



## MINUTES OF MEETING

**GROUP:** District Accountability Committee

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 21, 2016

**LOCATION:** ESC Board Room

**PRESENT:**

Jill Rickard	Cindi Seidel
Emma Kasahara	Rebecca Talley
Valerie Wassill	Christine King
Olivier Martin	Tiffany Panza
Laura Mutton	Michele Hanna
Ashley Miller	Lindsey Friedman
Jennifer Proal	Nevine White
Leslie Csikos	Marcus Bianchi
Erin Weaver	Karen Johnson, Chair
Kirsten Roen	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Ashley Festoso	Jack Reutzel, Board liaison
Joan VanDewater	

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kathleen Ambron	Nate Thompson
Clay Abla	John Melkonian
Beth Best	Karla Gruenwald
Kelly Card	Allyson Mallory
Lyndsey Case	Barb DeSpain
Susan Dalton	Trudy Meisinger
Ed Clous	Keri McCabe

**1. Welcome, DAC Business**

Karen Johnson, 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 and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**2. LPS Foundation Update**

Beth Best, LPS Foundation (LPSF) executive director, provided an overview of the Foundation, noting it is a separate organization from the district with its own governing board. Beth said the Foundation raises funds to support and enhance the LPS tradition of excellence in educating kids throughout the community. She reviewed the Foundation's core values. The main focus areas for funding include technology, health and wellness, grants to teachers, and mental health. Funds are raised primarily through three annual fund-raising events: The Stride, the Spirit celebration, and Colorado Gives Day. The Foundation partners with school PTOs for LPS community nights with local professional sports teams games. The Foundation also has partnerships with businesses and other parent and community partners. During the past four years, the Foundation has funded Playworks at elementary schools, STEM centers at middle schools, Poetry Slam and STEM projects at high schools, along with grants to teachers and mental health support. Since 2009, the Foundation has given more than \$2.2 million to LPS. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

**3. Purpose of DAC and SAC**

Karen 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 a goal to help everyone understand the relationship between DAC and school accountability committees. They described the roles of DAC and SAC members, emphasizing the importance of attending monthly meetings and serving as the communication link between their school and DAC. Clay described DAC as a ‘purposeful community,’ stating that it is one of eight district committees that is advisory to the Board of Education. Clay explained that a purposeful community is one that seeks outcomes that matter to all involved by using agreed-upon processes and using all available assets, both tangible and intangible.

Kathleen reviewed membership and key responsibilities of school accountability committees. Key responsibilities include: 1) provide input on the Unified Improvement Plan for the school; 2) provide advisory input to the principal concerning budgetary priorities; 3) bring input to SAC from other school groups; and 4) provide information for the annual report to the community. She said SAC and DAC members are leaders in their school community. She explained what ‘advisory’ means in the context of the school accountability committee and other district advisory committees. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

#### **4. Climate and Culture Survey**

Nate Thompson, director of social, emotional, and behavior services explained that the district is conducting a standard climate survey in all schools, which is the first time a standard climate survey has been used across the district. He said a climate survey asks respondents how they feel about certain things, and differs from a risk behavior survey. An advantage of a district-wide survey is the ability to aggregate data district-wide. Nate emphasized that this is not a school comparison tool, and can be used to identify needs within the school and discuss how the information received can be used. The online survey will be available during October, and a copy is available for review at the front desk at ESC. Parents may choose to opt their student out of the survey. An 80% return from staff and students is anticipated. Parent survey return is likely to be a 30-40% return. Data will be compiled and analysis will begin in January. The survey includes demographic data in order to help analyze data. No decision has been made about the use of a similar survey in future years.

#### **5. DAC Business Items**

Karen asked if there were any corrections to the April 20, 2016 minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as presented.

The proposed 2016-2017 DAC charge was distributed to those present. A few changes in language have been made to this year’s charge.

Karen invited members to review the subcommittee sign-up sheet and sign up for a committee if interested.

#### **6. Board Liaison Report**

Jack Reutzel, Board president, attended the DAC meeting in place of Carrie Warren-Gully, who was out of town. Jack thanked committee members for their service in an advisory role to the Board, noting it helps inform the Board’s work. The first regular Board meeting of the school year was August 25, with one regular meetings plus a workshop so far in September. The next Board meeting is September 27. At this time of year, the Board hears advisory committee reports and discusses and approves committee charges for 2016-2017. The Board is engaged in a review of its policies, which will continue for some time to come as there are many policies. He explained that policies are the way the Board governs. The Board has received preliminary student enrollment numbers and enrollment remains flat at about 15,000 students, with 23% coming from outside the district. Final enrollment numbers will be available in October following the official October count period. Jack said there will be a Board workshop to discuss graduation guidelines that will be in place for next year’s incoming freshman, which is the graduating class of 2021. Board workshops and regular meetings are open to the public. The Board is carefully reviewing the district budget as preliminary budget numbers for K-12 education from the state are not promising. Phase II of the bond program work was completed this summer. Jack expressed appreciation to the staff at schools that were closed over the summer for

the work done to upgrade buildings. Information about Board meetings can be found by accessing BoardDocs: <http://www.boarddocs.com/co/lpsco/Board.nsf/Public>.

#### **6. Meeting Evaluation and Closure**

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**

The next DAC meeting is October 19, 2016.

Submitted by  
Kerry Schaper