



DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thursday, January 11, 2007

900 Grant Street

4:30 PM

WORK SESSION AGENDA

1st Floor Board Room

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Proposed Executive Session

- Discussions regarding personnel matters and receipt of legal advice from counsel as authorized by C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4)(b)(f).
- Conference with attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding charter school contract termination as authorized by CRS 24-6-402(4)(b).

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

School Portfolio Project Presentation

- Executive Summary
- NE Denver Regional Update
- NW Denver Regional Update
- SW Denver Regional Update
- Other School Actions

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Discussion

8:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Review Board Meeting Agenda for January 18, 2007

8:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Open Discussion/New Business



Achieve.

School Portfolio Presentation

(Phase 1)

Board of Education
January 11, 2007

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School Portfolio Project Objectives

- Dramatically increase student achievement.
- Engage in extensive and meaningful community process.
- Respond to identified gaps in what DPS is providing and what the community is demanding.
- Address expectations within regional context.
- Create a comprehensive and cohesive strategy to serve at-risk, special needs and highly gifted students.
- Continue dialogue with the community as the District puts forth future recommendations.

Community Process: Near Northeast Community

- 32 neighborhood and community representatives participated in a four month Manual renewal process.
- Three at-large community meetings were held.
- Outreach workers interviewed over 1,000 community residents.
- Data was gathered from students and their parents during Superintendent-led walks.
- Input was gathered from the Northeast Community Congress for Education, Metropolitan Organizations for People (MOP), Northeast Parents for Quality Education, and Northeast Montessori K-8 Committee.
- December 19th meeting was convened to summarize expectations.

Community Process: The 19 Nights of North



- DPS hosted a series of community meetings to listen to community expectations.
- 600 participants, including students, parents, and business and community leaders participated.
- After all of the individual school meetings were completed, a small subcommittee of neighborhood participants gathered to summarize and prioritize the identified themes.
- Results were presented at a community-wide meeting on November 29th where community members affirmed the vision that had been created and urged the District to take immediate and decisive action.

What the Community Expects

- High Quality Teaching and Learning:
 - Rigorous and comprehensive instruction including AP, college-prep and honors classes.
 - Additional time for literacy and math instruction.
 - A wide variety of meaningful and relevant learning opportunities to engage students.
 - Staffed, after-school programming.
 - Internship opportunities.
 - Intervention and support to integrate non-English speaking students.

*Listed expectations are only a sample of feedback received through community processes.

What the Community Expects

- Intentional School Culture:
 - Focus on student achievement.
 - High expectations of meaningful work.
 - Signed agreement by teachers, students and parents: A Commitment to Excellence.
 - 9th Grade Academy / Community building .
 - Cultural competency and inclusiveness.
 - Parent and community engagement.
 - Safe and orderly learning environment.
 - Trust between parents, teachers, students and community.
 - Discipline is clear and consistent.

*Listed expectations are only a sample of feedback received through community processes

What the Community Expects

- Effective Academic Support and Services:
 - Summer bridge programs.
 - Extended day, extended year (Saturday Academies).
 - Peer-to-peer tutoring and mentors.
 - Teacher accessibility for students.
 - Effective and comprehensive college and career planning for ALL students.

*Listed expectations are only a sample of feedback received through community processes

We heard what the community expects, but what has the District been delivering?

A Record of Low Achievement

Manual Feeder Pattern CSAP Data:

- Only 14 students (5.67%) in 7th grade in the Manual feeder pattern scored proficient or better in CSAP math.
- Only 40 students (16.95%) in 8th grade in the Manual feeder pattern scored proficient or better in CSAP reading.
- Only 28 students (11.29%) in 7th grade in the Manual feeder pattern scored proficient or better in CSAP writing.

(2005-2006 CSAP data)

Falling Graduation Rates

- From the 03-04 school year to the 04-05 school year, graduation rates at two of the Manual small schools dropped. Millennium Quest dropped 14% and Leadership Academy dropped 8%.

A Record of Low Achievement

North Feeder Pattern CSAP Data:

- Only 14 students (6.17%) scored proficient or better in 10th grade CSAP math.
- Only 120 (20.94%) students proficient in 6th grade CSAP math.
- Only 163 students (28.75%) scored proficient or better in 5th grade CSAP writing.

(2005-2006 CSAP data)

Falling Graduation Rates

- 733 9th graders 01-02.
- Only 206 students graduated in 04-05.

A Record of Low Achievement

Lincoln / Kennedy Feeder Pattern Achievement:

- 320 students (30.3%) scored proficient or better in 5th grade CSAP writing.
- 53 students (8.3%) scored proficient or better in 10th grade CSAP math.
- Only 259 students (31.5%) scored proficient or better in 9th grade CSAP reading.

* (2005-2006 CSAP data)

Falling Graduation Rates

- Lincoln's graduation rate fell from 78% in 03-04 to 43.5% in 04-05.
- Kennedy's graduation rate fell from 93.4% in 03-04 to 89.3% in 04-05.

Choice and enrollment trends demonstrate families are looking for academic alternatives to their neighborhood schools.

Near Northeast Enrollment Trends

(2006 data)

- 4,399 DPS students (grades ECE-12) live in NNE Denver.
- 2,030 (46.15%) do not go to their assigned school.
- 1,607 (36.53%) leave NNE Denver to go to another traditional or DPS Charter School. *(This doesn't account for students who do not attend DPS schools)*
- ECE-5 membership declined 815 students between 2000 and 2006

Northwest Denver Enrollment Trends

(2005-2006 data)

- 8,234 DPS students (grades ECE-12) live in NW Denver.
- 3,449 (41.89%) do not go to their assigned school.
- 1,455 (17.67%) leave NW Denver to go to another traditional or DPS Charter School. *(This doesn't account for students who do not attend DPS schools.)*
- NW DPS schools have seen a decrease in total enrollment of 1,084 in five years.
- North High School has space for 976 more students.
- Valdez is below 70% full.

Southwest Denver Enrollment Trends

(2006 data)

- 15,912 DPS students (ECE-12) live in SW Denver.
- 5,833 (36.66%) do not go to their assigned school.
- 2,883 of the students living in the area (18.12%) leave SW Denver to go to another traditional or DPS Charter School.
- Enrollment has decreased by 475 students in SW Denver since 2000.
- Abraham Lincoln has space for 655 more students.
- JFK has space for 513 more students.
- 3 of 5 middle schools are operating below 70% capacity.
- 4 of 16 elementary schools are operating below 70% capacity.

Bottom line ...

There is a wide gap between what the community wants in its schools and what DPS is providing.

Meeting Community Expectations

- Redesign schools where the climate and academic program requires immediate and transformative reform to meet the needs of current and future students.
 - Implement school improvement plan at struggling schools.
 - Establish school accreditation policy
- Engage in community discussions around rapidly declining schools.
- Establish *new* District programs that offer rigorous and compelling academic choices.
 - Beacon Schools
 - College Board EXCEerator Program (*pending*)
- Renew high performing charter school options.
- Establish an Alternative Education Taskforce.

Schools Slated for Redesign (07-08)

- Garden Place Academy Elementary School
- Johnson Elementary School
- North High School

(Implement school improvement plan at Smith Elementary School.)

A redesign offers a school the unique opportunity to introduce a new instructional program and a set of expectations which administrators, teachers, parents, students and community members are tightly aligned.

Case for Redesigning Garden Place

Concerns:

- Poor academic performance.
 - AYP targets for reading not met for three consecutive years
 - Current School Improvement Status: Restructure Year 1
- Weak instructional program design.
- Strained school climate and culture for teachers and students.
- University of Colorado at Denver and Health Science Center severed their professional development partnership.
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Case for Redesigning Johnson Elementary School

Concerns:

- Poor academic performance.
 - AYP targets for math not met for two consecutive years
 - AYP targets for reading not met for three consecutive years
 - Current School Improvement Status: School Improvement Year 1 (math), School Improvement Year 2 (reading)
 - Two consecutive “Unsatisfactory” ratings.
- Stagnant enrollment.
- Increasing “choice-out” by students in the attendance area.
- Current culture and climate will inhibit significant strides in student achievement in the next year.

Case for Redesigning North High School

Concerns:

- Poor academic performance.
 - AYP targets for math and reading not met for four consecutive years
 - Current School Improvement Status: School Improvement Year 2 (reading and math)
- Area families want a fresh, bold start.
- Climate and academic program require immediate and transformative reform.
- Increased enrollment is necessary to provide programs and services that meet the diverse needs of current and future students.
- Create a Valdez/North campus to strengthen the ECE-12 continuum.

Implement School Improvement Plan at Smith Elementary School.

- Poor academic performance.
 - Prior to '05-'06 AYP targets for math not met for two consecutive years
 - AYP targets for reading not met for three consecutive years
 - Current School Improvement Status: Corrective Action Year 1 (math), Restructure Year 1 (reading)
 - Smith Elementary School has been rated "Unsatisfactory" for **three** consecutive years.
- Interventions currently being implemented include:
 - CDE SIP grant with 4 SMART Goals.
 - Change in administration.
 - Addition of bilingual Assistant Principal position
 - Bilingual secretary added to office staff.
 - Professional Development for teachers.
 - Creation of intervention groups.

Engage in Community Discussions Around Rapidly Declining Schools

- Del Pueblo Elementary School
- Horace Mann Middle School

Del Pueblo Elementary School

Concerns:

- 2006 data shows that Del Pueblo is the smallest traditional elementary school in the District with 154 students.
- Membership declined 123 students (44%) in the last six years and is expected to continue to decline.
- The school currently operates at approximately 45% of program capacity.
- 60.7% of students who live in the attendance area choose to attend other schools.
- The school was rated "Unsatisfactory" and "Significantly Declining" according to 2005-06 CSAP data and received a "Low" SAR rating the five previous years.

Horace Mann Middle School

Concerns:

- October 2006 data shows that Horace Mann is the smallest traditional middle school in the District with 292 students.
- 63% of the students who live in Horace Mann's attendance area choose to attend other schools.
- Projections suggest enrollment will decline to less than 200 students in 07-08.
- Enrollment decline has adversely effected the middle school program.
- Student performance on CSAP has failed to improve.
 - Mann has remained a "Low" school for five consecutive years and was rated "Declining" during the 2005-06 school year according to SAR.

Beacon School Characteristics



- Joint effort between DPS and the DCTA.
- Coherent and consistent instructional practice that leads to high academic performance for all students.
- Promote school innovation and reform.
- Meet or exceed expectations of the Denver Plan.
- Administrators and teachers must affirm a commitment to execute faithfully the new instructional plan for the school.

Beacon School Overview

The Beacon School Committee recommends approval of seven Beacon School proposals for the 2007-2008 school year:

- Brown International Academy ECE-5 (NW)
- Bruce Randolph 6-12 (Near NE)
- Columbine Elementary School ECE-6 (Near NE)
- El "DIA"de Fairmont Dual Immersion Academy ECE-8 (Central)
- Greenwood ECE-8 (Far NE)
- Harrington Elementary School ECE-6 (Near NE)
- Montclair Elementary School ECE-5 (East)

College Board EXCEerator Grant Overview

(Pending)

- 4 DPS high schools have applied to house the EXCEerator Program.
 - North High School
 - Abraham Lincoln High School
 - South High School
 - Thomas Jefferson High School
- Funded through a public/private partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

EXCEerator = High School Excellence

(Pending)

- EXCEerator implements a set of research based interventions aimed at dramatically increasing enrollment and success in advanced courses—especially Advanced Placement (AP) courses.
- It creates new opportunities for college enrollment and success for underrepresented students, and prepares students who enter college to succeed.
- Rigor & High Expectations
- Access & Opportunity
- Inspiration for Hearts & Minds



Offer High Performing Charter School Options

Charters up for renewal:

- Colorado High School
- Highline Academy
- KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy
- Omar D. Blair Charter School
- Southwest Early College

Probationary Renewals:

- Connections Academy (Contract School)
- Life Skills of Denver
- Skyland Community High School

Restructuring Schools:

- Denver Arts and Technology Academy (DATA)
- P.S.1

Timeline

- Feb. 1: Staff recommendations to BOE
- Feb. 15: BOE action

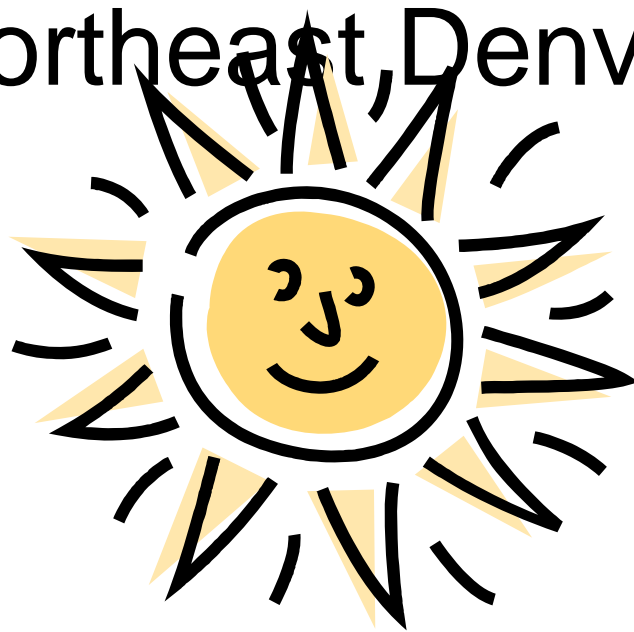
Create Alternative Education Taskforce

- Create a comprehensive and cohesive strategy to serve at-risk students.
- Identify adequate resources and educational alternatives for struggling students.
- Identify at-risk students consistently.
- Provide appropriate services and interventions.

Addressing Expectations within a Regional Context

Near Northeast

A New Day in Near
Northeast, Denver



Class of 2011 Arrives at Manual



- Reopen Manual, August 2007 for 9th grade class.
- Consider creating an interim two-year Manual Prep Program for 7th and 8th grade future Manual students (2007-2009).
- Establish 9th Grade Academy.
- Consider extending the academic day and year.

Reclaim Cole

- Open a new ECE-8 school in 2008.
- Work with the community to establish an academic program.
- Invest time and resources in developing a successful, sustainable ECE-8.
- Build a culture of articulation and collaboration between Cole and Manual.
- Consider extending the academic day and year.

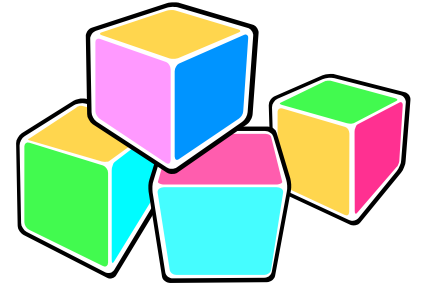
Why would DPS open another ECE-8 when enrollment is down in area schools?

- DPS is currently exploring the best way to serve 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.
- Satisfy the current need for middle school seats and compelling options.
- Attract kids who are attending private or parochial schools and kids who are going outside of the District for middle school.
- A+ Denver Committee will look at aligning District's fixed assets to the instructional plan.

Parents and Students Will Choose from a Compelling Array of Middle School Options (2008-2009)

- Instead of being assigned to one school, students and parents will have a compelling array of middle grades options to choose from, including, but not limited to:
 - Bruce Randolph
 - Cole
 - Columbine
 - Gilpin
 - Harrington
 - Morey
 - Mitchell
 - Smiley
 - Whittier
 - Merrill
 - Wyatt-Edison K-8 Charter school
 - Pioneer K-6 Charter school
 - KIPP College Prep 5-8 Charter school
- Explore establishing an enrollment center at **Manual High School in 2008.**

Montessori Returns to Near N.E. Denver



- In 1996, the DPS school board made a controversial decision to move the successful Mitchell Montessori program out of the near northeast neighborhood.
- For years the community has asked for this program to be brought back to the near northeast.
- Proposed Montessori would serve students in the 08-09 school year.
- The Administration will work with the community and the schools to determine the best location.

Add a Highly Gifted Magnet Program in Central Northeast Denver

- Polaris at Ebert is one of the top ten highest performing schools in Colorado.
- Open a second school under the Polaris model in central northeast Denver in 2008.
- A second campus will expand capacity to serve highly gifted students and recruit aggressively students of color and those from low income families.

NNE Beacon School Proposals

Bruce Randolph 6-12

- The *Challenge 2010 Plan* provides students with a coherent and consistent academic program that aligns with The Denver Plan.
- *Challenge 2010* supports school-based best practice, including common vision; clear and universal expectations; rigorous curriculum; careful planning and evaluation of teaching goals; and a supportive professional development environment.

NNE Beacon School Proposals

Columbine Elementary School ECE-6

- K-6 program in which teachers are experts in their content area, teach in teams and pledge to carry out the Denver Plan.
- Every student sets personal goals for academic excellence.

NNE Beacon School Proposals

Harrington Elementary School ECE-6

- Harrington Elementary School will serve students in grades ECE-6 with a rigorous standards-based curriculum as defined in the Denver Plan and enriched by the AVID program.
- Students will experience more experiential, cooperative learning than traditional programs provide.
- The teaching arrangement will feature looping, platooning and advising to allow faculty members to build stronger relationships with students.

Recommended Board Action

- Consider interim 7th- 8th grade Manual Prep Academy, serving students in 2007-2009. (Location to be determined.)
- Open a ECE-8 school at the Cole campus 2008-2009.
- Create a choice-in model in place of middle school attendance boundaries in 2008.
- Reintroduce Montessori in 2008-2009. (Location to be determined.)
- Add a Highly Gifted Magnet in central northeast Denver in 2008.
- Approve Beacon proposals for Bruce Randolph, Columbine and Harrington.

Exceeding Expectations in Northwest Denver



A Fresh Start for North High School

- Increase student achievement.
- Create an intentional culture and climate with high expectations for everyone.
- Reverse enrollment trends.
- Provide opportunities for students to succeed in high school and beyond.
 - World Languages
 - AP Classes
 - EXCEerator (*pending*)

Adding Capacity in Dual Language Immersion ECE-12

- Demand exceeds capacity in current NW dual language programs.

Existing programs:

- Academia Ana Marie Sandoval Dual Language Montessori
 - Bryant-Webster
 - Fairmont
- Establish a Valdez / North campus.
 - Montessori (ECE-K, M3, M4, MK)
 - Dual language immersion (ECE-5)
 - Explore implementing middle school and high school dual language immersion programs.

Phase-in a “Choice-in” Model for Success of Dual Language Schools

- Effective dual language immersion programs require an enrollment split of 60% native English speaking students and 40% native Spanish students.
- Phase-out attendance boundaries for:
 - Bryant-Webster (07-08)
 - Fairmont (07-08)
 - Valdez (08-09)

Smedley Elementary (ECE-6)

- The community wishes to serve its current 5th grade class for another year.
- Begin serving students, ECE-6, in 07-08.
- Explore the possibility of expanding to a full ECE-8 model in the near future.

NW Beacon School Proposals

Brown International Academy ECE-5

- ECE-5 International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program that combines core curriculum in literacy, math and social sciences with increased knowledge of the world.

Recommended Board Action

- Create ECE-12 North/Valdez campus.
- Introduce dual language immersion Montessori at Valdez.
- Create “choice-in” model for success of dual language schools.
- Formalize an International Baccalaureate authorized Middle Years Programme at Lake.
- Convert Smedley Elementary School to an ECE-6.
- Approve Brown Beacon proposal.

Increasing Rigor in Southwest Denver



International Baccalaureate Education in the Southwest



- 2003 mill levy resources are being used to implement IB programs at Sabin Elementary School and Henry Middle School.
- Create a feeder pattern of IB schools in the southwest by extending the Middle Years (9-10) Programme and adding Diploma Programme (11-12) at John F. Kennedy High School.

Abraham Lincoln High School

- Potential EXCEerator School. (*pending*)
- Pilot School for the Denver Scholarship Foundation.

Southwest Denver Recommended Board Action

- Extend the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme and add the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Kennedy High School.

Additional School Beacon Proposals

- El “DIA” de Fairmont Dual Immersion Academy K-8 (Central)
- Greenwood K-8 (Far NE)
- Montclair Elementary School K-5 (East)

Other Beacon School Proposals

El "DIA" de Fairmont Dual Immersion Academy K-8 (Central)

- A choice-based K-8 dual language program with a population of 50% native English speakers and 50% native Spanish speakers.
- All participants will receive 50% of their instruction in their native language and 50% of instruction in their second language.
- The stated mission is to graduate students who are bi-lingual, bi-literate and bi-cultural.

Other Beacon School Proposals

Greenwood K-8 (Far NE)

- Greenwood will serve grades K-8 through an experiential technology-based learning environment.
- Curriculum, instruction and assessment will be consistent with or exceed the Denver Plan.
- Greenwood will follow the instructional model of the 90/90/90 schools.

Other Beacon School Proposals

Montclair Elementary School K-5 (East)

- Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment will serve students in grades K-5 with an education program that is directly aligned with the Denver Plan and that is centered around a *School-wide Enrichment Model* (SEM).
- SEM allows for students to become actively engaged in an enriched curriculum and encourages talent development for all students.

Next Steps

- Future community meetings
- January 18th BOE meeting
 - Public comment
 - Additional work session
- January 25th BOE meeting
 - Budget retreat
 - Public comment
 - Work session
- February 1st BOE meeting
 - Work session
 - Review charter school renewals (Action Feb. 15)
 - Review accreditation
 - Board action



Achieve.