



LENSKI ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE YEAR-END REPORT

MAY 2017

What a wonderful year of student success and celebrations! The parents, students, and staff collaborated to make learning the best ever! Student writing has been posted in classrooms, halls, and bulletin boards. Science, Math, and Social Studies projects are evident everywhere. Even Kindergarten posted book reports that served as examples of building wide reading stamina and comprehension.

The Lenski Accountability Committee (LAC) is firmly committed to the Littleton Public Schools mission of educating all students for the future by challenging every individual to continuously learn, achieve, and act with purpose and compassion. The LAC oversaw continued academic successes while, at the same time, embracing strategic ways to meet new challenges.

The Lenski Accountability Committee met on September 14, 2015 to review LAC responsibilities and bylaws, the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). Barb also explained that the (UIP) for Lenski for 2016-2017 will focus on how students will improve in reading achievement. The Universal Literacy Framework has been revised and Lenski teachers attended staff development during the summer of 2016. The implementation of the Universal Literacy Framework will be an important part of the plan. Barb shared an overview of the Universal Literacy Plan.

In October, Superintendent Brian Ewert was welcomed by the LAC members to explain the work of Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) and to answer questions from members of the Lenski Accountability Committee members. Key points from his presentation are:

PLC's are collaborative teams of teachers working in a process to:

- 1.) Clarify the knowledge, skills, and dispositions all students must acquire.
- 2.) Monitor the learning of each student on a timely basis.
- 3.) Provide systematic, timely, and directive interventions when students don't learn.
- 4.) Develop strategies to enrich and extend the learning for students who are proficient.

Superintendent Ewert believes that teachers are using PLC time effectively to improve student growth, and that more PLC time will increase student growth and achievement. The committee was supportive of the work of PLC's and Superintendent Ewert's presentation.

In November, Lenski Gifted and Talented Teacher, Katie Heissenbuttel, also welcomed LAC members and thanked them for their work and leadership at Lenski. Katie introduced students who described their experiences in gifted/talented activities at Lenski.

Fourth Grade students Linea Paulsson and Kaiden Hamilton described their experiences in the following activities:

- Battle of the Books – a competition where students discuss great books they have read and compete in head to head competitions about the books



- Trivia Groups – a bi-weekly gathering where students learn and discuss trivia from various content areas including history, science, math, literature and geography

Fourth Grade students Frank Quattromani and Noah Orcutt presented their STEM project on Multi Sport. The goal of this project was to create a helmet for skiers and snowboarders in the event of an accident. The students created a prototype using the anatomy of a bighorn sheep as a model.

Kaiden Hamilton, Eliza Vigoren, Sasha Maxwell reported on their study of the Multiple Intelligences.

In January, LPS Superintendent Brian Ewert presented the information on proposed changes to school start and end times, benefits of PLC work by teachers and a status report on transportation data that has been tabulated. Goals of making adjustments in each topic areas were presented along with several proposals. Opportunities and challenges for the options were also presented followed by a question and answer session. LPS Superintendent Brian Ewert presented the information on proposed changes to school start and end times, benefits of PLC work by teachers and a status report on transportation data that has been tabulated. Goals of making adjustments in each topic areas were presented along with several proposals. Opportunities and challenges for the options were also presented followed by a question and answer session.

AT the February meeting, Dana Wilhelm and Katelyn Cerasuolo presented a PowerPoint explaining how the new computer lab is improving how students learn and work together. Students in all grade levels are: creating, thinking critically, collaborating, communicating, and problem solving. The computer lab is where 21st Century Skills are being implemented! The new Lenski computer lab is presenting staff, students, and parents with: new challenges, new opportunities, exciting energy, and coding. Parents are invited to visit and collaborate with staff during computer lab times.

Deb Bestriech updated the committee on the implementation of the Unified Improvement Plan. She hosted the Littleton Public Schools Site Visit to show how Lenski is implementing the revised Literacy Framework. The standards she focused on for the site visit were:

- “Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from a text.”
- “Students engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions using evidence from the text to support yourself.”

In the lesson, students listened to the teacher read the story aloud. She asked students to listen to how the author builds suspense in the story. Then students highlighted the text to justify answers. Students then engaged in collaborative discussions using evidence from the text to support their answers.

The committee reviewed the results of the Comprehensive School Climate Survey. At Lenski, 280 students (3-5th), 223 parents, and 46 employee personnel participated. We noticed that Lenski results are comparable to the district elementary students. We noticed that Lenski students rated “sense of social-emotional security” and “Social Media” lowest of all factors in the survey (consistent across the district). Next steps include providing staff and student training on social media use and intranet safety training. We will also continue our work with Playworks to enhance student collaborative game interactions and work on student concerns about exclusion.

It was announced that Lenski has been selected as a John Irwin School of Excellence for 2016.

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In March, Dr. DeSpain reviewed the staffing plan for the upcoming year.

A sincere thank-you to everyone who shared suggestions and comments throughout the year. Your support is invaluable as we focus on the future and all the opportunities that lie ahead. With your help, we will continue to strive to keep Lenski an excellent place for your children to grow and learn as readers, writers, problem solvers, and friends.

The members of the LAC for the 2016- 2017 school year are:

Current LAC Members: Nancy Seavall, Tamara Nolting, Sarah Franklin, Amy Dawson, Kristi Steele, Barb DeSpain, Kathy Fennelly, Teri Secor, Holly Malcolm, Nancy Seavall, Jenn Regan, Travis Moore, Carolyn Apking Wittenberger, Katie Heissenbuttel, and Carrie Napolilli

Please contact Barb DeSpain if you would like to participate on the LAC in the 2017-2018 school year.

Many Thanks!
Barb