DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 15, 2018
6:00 – 7:30 PM
Professional Learning Conference Center
17551 E. 1st Avenue, La Plata Peak

Minutes

I. 6:10 Welcome
The following individuals were present: Billie Day, Lori Stack, Ella Hart, Tanoya Barnes, Bridget Allison, Merilee Linfield, Amy and Tim Hill, and Michelle Torgrimson

(See presentation posted on DAAC website)

History of Autonomous Schools: Innovation Zone – 5 schools
Charter Schools- 9 schools (soon to be 12)-
New schools: DSST, Aurora Community K-8 School, and Empower Community High School(9-12)

Responsibilities of Charter School Office: Providing oversight daily to charter schools and being a liaison to the district. Charters are public, not separate from our neighborhood schools. They actually have a lot more accountability because they claim to be able to do better. We have a year zero process in helping new schools open. We also monitor the closure process. Application cycles are ongoing; Renewal process is happening now and new applications begin in the spring.

Charters are granted a four or five-year term. The biggest moment is when they come up for renewal. The process aims to answer 3 questions:
Is the school an academic success?
Did it meet the performance goals and standards laid out in its charter contract?
Does performance warrant future operation or should it be closed?

The application includes information in 3 buckets: Academic, Finance, and Governance
We are in contract with the board of each charter. Each charter has its own board which is responsible for everything. Mission fulfillment is required. Other considerations are parental and community support, and Significant positive and negative trends. We look at the performance over the term. We are bound to look at the current term only.

Charter Schools Act 22-30.5-110
(3)(a), (b) and (c)- reasons why you would not renew an application
(5) Charter can appeal to the state board of education to overturn the district’s decision not to renew.

We have to provide all charters with the process. We can renew for a period but cannot exceed 5 years and must be completed by Oct. 1. The APS board may refuse to renew a charter upon determining that it is not in the best interest of students residing within the district to continue the operation of the charter school. If they don’t meet expectations, it is not in the best interest of the community.

We currently have 31 people who are looking at the applications to expand the “eyes on the information”.
Review of timeline:
October 15 - DAAC Renewal Application Process Training
October 24 - Initial Reviewer Comments DUE in Charter.Tools
November 7 - Renewal Application Interview
November 19 - Reviewer Final Comments and Ratings DUE in Charter.Tools
Dec. 4, 2018 - APS Board Meeting: Renewal Recommendation
Dec. 18, 2018 - APS Board Work Session: Board Ruling on Renewal Application

Last year, Vanguard went through this process and the district had concerns with the board and gave them a one-year extension. Vanguard has 2 campuses- one is in Denver and one in Aurora. K-8 is the west campus and opened in 2007. East campus K-12 opened in 2014. First graduating class was last year. 1130 students, 144 Employees. Academically doing well and SPF for both schools is in the Performance Plan type.

Support services can be provided “in house”, contracted out, or maintained by a larger group.

Parts of the Application:
Section 1: Overview- Looking Back (Reflection); Looking Ahead (Future Plans)
Section 2: Record of Performance. Reflection of who they are. Charter gives data in the 3 buckets and tells what was good, what was bad, etc. (Data dive). All the information they can provide. Reflection through very intentional questions.
Academic Performance
Organizational Performance
Financial Performance
Vanguard has 11 Conditions on their charter currently. All related to governance (not academics or finance). They must tell how they are doing with each of them.
Section 3: Goal Setting. Looking Ahead- Future Plans. Include major and minor modifications and must be approved by Autonomous Schools.
District Policy Waivers

Section assignments for application reviewers will be based on content knowledge or interests.

Committee logged into Charter.Tools and reviewed how to enter their feedback, questions and ratings. Mackenzie and Paige are available to answer any and all questions.

III. 7:50 Meeting Adjourned