven by the decreased amount of parking options around the district stadium. The venue currently under consideration is Denver University and all three graduation ceremonies would be on the same day. Information will go out to parents as soon as a decision is made.

The Board recently reviewed its existing policies concerning anti-bullying, intolerance, discrimination, and violence and adopted a resolution re-affirming its commitment to an inclusive, ‘all means all’ district by adopting a resolution. More information and the resolution can be found here: <http://littletonpublicschools.net/district/nr/board-education-adopts-resolution-all-means-all>.

At its meeting tomorrow evening, the Board will discuss the 2018-2019 school start time recommendation from the Long Range Planning Committee. Three current Board members whose first term in office has concluded were not opposed in the November election and will be seated for a second four-year term on the Board tomorrow evening.

6. **Meeting Evaluation and Closure**

Karen asked members to consider serving as chair of DAC next year as this is her final year as chair. If interested, please contact Karen or Connie Bouwman.

Karen distributed the meeting evaluation survey and explained that the information gathered each month helps in planning future DAC meetings and evaluating the overall success of DAC that becomes part of its annual report to the Board.

Wrap-up

There is no December DAC meeting. The next DAC meeting is January 17, 2018.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper