District Accountability Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2015

I. Call to order

Merrie Jones called to order the regular meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee at 5:38 pm on Thursday, November 20 in Dr. Edward and Mrs. Patricia Lord Boardroom of Education Service Center 4.

II. Roll call

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

Board of Education Liaison: Absent

Speaker(s): Stan Rodriguez – Budget Manager

III. Welcome & Introductions

Merrie welcomed DAAC members and all accompanying guests

IV. Budget

Stan presented to the committee information on the 2014-15 readopted budget, and stated that majority of the changes were due to the annual financial audit of all district funds. A copy of the Readopt Budget can be found by clicking here Readopt Budget Presentation presented to DAC (Listed on the DAC web page under the January 22rd minutes)

Stan stated that the Special Education program possibly needs three to six million dollars for next year. The funds would be allocated to hire staff and purchase resources. During a budget cut three years ago the district decided to utilize the one time ARRA funds (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) to fill in the deficit. The district now needs to find a viable financial alternative to help with the shortfall.

Stan also explained that any unspent funds for capital projects are carried forward to the next year.

Questions –

Q. Where did the difference of $1.9 million come from for school health services
A. It came from Medicaid (fund balance)

Q. What is Risk-Related Activity
A. This is our insurance claims

Q. Explain the balance difference in Nutrition Services
A. They generate they’re own money – With additional funds coming from the federal government
Q. What about breakfast in the classroom
A. For schools with 80% free and reduced lunch students, the program does not have a loss. For schools with less than 70% free and reduced lunch students, the district has to start supporting the program financially

Q. How many schools have marques
A. Most schools have them, and bond funds have paid for a majority of them

Q. Which fund would cover a fire
A. It’s covered by our Risk-Related Activity fund – Risk Management takes care of this through our insurance carrier

Q. Does mental health come under Special Education
A. Yes

Q. In our charter schools do we have a large number of Special Education students in Aurora
A. Rates are similar to other district schools, between 5-9%

Q. Will schools have a separate line item for interventions
A. Yes, I think they will. Lisa will take this question back to Leadership Team. True interventions should go for salaries (one on one time with a student)

V. UIP – Followup

We did not further review the UIP – However, it was requested that Julie send members the final draft of the district unified improvement plan via email

VI. Calendar – 2015-16

Lisa presented and reviewed with the group the new calendar for 2015-16 school year. The Board approved the calendar based on the recommendations by the Calendar Committee. The committee was comprised of school staff, parents and administrative staff.

- The school year begins for grades 1 through 12 during the week of Aug. 11. Preschool and kindergarten students begin school on Tuesday, Aug. 18.
- The school year ends for most students on Thursday, May 26.
- Fall Break occurs at the end of the 1st Quarter from Monday, Oct. 12 through Friday, Oct. 16. Moving the fall break earlier in the school year provides for more uninterrupted learning during the 2nd Quarter.

APS will not hold a Fifth Block of Instruction at the end of the 2015-16 school year. However, some schools may choose to continue with Fifth Block. Most schools will have Fifth Block this year.

Questions –
Q. Why do they always schedule EPR days before a holiday – The perception is teachers get an extra day off of work
A. EPR days are “mandatory employee work days” – Teachers do not get the day off
Q. How is before and after daycare funded
A. The district has three before and after school daycare programs – Dalton, Vassar and Side Creek. Other schools may contract from outside sources such as Kids Adventure and YMCA. Each director at the before and after school daycare programs may run the program different than the other sites within the district, but all have discount programs for free and reduced kids.

Karen voiced that the EPR days should then be worded as “mandatory employee work days” so the public will understand the reason and will identify with it.

September, January and April have been impacted by three weeks in regards to finding child care for working parents. This may need to be looked at in the future.

VII. District Strategic Plan

The APS Board of Education approved a new strategic plan, APS 2020, at its January 20 meeting. This new plan will guide the district’s work to achieve the new vision: Every student shapes a successful future. APS gathered feedback from students, parents, staff, community members and business leaders to develop the plan.

Lisa presented and reviewed with the group the new revised 2020 Strategic Plan. A copy of the plan can be found by clicking here APS 2020: Shaping A Successful Future – Strategic Plan (Listed on the DAC web page under the January 22nd minutes).

You can also access additional information on the APS 2020 web page http://aps2020.aurorak12.org/

Questions –
Q. What is a digital badge
A. Digital badges are a validated indicator of accomplishment, skill, quality or interest that can be earned in various learning environments

Q. What impact does concurrent enrollment have on the budget
A. The state provides the per-pupil revenues (PPR) for each student and that is used to pay for concurrent enrollment. The revenue from the state covers the total cost

Jeanette voiced that she thought that students that earn a digital badge should receive recognition by recognizing those kids on a bulletin board

VIII. Adjournment

Merrie adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Lisa stated that it will be necessary to meet a week earlier in May – Charter School Applicants will present to DAC.

Lisa handed out the charter school application timeline. A copy of the timeline can be found on the charter school web page.