District Accountability Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2015

I. Call to order
Karen Porter called to order the regular meeting of the District Accountability Committee at 6:15 pm on Thursday, November 19 in the Dr. Ed Lord and Patricia Lord Board Room (Educational Services Center, Peoria Building).

II. Roll call
The following persons were present: Lisa Escárcega, Ella Hart, Merrie Jones, Karen Porter, Julie Rapone, Dan Wright

Board of Education Liaison: Amber Drevon

Speaker(s): John Youngquist – Chief Academic Officer

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

IV. District Unified Improvement Plan
John Youngquist presented the group with an update on the District Unified Improvement Plan. He explained that the district is amending the plan 2015-2017 and that we’re looking at what we have had and is there reasons to change some of those things; what are kids doing differently this year. He further voiced that we’re seeing real growth in regards to attendance and behavior, and gave Lisa Escárcega and her team credit for providing data in a different view with a recently approved software tool called Tableau. John also talked about connecting with parents to figure out what are students’ needs and creating a plan.

John went on to say that 2013 -14 APS Statistics show a 10% drop in suspensions, in expulsions 65%, and that we have 33% fewer suspensions this year – He further noted that we continue to drop in expulsions, and that the district supports principals, assistant principals and deans around attendance and behavior.

John handed out a draft Unified Improvement Plan Summary (2014-16) and discussed that a year ago three root causes were identified. He explained that we’re not yet good at the basics and we don’t have consistent great ways to respond – We still lack the systems and strategies, however, we have adopted a plan. He went on to voice five major improvement strategies; how to respond to the root causes. He explained that team members are required to write into a record at each school to make sure we are living up to our commitment in order to shape successful futures for all students. John voiced that we need to anticipate situations so we can have timely solutions and always be ready (We need to get more creative). The group was provided with the UIP Goal Status Report 2015-16 – John explained that the report provides information to help with timely execution of UIP Goals, and that one employee is charged with being the overseer of this information; in coming up with solutions to help the owner of each goal follow through on district commitments. This year is the first year that the UIP (Unified Improvement Plan) is going online.

Handout(s):
- Draft 2015-17 – Unified Improvement Plan Summary (2014-16)
- UIP Goal Status Report 2015-16
- Colorado’s Unified Improvement Plan for Districts for 2014-15
V. School Improvement Plans

Time did not allow for this item

Questions
Q. Referring to pacing and planning guides – How are you specifically pushing that down
A. By looking at the big picture – This is where we were and here is where we are now.
   Communication through Principals and Instructional Coordinators to plan well and design
   learning experiences

Q. Is the district being mindful of withdrawing kids for example to see counselors at an appropriate
   time in the day – So if a kid is not doing well in math are you mindful not to pull that kid from the
   class during math class
A. Unfortunately, this is an age old issue and we have not formally done this

Q. Assessments have gone from paper to computer – How much is learning the technology verses
   doing the test.  How are the teachers conveying the importance of the test
A. The test looks the same as in a practice session – We have moved district coaches from one
   central location and assigned them to be housed fulltime at one of our schools; this helps with
   teachers learning

Q. Does the district have a sample sheet to show parents how to resolve a math problem – In most
   cases parents learned to resolve a math problem through a different process than is being taught
   today
A. Right now we’re creating resource banks, but this is presently a tool used by teachers

Q. In referring to the UIL Goal Status Report – How in-depth is the check to see if it’s effective
A. Some employees have specific goals assigned to them – Are we doing what we said we would
   do – Each UIP goal number references tasks specific to a goal

Q. If we had a first rate plan, what would be some of the reasons we would fail
A. Through the Multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) structure we can establish equitable
   instructional practices that connect the resources, standards, and assessments to accelerate
   student learning

Q. Have you seen any improvement with the READ Act
A. It’s been tough to tell if we have or not seen growth.  We have plans to train employees for
   intervention; I think then we will see more growth

Q. What is taking so long to get testing data
A. The book marking process – cut point scores for each test.  It is a standard process that
   benchmarking is conducted for new tests

Q. Does the district have a list of acronyms and definitions
A. Lisa voiced that she will have the Director of Accountability & Data Reporting work on this

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Chairperson                        Secretary