I. **Call to order**

Kim Harrell called to order the regular meeting of the District Accountability Committee at 5:45 pm on Thursday, October 18 in the PLCC and La Plata Peak Conference Room.

II. **Roll call**

The following persons were present: Lisa Escárcega, Kim Harrell, Ella Hart, Efrén Ortiz, Karen Porter, Julie Rapone, Dan Wright,

Board of Education Liaison: Jeanette Carmany

Speaker(s): Karen Farquharson, Founder & Director, Montessori del Mundo

David Farquharson, Design Team

Greg Hatcher, Board member, Montessori del Mundo

Kathryn Ross, Board member, Montessori del Mundo

III. **Welcome & Introductions**

Kim welcomed and gave an introduction to DAC members

IV. **Interview charter School Application**

DAC has been charged with giving a recommendation to the APS Board of Education in regards to approval of Charter School Applicants

A. Lisa explained that an external group also reviewed the application

B. The Aurora Public Schools Leadership Team reviewed the application

C. Karen Farquharson was given the opportunity to explain the teaching module and inspiration behind her idea to develop a dual language Montessori program

   a. There are two schools in Denver that have dual language programs

   b. The program would be introduced Pre-K – 1st grade up to 6 grade

   c. Class population would be 50% native speaking (mixed population)

      i. Content material would be learned in both native speaking language and English

      ii. Studies have shown that the dual language model is a compelling module to close the achievement gap

   d. Children that are less privileged and living in a less enriched environment are believed to thrive with the program, and Montessori materials are really appealing to young children – Especially children with less material items (toys).

   e. The differences between a traditional education and the Montessori Dual Language Program are the teaching philosophy, and one on one/small group teaching

   f. The school may be housed at:

      i. Northwest Aurora

      ii. Chambers and Colfax to Chambers and Alameda

      iii. Montview

      iv. Sable and Second
g. The student to staff ratio would look like:
   i. One teacher to ten students
   ii. 25 to 30 students in a classroom
   iii. In the lower grades – 14 students to 1 teacher (Also staff assistants in the lower grades)
   iv. There is a plan to have a multi age classroom pre-3 and 4-6 grades
   v. Students would accomplish work in both English & Spanish – With one English speaking teacher and one Spanish speaking teacher
      1. Each teacher would review the other teachers work at the beginning of a new lesson plan
      2. Transferable skills – Dual language plan

h. There are plans to bring on 2 to 3 additional board members, preferably bilingual.
   i. The school is designed to go through 6th grade so students would receive the maximum benefit of the Montessori model

i. The School does not want to consider a secondary level at this time.

j. The proposed head of school belongs to the “Get Smart Schools”
   i. The Get Smart Schools Fellowship is the only leadership program in Colorado dedicated to serving autonomous school leaders
   ii. The proposed head of school is also working on a Principal License – Which will be obtained prior to opening the school

k. For students with disabilities
   i. Montessori works really well with Special Education children
      1. The program works well because teachers work one on one and in small groups
      2. Teachers will meet with data teams to discuss about kids who are struggling, and get suggestions from peers
      3. Required to take detail records of how students are doing
      4. Teachers will meet with Intervention and Special Education personnel, and discuss the need for “Pull out” “Push in” model

l. The school will monitor applications and continually check the enrollment trends for an even balance of English & second language learners

D. A motion was made to recommend the approval of the Montessori Del Mundo Application with hopes that they strongly consider the Northwest area of Aurora. In addition DAC would like to see Montessori Del Mundo recruit additional bilingual, parent & community board members
   i. The motion was seconded
   ii. Members voted and approved

E. On November 13th at 6 PM – Kim will deliver to the APS Board of Education the DAC recommendation regarding the approval of the Montessori Del Mundo Application
V. **2013-14 district draft calendar review**
Lisa Escárcega was asked by William Stuart (Deputy Superintendent) to present the 2013-14 draft calendar to DAC Members – Discussion took place regarding the calendars extended learning opportunities and what that would look like

A. DAC members approved the 2013-14 draft calendar

B. Note that innovation & pilot schools can waive out of the district calendar

VI. **Adjournment**

Kim Harrell adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

_______________________ ATTEST ____________________

Chairperson Secretary