District Accountability Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2014

I. Call to order
Merrie Jones called to order the regular meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee at 5:41 pm on Thursday, November 20 in Conference Room C (ESC#4 Building).

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

Board of Education Liaison: Amber Drevon

Speaker(s): Jocelyn Stephens – Learning Community Director
           John Youngquist – Chief Academic Officer

III. Welcome & Introductions
Merrie welcomed DAAC members and all accompanying guests

IV. P-20 Learning Community Director
Jocelyn introduced herself and explained to the group that the Division of Equity in Learning includes five P-20 Learning Communities led by Learning Community Directors. She handed out the P-20 Learning Communities organizational chart and talked about the multi-tiered systems of support. Each P-20 Learning Community Director supports a group of schools from preschool through post-secondary – She referred to them as clusters in communities; some are true feeders and others contain pilot and innovation schools (Referring to community “L”).

Jocelyn voiced that her job was to empower and support principals in student achievement, and that each community has an assigned P-20 School Support Team:

- RTI, Data Teams, Teaching and Learning
- Equity in Learning Engagement Support
- Post-Secondary Workforce Support
- Family/Community Liaison
- Instructional Coordinators
- Education Technology Coordinators
- ELD Coordinators
- ESS Consultants

Questions –
Q. Laredo has a high poverty population and breakfast before school has been canceled due to the implementation of breakfast in the classroom. Parents counted on dropping their kids at school at 7:30 so they could arrive at work at 8. With BIC they can longer use this resource. With the constant fluctuation in days off during the school it is difficult for minimum wage earners to get time off to be with their kids, the calendar needs more consistency. I feel we’re not supporting families – Many cannot afford daycare and children are left with siblings and sometimes on their own.

A. We recently put together a calendar survey and so hopefully this will help address some of these issues.
Q. Is there an acronym for the learning communities
A. Yes, “A” “P” and “S” are Aurora Public Schools and the “E” and “L” are Equity in Learning.

Q. Do you find that there are conflicting messages in the buildings
A. The structure of the learning communities allows us time to talk together so we have consistency and everyone hears the same message.

Q. The school meeting calendar needs to be set at the beginning of the year – Many times I don’t find out about Parent coffees, club meetings and PTO meetings until the day before.
A. I appreciate your feedback and I will take this comment back to the school.

Q. Some of the schools have parking issues – Which makes it hard for parent involvement. Can we mark some of the parking spots or have designate faculty parking during parent involvement.
A. I appreciate your feedback and I will take it back to the group.

Q. At Aurora Central there are 105 teachers and only 3 qualified to teach higher education (college classes). After taking core classes the students’ only alternative is to attend the Community College of Aurora. This is difficult when you have a child that is involved in a sport activity and is gifted and talented.
A. We have an agate partner to assure that all students are getting their needs met. It may mean that we would find your student a place to sit in the school to take an online class. There are alternatives.

Merrie voiced that she has started an engineering club at Laredo – However, she would like to see more support from partners like Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, and Comcast. We actually need engineers to come to the schools and participate in learning.

V. District Unified Improvement Plan
John presented the group with a draft Unified Improvement Plan Summary (2014-16). He explained that there are many more pages in the plan, and that for every action a person is assigned the task of working it. He mentioned to the group that he would send out the next revised draft to DAC and Board members on Monday, November 24th.

Questions –
Q. Strategy #5 – What are you going to do different
A. We’re planning on working with communications to clear up and further simplify learning processes for parents.

Q. When you have 30 computers to 600 students – How does this work for online assessments
A. We are confident that we can get enough computers. Scores won’t be great the first year, but we’re going to keep up.
Q. I’m a substitute teacher and pacing guides are an issue, if the students do not understand the lesson on day one and day two builds on the lesson, can the substitute revisit the lesson on day one to ensure learning before moving onto the next concept.

A. What we have acknowledged is that it’s just a guide – Providing options. We know that the composition of the classroom will need flexibility

Q. Where will the school unified improvement plans be posted

A. Front page of the web sites and hard copies available at the schools

Q. What is CMAS

A. CSAP is now CMAS (Colorado Measures of Academic Success) – It’s now online instead of pencil format. The High School CMAS: Science and Social Studies assessments will be administered to 12th graders this fall. At least 95% of the students must participate

A comment was made to revisit the wording “equitable distribution” when revising the District Unified Improvement Plan.

VI. **Adjournment**

   Merrie adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

__________________________  ATTEST__________________________

Chairperson                   Secretary