District Accountability Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2012

I. Call to order

Jaraine Lattany called to order the regular meeting of the District Accountability Committee at 6:35 pm on Thursday, May 17 in the PLCC and Mt. Harvard Conference Room.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Mike Abdale, Lisa Escárcega, Kim Harrell, Ella Hart, Jaraine Lattany, Karen Porter, Julie Rapone, Dan Wright, Janna Youmans.

Board of Education Liaison: Jeanette Carmany

Speaker(s): Stan Rodriguez - Budget Manager, Mark Davis – Director, Maintenance & Operations

Guest(s): Public

III. Welcome & Introductions

Lisa welcomed and gave an introduction to DAAC members and all accompanying guests

IV. Budget Hearing

Mark Davis presented the group with a brief explanation on outsourcing custodial operations

A. Outsourcing would be over a 4 year process
B. High Schools, Middle Schools, TH Pickens, and support sites
C. Savings of $30,000.00 Annually
D. No jobs will be taken – Empty spots will be filled with the outsourcing of custodial necessities
E. The process for hiring Contracted custodial employees is stringent
   a. Background screening
   b. Drug screening
F. Questions
   a. Why not Elementary Schools
      i. In Elementary schools we have two custodians at night and in Middle & High schools it takes four custodians. The need is greater at the Middle and High schools
Stanley Rodriquez presented the budget that was presented to the APS Board on May 1, 2012


B. The adopted budget presentation to the board will be June 5, 2012

C. Questions
   a. How much are the free and reduced lunch increases
      i. 5 cent increase
      ii. Secondary $2.35
      iii. Elementary $1.85
   b. William Smiths budget page is wrong in the hard copy of the proposed budget

Public Hearing

A. My name is Michelle Searles (Columbia Middle School). If steps and lanes are not going to be honored, please honor our students.

B. My name is Dave Roll (Assistant Principal) – I present on behalf of Jane Shirley and William Smith.
   a. We have met our charge and what the district set out to accomplish
   b. We are willing to take cuts, but we cannot offer the program with an 11% cut in one year – Can’t keep the program viable
   c. We are funded at 264 students – We brought in an additional 34 students and did not receive funding from the district for those students.
   d. Handout - Proposed Budget Reductions Frequently Asked Questions – Staff (February 21, 2012) (Question #1 on the FAQ)
   e. Items that didn’t go out to the community in the survey – William Smith budget
   f. Funding has not changed for William Smith in 6 years
   g. Steps and Lanes and sustaining salary staff increases are part of the budget increase (longevity of employees)
   h. We were tasked to develop an innovative program - excellent choice for students
      i. We are bringing charter schools back into the district (10 – 20% coming back into the district).
   i. Jane Shirley and I would like to sit down with the APS board and leadership team

C. My name is Paul Grzybowski (Williams Smith)
   a. District pioneer – Innovative choice to parents
   b. Joint Steering Committee measured us at exceeding expected bench marks
   c. CSAP Scores – 11 ½ % to 18 ½ % increase
   d. Graduation – 55 out of 60 Students this year
   e. Increasing engagement in the classroom – We have done that!
   f. No other school is asked to cut 11% out of their budget
   g. Message? – Your not worth the quality education we have provided – One size education is all that works
D. My name is Amy Nichols (AEA President)
   a. Agreement with pilot schools – We have Vista PEAK school of innovation and additional costs for transportation needs – Yet you don’t reduce Vista’s budget
   b. Also, Why did the Special Budget Advisory Committee only meet a total of three times for the year

E. Hello my name is Camille Schiraldi (Teacher - TH Pickens)
   a. I have concerns when children are emptying buckets of water due to a plumbing issue in my classroom
      i. We have one plumber for 72 buildings
      ii. I requested the work be done last fall
   b. We have para needs and presently we have five adjunct teacher faculty being paid $25 per hour with no benefits – They work 40 hours and are getting paid for 27 hours
   c. I know that two admin people were hired with benefits at Pickens and were given pay increases when hired

F. My name is Michelle Searles (Columbia Middle School).
   a. We need competitive salaries for teachers – You have froze steps and lanes and increased the number of students in the classroom, our planning time has increased
   b. If looking at becoming a teacher with Aurora – I would not choose Aurora as a qualified teacher

G. My name is Monica Banks (Columbia Middle School)
   a. We need to look at the myriad programs we have and invest in our staff through steps and lanes – We have unproven programs

H. My name is Gwen Moore (Paris Elementary)
   a. I have worked for APS for the past 16 years
   b. I have seen custodial and maintenance decreased and then we started beefing up the classrooms. Our infrastructure started crumbling, but Central Admin started to grow. Teacher coaches came in, Deputy Superintendent was hired, Student Achievement directors – The top has gotten heavier, and yet we are asked to do more with less
   c. I do four jobs in my building and the heat in the building is not always working
   d. Kids need resources – Social workers, counselors
   e. I have not had one night at home this week before 9 o’clock

I. My name is Betty Lee (Columbia Middle School)
   a. In this economy we maintain homes, cars, new tires – When you take steps and lanes your taking the maintenance to help students (Moral is down)

J. My name is Lori Harris (TH Pickens)
   a. I support what Camille said – We don’t pay adjunct teachers the way they should be paid. My 8th year in the district and we are taking advantage of people helping our students. We should be ashamed! One adjunct teacher has been a teaching for five years (they love what they are doing). I also support what is being said about steps and lanes. I worry about the new teachers in the district – They will need to work an extra job
K. Kari Winter (Montview and Crawford)
a. I am a Special Ed Teacher – I am working on my Master degree – I am worried about the steps and lanes freeze. I have books to pay and my student fees. It upset me that I only have 38 cents left in my bank account

L. Wendy Waterman (Aurora Frontier)
a. I taught in Bennett for 15 years until they froze our benefits
b. Grades K-8 – Proposing to do a late start. Yet we do not have the TE to cover kids coming to school early – We were told to get a para.
c. Look at TE and how it effects kids and steps and lanes

M. My name is MaryAnn Moultrie, Speech and language pathologist
a. I am hearing staff comment what leadership is saying – You make a difference – APS is #1
b. Tammie Clementi is saying in her emails - Our students are capable, our teachers are hungry, our administrators are courageous, and our community is deserving!!
   i. Our teachers really are hungry
c. Teachers want to cut up their bands
d. Teachers are courageous - I have been in the district for 20 years. I have never heard such lack of respect, we do make a difference and the kids are number 1 for us

N. My name is Sherita Patrom (Jamaica)
a. Impacted Schedules – How will this effect student growth having a day off in the middle of the week

O. My name is Vicki Reinhard (Kenton)
a. Everything that has been said here I have experienced as well – the common goal is the kids – It's hard working under these conditions

Questions:
MaryAnn Moultrie, Speech and language pathologist
Need clarification on the Medicaid budget?
   Lisa's response – Enrollment and criteria have changed – The state was forced to allocate more toward Medicaid. The Medicaid budget & expenditures are separate funds that can only be spent for the program eligible students

V. DAC Discussion - Budget
Lisa asked that DAC be given the opportunity to convene and write-up a recommendation to the board of education on budget suggestions.

A. Kim Harrel (Parent) – What is steps and lanes
   a. It is the salary schedule for Licensed and Classified staff

B. Mike Abdale – I make a motion to leave #1 on the quad chart
   a. Dan Wright – I second the motion
   b. Members voted and approved

C. Mike Abdale – I make a motion to leave #2 on the quad chart
   a. Kim Harrell – I second the motion
   b. Members voted and approved

D. Mike Abdale – I make a motion to leave #3 on the quad chart
   a. Dan Wright – I second the motion
   b. Members voted and approved
E. Mike Abdale – I make a motion to leave #4 on the quad chart
   a. Dan Wright – I second the motion
   b. Members voted and approved
F. Dan Wright – I make a motion to leave #5 on the quad chart
   a. Mike Abdale – I second the motion
   b. Members voted and approved
G. Mike Abdale – I make a motion to leave #6 on the quad chart
   a. Dan Wright – I second the motion
   b. Members voted and approved – resulting in a 4 to 2 vote
H. Jarraine Lattany made a motion to make a suggestion to the Board of Education that they only cut the William Smith budget by 5% instead of 10%
   a. Kim Harrell seconded the motion
   b. Members voted and approved

VI. Executive Committee Nominations
   A. Janna Youmans made a motion that we take the slate of officers as proposed
      a. Dan Wright seconded the motion
      b. Members voted and approved

VII. Adjournment

Jarraine adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.

_______________________          ATTEST______________________
Chairperson                                      Secretary