**District Accountability Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

February 20, 2014

I. **Call to order**

Karen Porter called to order the regular meeting of the District Accountability Committee at 5:36 pm on Thursday, February 20 in the Dr. Ed Lord and Patricia Lord Board Room (Educational Services Center, Peoria Building).

II. **Roll call**

The following persons were present: Jeanette Carmany, Lisa Escárcega, Ella Hart, Merrie Jones, Rick Morris, Valerie Nesbitt, Efren Ortiz, Karen Porter, Julie Rapone, Dan Wright, Janna Youmans

Board of Education Liaison: Amber Drevon

Speaker(s):
William Stuart – Deputy Superintendent
Jan Lasater – Literacy Instructional Coordinator

III. **Welcome & Introductions**

Karen Porter welcomed and gave an introduction to DAC members and guests

IV. **Questions from DAC**

William answered questions from DAC members

A. **Have grades ever been changed on CSAP testing** – No, grades have never been changed on CSAP testing – It has always been that Aurora Public Schools tries to work on how to motivate students to do their best on the CSAP test. It is not an APS policy or practice to change grades.

B. **Explain standards based grading – It is hard to understand.** Standards-based grading measures what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level according to Colorado state content standards. Grades are determined by analyzing the body of evidence.

C. **Why are the honors foreign language courses weighted** – William explained that he was not aware of any honors foreign language course being weighted. Honors criteria are woven into the content. This also determines whether students receive the weighted grade. The determination for honors credit will be granted by using a body of evidence. A body of evidence may include student portfolios, teacher recommendations, work samples, interim assessments, Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) course assessment results, and performance based assessment results. Only true IB/MYP (International Baccalaureate/IB Middle Years Programme) courses are weighted.
V. READ ACT
Karen introduced and welcomed Jan Lasater

A. Jan Presented a PowerPoint presentation on the READ Act
B. A trifold flyer was handed out “The READ Act: Information for Parent”

C. Additional Technology support - Through the Internet Essentials program offered by APS partner Comcast, many families can receive a big discount on broadband Internet and a desktop computer. Internet Essentials provides affordable access to the Internet, a discount-priced computer and computer skills training to low income families. Broadband service is offered to families for $9.95 per month with the option to purchase a computer for less than $150. Free access to digital literacy training is also offered. In order to be eligible for the program, households must be located where Comcast offers service, have at least one child receiving free or reduced price school lunches through the National School Lunch Program and be a new Comcast Internet subscriber.

Questions

Does the school need parental permission for a student to be placed on a READ Plan - No, it’s not like an IEP (Individual Education Plan)

How often do you touch base with the parent(s) of a child on a READ Plan - Depends on the student

At what point do students graduate from the READ Plan -
It takes a body of evidence – DRA2, PALS, and other assessments to determine if a student is ready to be taken off of the READ Plan

Who writes the plan - A team of people will help the teacher write the plan – ELA Coordinators, Special Education Consultants, and Teacher Coaches.

Is the support going to be given during summer break for the READ Plan –
We have no funding at this time set aside for summer programs addressing Read Plan

What percentage of kids will be on a READ Plan -
1st Grade – 70 students
2nd Grade – 1000 Students
3rd Grade – 1300 Students

Roughly about 25% of students are on Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening Assessment (PALS) and Developmental Reading Assessment®, 2nd Edition (DRA2)
VI. Parental Involvement Plan/UIS Review
Karen voiced that there was not enough time to discuss the last item on the agenda and asked to have it moved to March 20th.

Lisa asked that all members review the improvement planning handout - Major improvement strategy #5.

VII. Adjournment

Karen Porter adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Additional items for March DAC meeting

A. Volunteer PowerPoint Presentation – Merrie Jones (Parent)
B. Family Liaisons (How they train) – Cookie Hanson

_________________________ ATTEST_____________________
Chairperson Secretary