



## LENSKI ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE YEAR-END REPORT

MAY 2019

Lenski staff and parents are so excited about student successes over the 2018-2019 school year. Without students, parents and staff working together this would not have been possible. Collaboration amongst classroom teachers and specialists have extended learning of grade level standards to include science in the stem lab, literature in the library and creativity in art. This exciting endeavor to integrate learning has allowed students to make connections across the curriculum throughout the year.

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.

In September, Barb explained that the (UIP) for Lenski for 2018-2019 will focus on how students will improve in reading achievement. She also explained that all schools in Littleton Public Schools are implementing a Kindergarten through Grade Two reading programs, SuperKids (for the second year) as well as ReadyGen in Grade Three (for the first year).

In October, Kristi Steele provided an overview of the Lenski PLC work. LPS Superintendent Brian Ewert reviewed key aspects of the November Ballot: Local Bond 4A and State Funding Initiative Amendment 73.

In November, Sabine Baez discussed Second Step, Zones of Regulation, and Brain Breaks. Parent Karin Johnson presented Dyslexia Awareness. Barb shared Reports and Updates: PTO, Tech Advisory Committee, LPS Foundation (Stride)

In January, Dana Wilhelm and Marla Terwilliger updated the Lenski Accountability Meeting on upgrades and STEM projects.

The committee also reviewed and discussed the graphic depicting equality, equity, reality, and barriers gone. Here are some main points to continue to define the working with an equity lens in LPS:

**Equality: Assume everyone is the same and have the same conditions**

**Equity: Opportunities are equalized with supports for individual conditions**

**Liberation: Cause of the inequity addressed; systemic barriers are removed; true equality is achieved**

**Context:** A key concept to understanding how equity fits with our work as educators is to know that EQUITY EXISTS WITHIN A CONTEXT. It is not an isolated program or initiative. In looking at the 3-panel illustration above, the context is the ball game that the people are watching. However, we could have the context change to a math lesson, a field trip, how we serve lunch, homework practices, etc.

At the February meeting, Jill Wilschke, MA, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist) and Substance Abuse Specialist at Littleton Public Schools, shared information on Substance Use and Teens. She empowered members of the committee by showing examples of devices and substances accessible to students. Parents and staff also shared reports and updates from the PTO. Winter Wonderland plans were shared.

In March, Sabine Baez presented: How to support students when they are showing anxiety. Barb shared the

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2019-2020 Staff Plan for discussion and input. Updates on PTO and Watchdog Parent Program were shared.

In April, the end of the year meeting focused on celebrations. The 2019-2020 staff plan was presented with a huge thank you to PTO for their contribution of \$143,000. We also celebrated STEM activities at Lenski. Students continue exploring STEM concepts in our technology lab. Our kindergarten students experience the roles of engineers, programmers, and builders along with the basics of coding with mouse robotics. First graders designed and built reindeer sleighs. Ozobots disguised as reindeer pulled the sleighs across a track carrying increasingly heavier loads. Students problem solved and modified their designs to successfully carry heavier loads. Third grade students are using Ozobots to drive around the regions of the United States. Fourth graders have been studying electricity and are currently conducting "squishy circuit" experiments. Fifth graders took an energy code challenge. Students programmed Ozobots to travel a maze identifying and visiting renewable energy sites while avoiding nonrenewable energy sites. Students learning through hands-on engagement continues to be a priority in our tech lab.

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 2018- 2019 school year are:

Kristi Steele, Barb DeSpain, Kathy Fennelly, Marla Terwilliger, Holly Malcolm, Nancy Seavall, Jenn Regan, Carolyn Apking Wittenberger, Katie Heissenbittel, Sarah Franklin, Carrie Napolili, Tamara Nolting, Karin Johnson

Please contact Barb DeSpain if you would like to participate on the LAC in the 2019-2020 school year.

Many Thanks!  
Barb