



## MINUTES OF MEETING

**GROUP:** District Accountability Committee

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 17, 2018

**LOCATION:** ESC Board Room

**PRESENT:**

Marcus Morgan	Cindi Seidel
Terese Rainwater	MaryMichael Hawkins
Niki Gerwitz	Christine King
Jason Hill	Vicky Salg
Megan Monroe	Michele Hanna
Victor Rosales	Amy Stivers
Tonya Brier	Abbey Dexter
Elizabeth Weishaupl	Lindley McCrary
Kirsten Roen	Jennifer Hicks
Ashley Miller	Laura Mutton, Chair
Lauren Hillary	Tera Helmon, Administrative liaison
Tamara Nolting	Jack Reutzell, Board liaison
Stephanie Rose	

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Beth Best	Brian Ewert
Clay Abla	Michell Ansley

**1. Welcome, DAC Business**

Laura Mutton, DAC chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Laura corrected the September 19, 2018 minutes to accurately reflect information about Amendment 73. A corrected copy of the minutes will be sent to members.

**2. LPS Foundation (LPSF) Update**

Beth Best, LPSF executive director explained that funds raised by the Foundation are spread across all schools to support kids, and the Foundation does not provide goods or services, only cash. Funds are raised through corporate sponsorships and through events including The Stride, Spirit Celebration, Colfax Marathon, Colorado Gives Day, and City of Littleton Golf Tournament. The Foundation partners with PTOs to offer discounted tickets to Avalanche, Nuggets, and Rockies games. Overall, the Foundation has raised about \$5.7 million to support LPS. Beth said the Poetry Slam will be held at the Ames Facility on November 13, and the Foundation is a co-sponsor of the event.

**3. Remarks from the Superintendent**

Brian Ewert, superintendent thanked DAC members for their service to LPS and said that DAC is the only state mandated district committee. He said the district will host a community event on October 29 at South Fellowship Church to discuss mental health and teen suicide issues. He mentioned that Colorado has double the number of teen suicides compared to the national average. There are no simple answers concerning suicide and other mental health issues, and the district continues to work to understand the mental health needs of students. He added that administrators have spent considerable time with the families who have been impacted by teen suicide trying to understand the situations, which are very complex.

Brian said the Sources of Strength program in high schools is a peer-to-peer program that utilizes peer leaders in various subgroups. He said the Board added \$800,000.00 to the budget to support mental

health needs. Jack Reutzel, Board liaison added that the circumstances of every suicide are different and families have said their student was popular, and loved school and their teachers. Brian explained that Safe-To-Tell regularly helps students in crisis. Nate Thompson, director of social, emotional, and behavior services will make a presentation to DAC in November. Members were encouraged to invite others to the November 14 meeting to hear more about mental health in LPS. Members were asked to send specific questions for Nate to Laura.

Brian said the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC), under a charge from the Board, has been working for about 18 months. School start time and transportation changes occurred at the beginning of the school year. Middle and high schools report that learning is improved, and the district recognizes that the time change has been difficult for some families. He said the committee also recommended that a bond measure be put on the November ballot, which the Board approved.

Brian provided some facts about Amendment 73. He said it is not a 'blank check' as opponents say. The funds will go directly to an education fund and be distributed across all school districts. In the first year of this funding, several changes will occur in LPS: 1) base level school staffing will be adequate, without regard to enrollment numbers; and 2) full-day kindergarten will be implemented in all schools. PTOs will no longer be able to buy FTE to supplement school staffing. Brian explained that this creates inequity among schools and it is important to have a system where programs are available to all students.

#### **4. Graduation Requirements/Innovation Update**

Michell Ansley, director of innovation and relevance, explained why innovation is important for today's students. She compared the top ten skills employers looked for in 2015 to those they will need in 2020. She said changes worldwide and nationally are driving what employers want in workers, and schools need to step up to meet these needs. Most jobs available will fall into the low to mid-skill requirements range. The aging population in the US, along with environmental changes will also affect the job market and kinds of skills that employees will need. Michell explained that innovation is a way of thinking that creates something new and better. In LPS, innovation includes: 1) postsecondary and workforce readiness; 2) examination of policies, procedures, and practices; 3) student-centered learning; and 4) next generation learning spaces.

Michell reviewed the Career and Technical Education (CTE) career pathways and explained that the district has plans to expand CTE to the recently purchased property (formerly Schomp Automotive), which is across the street from Littleton High School, when the current tenant vacates the property. She said CTE courses are in high demand, and the district continues to encourage students to take advantage of these courses. Michell explained the concept of a work-based learning continuum, and the paradigm shift from teacher-centered instruction to student-centered learning, which includes different settings and a different classroom environment.

Clay Abla, director of secondary education provided an update on the graduation requirements and competencies that are in place for the class of 2021. He reviewed the implementation timeline and said the job world is changing, and LPS needs to prepare its graduates for the jobs of the future. Clay explained that the LPS graduation requirements align with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) requirements. New graduation requirements allow specific courses taken prior to ninth grade to count toward graduation requirements. Course alternatives and course waivers are also part of the new requirements, as are expanded graduation pathways. Clay reviewed the graduation competencies that are designed to help students prepare for what they want to do after high school.

Clay said the district has partnered with Next, a GED and community college program to support students who have dropped out of high school. About 30 LPS students, along with students from other districts are enrolled in the program. Clay described the district capstone rubric that gives students more ways to demonstrate competency. Teachers can track student progress and identify areas of need through a digital dashboard. This provides an opportunity for early intervention to help students stay on track. A data dashboard for students and parents is available through the parent portal. Other measures of student success include the four-to-seven year graduation rates, CTE course completion, concurrent enrollment data, and post-school interviews with students with disabilities.

## **5. Board Liaison Report**

Jack Reutzler, Board liaison reported on the Board's action and discussion items noting that the Board has heard the presentations DAC heard this evening. The superintendent and his staff also presented the administrative work plan to the Board, which includes goals and action items that drive the work of the district. A preliminary enrollment report shows there are about 15,000 students enrolled in LPS. Enrollment remains stable and Jack commented that neighborhoods are turning over and more families are moving into LPS neighborhoods. Enrollment growth is anticipated as a result. In addition, about 23 percent of enrollment comes from students who live out of district, and the state funding, or per pupil revenue (PPR) comes with these students.

Jack commented that the graduation guidelines are fluid and offer multiple pathways for students to meet graduation requirements, and the requirements remain vigorous. Jack encouraged DAC members to become informed about the LPS bond measure on the November ballot. He said passage of this bond is very important to the future of the district. A representative from the Citizens for LPS campaign committee mentioned opportunities for anyone interested to participate in the phone bank or prepare post cards for mailing. Jack said he appreciates the LPS community for being informed and voting their conscience.

## **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 November 14, 2018.

Submitted by  
Kerry Schaper