



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, September 19, 2018

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Jill Rickard	Cindi Seidel
Garrett Arbuckle	MaryMichael Hawkins
Joe Hayes	Christine King
Ellie Fajer	Vicky Salg
Megan Monroe	Michele Hanna
Victor Rosales	Amy Stivers
Tonya Brier	Sonja Nix
Elizabeth Weishaupl	Cindy Corlett
Kirsten Roen	Abbey Dexter
Ashley Miller	Marnie Yanacheak
James O'Tremba	Beth Bednorz
Katerina Pappas	Lindley McCrary
Becky Garcia	Jamie Carroll
Jennifer Hicks	Laura Mutton, Chair
Susan Dalton	Tera Helmon, Administrative liaison
Shawna McGuckin	Jim Stephens, Board liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Ambron	Diane Doney
Clay Abla	

1. **Welcome, DAC Business**

Laura Mutton, DAC chair, called the meeting to order. She welcomed those present, including principals and school accountability committee chairs who were in attendance for the training portion of the meeting.

2. **Bond Election and Amendment 73**

Diane Doney, assistant superintendent of business services and chief financial officer, explained that the district formed a Long-Range Planning Committee about 18 months ago to “review the district physical plant, program capacity, enrollment boundaries, transportation routing, and major capital equipment requirements, and determine what improvements to efficiency, sustainability, and infrastructure needs may be required during the next five to ten years.” Diane added that the charge expanded to include the next 25 years. The committee was also asked to look at school start time, which led to a recommendation to the Board last spring. The committee membership includes parents, community members, representatives from local organizations, and representatives from other district committees.

Diane commented that the physical facilities in LPS are causing some roadblocks for teachers as they try to meet students’ needs. Bus transportation is also an issue with students being bused to schools a long distance from their home. She said it is time to begin replacing aging facilities in the district and address Americans With Disabilities (ADA) requirements. Furniture needs also need to be addressed. For example, a student who uses a wheelchair cannot sit at a typical classroom table with his or her peers. Another item that will be addressed if the bond election is successful is playing fields. During

drought conditions the fields become very hard and irrigation systems are aging and inefficient. Some fields would be replaced with turf.

The district is looking at replacing Newton Middle School, and the new building would house the middle school, along with the NOVA program, space for professional development, and a junior stadium. The new structure would be built adjacent to the current structure, so students would continue to attend school in the current building during construction. Newton is on a large piece of property, already has a regulation-size track, and the building has structural issues.

A new elementary school would be built on the property at the Ames facility. Some programs currently housed at Ames would need to continue to function during construction. Housing in this area is attracting families with school-age children.

Another new elementary school would be built on the Franklin site, and the Highland and Franklin elementary school neighborhoods would be combined in the new school. Franklin would remain open during construction.

The district is under contract to purchase the Schomp property, which is adjacent to Littleton High School. This will become a career and technical education innovation center.

Diane discussed school funding in Colorado, noting that Amendment 23 was passed in 2000, to give schools additional funding. In 2012 the district passed a mill levy that has helped backfill state shortfalls in per pupil funding. Diane said Amendment 73 would be a 1.37% tax increase for those with an income greater than \$150,000. It will provide \$1.6 billion for K-12 education in Colorado, and \$23,000 annually for LPS. The top priorities for use of these new, ongoing funds would be: staffing, full-day kindergarten, more school days for students, mental health needs, and more professional development contract days for teachers. For additional information about both the bond election and Amendment 73, visit <http://littletonpublicschools.net/november-ballot-local-bond-4a-state-funding-initiative-amendment-73>.

3. **Purpose of DAC and SAC**

Laura introduced Clay Abla, director of secondary education, and Kathleen Ambron, director of elementary education.

Kathleen and Clay presented information and training for school and district accountability committee members and school principals, with the following goals: 1) understand the role of DAC and SAC; 2) understand the relationship between DAC and school accountability committees (SAC); and 3) identify best practices as advisory committee members. They explained that DAC serves as a communication link between SAC and the Board. DAC provides feedback and recommendations in the following areas: 1) district improvement initiatives, priorities, and programs; 2) district compliance with state accreditation and accountability; 3) priorities for spending district funds; 4) charter school applications; 5) student achievement and academic growth; and 6) state education issues.

Table groups discussed SAC responsibilities and identified those tasks that are done well and those that need further work and discussed next steps. Clay defined a purposeful community as one that has outcomes that matter to all, work within agreed-upon processes, and use all available assets to achieve collective efficacy. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

4. **Board Liaison Report**

Jim Stephens, Board assistant secretary, filled in for Jack Reutzel who was out of town. He said DAC is a great place to learn about the district. The Board has been engaged in reviewing and understanding recommendations from the Long-Range Planning Committee concerning a bond election. He said it is important to think strategically and plan for long-range facility needs.

He explained that the contract to purchase the Schomp property is very significant for the district. It will enable the district to expand pathways for students to learn what interests them, and the district needs more programs to support student achievement. Tied into this is the importance of social/emotional health for students, who live in a very different world from their parents and grandparents. The district has added counseling services and changed school start times to address

some of the needs of today's students. Jim reminded the group that the district is in the midst of change and it is messy and uncomfortable right now and will be good for kids in the end.

Jim spoke about another theme the district is embracing, which is "all means all." He touched on values embedded in the current weighted staffing concept and said there will be a different staffing plan to better address equity in the future. The district needs to identify biases, both individual and system biases, to better address student needs. He said equity is not possible until there is adequacy, which takes more resources. Jim said the answer to generating more revenue is Amendment 73.

Other Board discussion items included state accreditation results. LPS is accredited with distinction for the eighth year, and has earned that rank each year the state has accredited school districts. The Board also received an update on the Phoenix 10-12 program, which supports high school students who have been expelled or are at-risk of being expelled. Jim commented that this is a great program to help these students.

5. DAC Business Items

Laura said Sonja Nix, school representative for Highland Elementary School has expressed interest in being the DAC co-chair for 2018-2019. Laura asked if there were others interested in the position. There were none. Michele Hanna, Arapahoe High School representative moved to elect Sonja Nix as co-chair, Cindi Seidel, at-large member seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Laura asked if there were any corrections to the April 18, 2018 minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as presented.

The proposed 2018-2019 DAC charge was distributed, and Laura highlighted the changes being recommended to the Board.

District committee information and sign-up sheets were available at each table, and members were invited to review the information and sign up for a committee if interested.

6. Meeting Evaluation and Closure

Laura 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

The next DAC meeting is October 17, 2018.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper