DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 19, 2019
6:00 – 7:30 PM
Professional Learning Conference Center
17551 E. 1st Avenue, La Plata Peak

Minutes

I. 6:00 Welcome

The following individuals were present: Billie Day, TaNoya Barnes, Lori Stack, Ella Hart, Bridget Allison, Amy and Tim Hill, Breahna Miller, and Michelle Torgrimson

II. Plans for the year and tentative agenda (see DAAC Schedule for 2019-20)
The Colorado Department of Education will be holding Accountability Committee Trainings for SACs and DACs in September and October at various locations in Colorado. (See handout)

III. Anthony Sturges, Chief Operating Officer of Support Services
Anthony introduced himself and told of his background in APS from his beginnings as an elementary student. He is fully committed to the work of APS in serving the community. His time is divided approximately sixty percent working directly with his seven member staff and forty percent with the Superintendent’s cabinet.

He then led the group through a power point presentation (See Presentations), “Support Services presentation to DAAC”. Support Services is constantly assessing the priorities of teaching and learning with technology and facilities.

The group spent some time looking at the information on the 2016 Bond Program Funds, which Mr. Sturges indicated are an important part of the APS five year program. Funds have been expended on a new k-8 school ($40 million) and technology upgrades system wide. As circumstances may change, APS will engage the community, including DAAC, in revisiting the original plan.

Details on specific schools may be accessed at http://suppsvcs.aurorak12.org/ and/or http://bond.aurorak12.org/.

In the past fifteen years, APS has had growth in two areas: Building Square Foot Growth and Total APS Acreage Growth. The group viewed these two charts with one showing enrollment changes since 1970. Beginning three years ago, enrollment began to decline. Reasons for and implications of this
were discussed. In response to a question, Mr. Sturges indicated this decline is generally similar to other area and state school districts.

The APS rate of decline this year, two percent, is less than was projected from last spring.

The discussion continued as the group viewed the map of APS with current and projected schools. The demographic shift is showing a declining need in the western part of the District toward the east. In the next few years, there could be an issue of empty buildings.

Other Questions and discussion included the following: 1) why does the school year begin early? Answer. A decision was made in 2009 to allow more instructional time before the Spring testing cycle. Charter schools are permitted calendar waivers from the calendar if they negotiate such in their contracts, but they must maintain the state requirement for instructional time. 2) Would it make sense to consolidate schools with under-enrolled facilities? Answer: This will be under consideration in November-December. School closings are controversial. Good stewardship of taxpayers dollars is always important as are the human impacts on communities involved

In conclusion, Mr. Sturges thanked the committee for their participation and service on the DAAC and offered to come again or make other information available in the future.

IV. DAAC Items
Lori Stack then reviewed the calendar and list of proposed sessions for DAAC for the coming year. The schedule currently is: Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 16, April 20, and May 11 at the PLCC at 6:00 pm.

The September 16 meeting will include a presentation by MacKenzie Khan, Director of Charter Schools, on the five charter schools whose contracts are up for renewal this year. This is a major role for DAAC in assessing promises made and kept. Attendance is particularly important at this and at budget related meetings.

Members are encouraged to invite others to consider joining the DAAC. Lori will contact the School Advisory Committees asking them to send representatives. The committee is also currently missing a representative for the ESS staff position on the DAAC.

In addition to other scheduled topics, the group also indicated interests in a session on Special Education and on mental health as well as inviting school board candidates to the October meeting to learn about the DAAC and express their concerns for APS. Lori will follow up in September after candidates are certified.

V. 7:50 Meeting Adjourned