DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNTABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 16, 2020
6:00 – 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19

Minutes

I. 6:00 Welcome and Introductions

The following individuals were present:
Presenters: Marques Ivey, Debbie Gerkin, Aaron Oberg
Members: Lori Stack, DJ Loerzel, Sarah McGuire, Ilene Augustin, Mardi Boin, Valerie Richmond, Omar Montgomery, Bridget Allison, Tim Hill, Amy Hill, Breahna Miller, and Michelle Torgrimson
Visitors: Tarro McCray, Lea (lovlea44@gmail.com), Anne Keke

II. 6:05 Board of Education Directors, Marques Ivey, Debbie Gerkin

Debbie Gerkin and Marques Ivey: Want to listen to us and set ambitious goals as we move ahead.
Why are we here?
- To Listen to Community Vision- create results policies
- To Listen to Community Values- create limitations policies
- Drive the Five-Year Strategic Planning- create a system to routinely monitor progress and report to the community
  - Early Literacy
  - Postsecondary Workforce Readiness
  - Equity

(Email Claudia Paz-blossick (cpaz@aurorak12.org) for current concerns - Feedback Form in google chat - add to later)

Marques: What is APS not yet doing that it should start doing?
- *Tarro McCray - Aurora Quest 5th grader - great school - Not enough diversity in the staff - confusing that there are no people of color teaching there. Only people of color are custodial staff and cafeteria staff
- *Omar Montgomery - what is happening with SROs in APS. Aurora Central - private entity involved in improving performance
- *Valerie Richmond - Equity - What other avenues are you using to get more information from a wide range of stakeholders
- *Bridget Allison - Charter Leaders - can you communicate with all leaders at the same time? They hear from Chalkbeat before they hear from district
*Tim Hill - harder to communicate with teachers during Covid.

**Debbie: What is APS doing that is NOT WORKING that should be stopped?**

* Mardi - curriculum adoption is frequent
* Omar - giving students citations without parent notification and clear student rights known
* Lea - Quest - students have to ‘get in’ Schools are set up so numbers show in a positive light. While other schools are not set up this way. Kids are not coming out of all schools equally prepared.

**Marques: What is APS doing that is working and should not be changed?**

* Restorative Justice Programs
* Communication from district
* Focus on Equity
* Listening Sessions

**Marques: Which of the draft Results policies is most important that we keep and why?**

- The percentage of 3rd grade students who demonstrate grade-level literacy skills based on CMAS English/Language Arts assessment will increase from 22.80% in 2019 to 34.8% in 2026
- The percentage of APS students graduating in four years will increase from 76.2% in 2019 under the current Colorado graduation requirements to 80% in 2026 based on the new Colorado graduation requirements, which require a demonstration of college and career readiness.
- The percentage of 6th grade Latinx/Black students who are not on grade level in ELA and Math, as measured by CMAS, will decrease from 84% in 2019 to 78% by 2026
- The percentage of 9th grade Latinx/Black students who are not on grade level, as measured by PSAT, will decrease from 8-.2% in 2019 to 74.2% by 2026.

**Debbie - draft results policies - most said 3rd grade literacy**

**Which of the draft Limitations policies is most important that we keep and why?**

- The Superintendent may not allow implementation or adoption of any programming that does not prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion
- The Superintendent may not allow the elimination of art, music, and/or physical education from student schedules
- The Superintendent may not propose major decisions to the board without first engaging students, parents, community, and staff
- The Superintendent may neither cause nor allow District circumstances for current or prospective students, their parents/guardians, or community members that are unsafe, undignified, disrespectful, or unnecessarily intrusive or restrictive
- The Superintendent may neither cause nor allow District circumstances for staff (including employees, independent contractors and volunteers) that are unfair, undignified, disrespectful, or unnecessarily intrusive or restrictive
- The Superintendent may neither cause nor allow District circumstances that are financially imprudent, inconsistent with generally accepted financial management practices, conducted without appropriate financial planning, that jeopardize the assets of the District, or that represent a material deviation of actual expenditures from Board priorities established in District Result policies.

**Marques - I see #2 (6 people agree), #6 (3 people agree), #3, #1**

**Debbie - How would you like to be involved in the success of Aurora Public Schools and our students?**
Lee- My child is soon to be a graduate and I think being involved in high schools and what to expect. My daughter feels fear and anxiety and is what she is doing in online school prepping her for the real world? I’d like to be more involved in that.

Valerie- Identifying and sharing positive community practices

Breahna- VPE has a robust volunteer program.

Marques - By December, plan to use the feedback, create results and limitations policies to monitor progress as a district over the next 5 years. All of this work will be done in public meetings. We will continue to listen and adopt this winter. Will post this winter. Thank you for your participation.

**DAAC Questions:**

**III. Aaron Oberg, Budget Director**

Where we’ve been, where we are, and where we are going.

Relationship between DAAC and Division of Finance? DAAC has significant statutory responsibilities when it comes to Finance.
-UIPs and Advising the board

From Nov 16-April 19, put words around priorities we just discussed with board members - Where do those show up in the budget?

Early Literacy, PWR, Equity -How will we pay for these priorities?

In April, we will discuss the preliminary budget and DAAC will formally recommend priorities to the board.
May 18th - Board receives proposed budget

**Where have we been? 2019-20 Highlights**

Revenues- overall increase over prior year of 9.1%. Revenue came in higher than was budgeted by $1.8 million.
Expenditures- overall increase of 12.2%. We did not spend all that we had budgeted. COVID and school closure prohibited the usual spending. These funds will go right back to schools ($7.5 million). Administration, finance, HR, IT, and risk-management decreased 1.9%.

**Where are we now? Adjustments to 2020-2021 Budget**

Usually go to board mid-year (January) for modifications in relation to state’s per-pupil funding and budgeted increases in expenditures.
Need to maintain a responsible fund balance - 2 months of salary or identify the risk of revenue and the risk of expenditures. Oil industry had a significant price decrease so those companies are not paying income or property tax and impacting school finance formula. Risk to expenditures? COVID related.

This year, it’s easy to explain/justify the fund balance. Where do we put them? Unassigned 5%. We want to make sure we have reserves.
Reserves include Blueprint, Special Education, future land purchases, instructional carryover, and textbook adoptions, insurance risk, and the board of education reserve.

New Contingencies- Significant COVID risk, so we need a school finance formula reserve.

Free lunch percentage is down. But we are feeding all students for free. Even if they didn’t fill out the FRL application.

Coronavirus Relief Funds and At-Risk Funds (expended prior to Dec. 31)-
Controlled by US Department of Treasury
CARES Act Funds must be spent prior to Dec 31 - all has been spent.
ESSER Funds (additional CARES $) and other federal funds for nutrition services.

Risks of 2021-22 Budget Planning: Pupil count, state funding, insurance risk, Federal Grants funds (Title 1), 2020 Census, COVID contingencies,

DAAC questions:
Valerie: Federal Grants, Title 1 funds are decreasing, is that b/c of decreasing enrollment? No - it’s b/c government is allocation less money
Tarro: A few years ago we passed a bond for extra funding - are we expecting a shortfall next year? Aaron clarifies certain terminology. So no. When the governor released his budget, we would get more in PPF, but what changes is the number of kids. So as the number of kids go down, .....but home prices continue to grow.
Based on the budget for next year, will we lose, add teachers/admin?
What will happen with buildings? Yes all bond projects continue on pace.

Lea: Will Gallagher help? Won’t cost the district $8 million that it would have cost if it has failed. Haven’t heard from the state about income tax rate going down - waiting to hear back about what that will do. In regards to the UIP - around ESSA, title 1 schools have to have parents be a part of the budgeting process.
Aaron: Even before ESSA, SAC has to be in place and advise principal on spending priorities related to UIPs.

IV. Meeting Adjourned 7:33