District Accountability Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2014

I. Call to order
Karen Porter called to order the regular meeting of the District Accountability Committee at 5:36 pm on Thursday, January 16 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, Valerie Nesbitt, Karen Porter, Julie Rapone, Dan Wright, Janna Youmans

Board of Education Liaison: Amber Drevon

Speaker(s): Stan Rodriguez – Budget Manager
Lisa Escárcega – Chief Accountability & Research Officer

III. Welcome & Introductions
Karen Porter welcomed and gave an introduction to DAC members and guests

IV. Budget Update
Stan presented the committee information on the 2013-14 readopted budget

A. Click here to view the Readopt Budget Presentation presented to DAC
(Listed on the DAC web page under the January 16th minutes)

V. New K-8 Focus Group
Chief Accountability & Research Officer (Lisa Escárcega) voiced that the district would be building a new K-8 school over near the Aurora Quest building (located by Airport Boulevard on 2nd Avenue).

A. The group took a look at other schools and models
   a. Pilot Schools - Fletcher, Fulton, and William Smith
   b. Innovation School - Lyn Knoll, Tollgate, and Vista PEAK Exploratory/Preparatory
   c. Expeditionary - Tollgate & AXL Academy
   d. Magnet School - Aurora Quest
   e. Health Sciences - Montview & North
   f. STEM – Aurora West College Preparatory Academy & Lotus School of Excellence
   g. Core Knowledge – Aurora Academy & Vanguard Classical School
   h. Language Emersion – Global Village Academy
   i. English Language School – New America School
j. I.B. *International Baccalaureate Programs*)
   i. Wheeling
   ii. Aurora Hills
   iii. East
   iv. Gateway
   v. Hinkley

k. Programs
   i. ASCENT
   ii. Children’s Hospital
   iii. Crossroads Transition/Intercept
   iv. Futures
   v. APS Rebound Direct Placement
   vi. APS Rebound Expelled
   vii. Options School

B. The group brainstormed in regards to what model they would like to see the K-8

   a. Technology - Want students proficient in computer applications (i.e. Excel, PowerPoint, and Word) - need hands on curriculum starting in kindergarten.
   b. Career ready - Teach students to have a mindset of a career – help them see the path to it and support getting them ready for the real world
   c. STEM/Robotics - Introduce learning through Lego as an example (Robotic cars)
   d. Community - Focus on how students are a part of the community – to be a good community member – how to cooperate and problem solve
      i. Community Garden
      ii. Community Recycle program
   e. Possible Arts and/or P.E. program focus
   f. Support the establishment of goals for students with a clear expectation
   g. Consider inclement weather – An inside space, such as a track for running laps, and not just the playground outside
   h. Have a student council – motivation for leadership positions
      i. Help to instill students with a sense of power in their destiny (internal motivation) and allow them to make decisions regarding the school
   j. Possible link into Pickens

VI. **District Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) – Follow-up**
Lisa reviewed with the group – She mentioned that the group did not get to see the “Action Plan”, which would clear up questions regarding real time data. Lisa voiced that Aurora schools takes a look at current data quarterly – Monitoring statistics more real time. In addition, the data in the district UIP reflects 3-5 years prior. The UIP is a measurement piece – With the district rating presently at “Priority Improvement”.

Lisa asked Julie to bring the final UIP to February’s DAC Meeting and to email a current schedule to all members

VII. **Questions**

   Is the Read act based on per pupil allocation?
It is allocated by student

**What happens if students don’t meet proficiency?**

Conferences with parents occur at the end of each year. Decision on support for the following year is made. Conversation around possible retention required by grade 3 although students with disabilities or English language learners are exempt from this part of the legislation.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Karen Porter adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

_______________________  ATTEST______________________

Chairperson     Secretary