DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 23, 2016
6:00 – 7:30 PM
Accountability and Research Conference Room
of Education Service Center 1

A G E N D A

6:00 – 6:45  Budget Re-Adopt (Gina Lanier, Controller)

6:45 – 7:30  DAAC Membership and Communication Opportunities

7:30  Closing
I. Call to order:
   DJ Loerzel called to order the regular meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee at 6:00 pm on Monday, November 21st in the Accountability Conference Room (Educational Services Center #1)

II. Roll Call
   The following individuals were present: Ella Hart, Billie Day, Cathy Wildman (BOE Liaison) Dan Wright, Jeanette Carmody, and DJ Loerzel.

   Speaker(s):
   - Gina Lanier, Controller

III. Welcome and Introductions
   DJ introduced the agenda and speakers for the evening

IV. 2016 – 17: Budget Re-Adopt

The Board was presented and approved the approved budget at the last budget. $391 million in the General Fund, total $808 million across all categories, (See attached presentation). The presentation is for information purposes, though feedback is accepted and reviewed. In building a yearly budget, (slide 4) TABOR, BOE Reserves and other items are excluded.

Jeanette request: review when the BOE reserve was reduced from 3% to 1.0%. The BOE did vote to increase the reserve, progressively, over the next several years. Transfer funds include items the General Fund supports (athletics, special programs, etc). The $8 million is APS’s “cushion” to begin the year (this is well down from previous years and low). Nutrition Services, by law, cannot pay for their own bad debt (if students do not pay their lunch bill). This must be paid out of the General Fund.

Charter schools specifically are given every penny of their “per pupil” funding. The district can change overhead costs, roughly 1%. Charters also get their entire ELA, READ, etc dollars that are tied to the schools. For special services, APS does some of the staffing for some of the special ed students, which we charge them for or the district reimburses them for staffing themselves.

There was a general discussion and questions around how expenses around charter schools and district staff that support charters are covered by the District. Gina explained that funds for charters flow directly to charter schools, largely because they were not included in earlier charter contracts as they were only a minor expense when there were only 1-2 charters. With the significant growth of charter schools in the district, this volume is of more of a concern. Gina indicated they are aware of this situation for future budgeting and contract negotiations. The Office of Autonomous Schools is also aware and including these considerations in new charter contracts and in renegotiations.
Divisions made 5% reductions across the budgets (-$3.3 millinion), decreased reserves/transfers. Arapahoe County payback was an adjustment for taxes that must be paid leaving a balance of $4.0 million.

The Finance Division and APS will be holding Townhalls at various schools around the district. Rico will provide an introduction and context, followed by questions from the communities. There is information presenting 4 different scenarios ($19-21 million dollars that we know due to declining enrollment, etc). There are themes in regards to budget planning, (ex: focusing on elementary education, focus on enrollment projects, focus on traditional education, etc).

DJ and the Committee thanked Gina for her time and presentation.

I. 2016 – 17: DAAC Membership and Communication Opportunities

Continuing over the next year, DAAC’s membership is a focus for APS leadership and the Board. As a group, I would like to discuss opportunities to increase our participation and membership. One handout, is a proposed/tentative DAAC membership brochure for feedback. Induced by DJ, as a group, we would like to discuss opportunities to increase our participation and membership. The representation of our district demographics and overall increased participation has been a concern of the DAAC and DJ emphasized he is working to increase membership, participation and opportunities to strengthen the DAAC and gave several examples of the discussions and outreach he has been making. He encouraged members to continue doing so also. Jeanette volunteered to distribute to her community and others to their contacts.

It was suggested that a DAAC spokesperson report briefly monthly at Board meetings as some Districts do. This will give visibility and validate the importance of the DAAC for the community. There was a discussion of the need to involve parents and recruit them through Principals. DJ distributed one handout, as a proposed/tentative DAAC membership brochure for feedback and suggestions were made.

Possibilities for further engaging communities:
- Advertising/promoting information from the DAAC meetings to community members through Board Meetings, School Messager, updating our website, etc
- Engaging schools to discuss DAAC (parent-teacher conferences, report cards, conferences)
- Sending information to School’s for their newsletters
  - Create an icon
  - Focus on the benefit to their parents
  - Family liaisons
- Adjusting the brochure to focus parents and communities specifically
  - Conversational and brief
  - Simplify the “legal aspects” and speak to parents/families
  - QA
    - What is it?
    - Who’s on it?
The Committee thanked DJ for the brochure and commended him for his initiatives and leadership on strengthening the DAAC.

Handout(s):

I. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm