

District School Improvement and Accountability Council

Minutes from June 24, 2014

Kristen Tourangeau and Roger Kilgore, Co-Chairpersons
Jesse Sutherland, Vice Chairperson, and Dorolyn Griebenaw, Secretary

Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes: Roger Kilgore called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from May 27, 2014, were reviewed. Lynn Otto moved for approval and Ed Shackelford seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Board of Education Update - - Rosemary Rodriguez, DPS Board of Education member, was introduced. She provided a brief outline of her political career and shared that she is grateful to have been elected to the DPS Board of Education. She represents the southwest area of the city and expressed her concern that only one out of every ten students in the southwest area goes on to college. The drop out rate is between 55% and 60% in her area among Latinos. Rosemary Rodriguez touched on the following areas:

- Redistricting - - The Board of Education has drafted a plan that will go to the public in August for public input.
- School Choice - - Families in the southwest area go mainly to neighborhood schools. There is a new principal at Henry and also at Abraham Lincoln. DPS received a large grant to expand the program at Lincoln. Some students in her area do concurrent enrollment in a school such as the Career Education Center Middle College of Denver. College View has a fantastic program which involves teaching parents to speak English and also providing information on important issues. She added that her area has asked the District to form a task force to develop a comprehensive plan for the area.
- The Denver Plan - - After several drafts, the Denver Plan is almost complete and should be approved at the beginning of the school year. Included in the Plan is the goal to have 80% of DPS students attending high performing schools by 2020. It was noted that good ideas are not always shared among schools. Rosemary Rodriguez explained that principals have regional meetings and share information on programs and good practices at the meetings. Several strong principals are "Ritchie Fellows." During the discussion, concern was expressed that within the ESL program all of the teachers are not fully accredited.
- District School Improvement and Accountability Council - - Rosemary Rodriguez shared that the District SIAC analysis of the charter applications was helpful to the Board of Education. She added that the raising of various issues for the Board of Education by District SIAC is important.
- Chief Financial Officer - - In response to questions about the hiring of the Chief Financial Officer, Rosemary Rodriguez said that the BOE was not involved in the hiring.

Roger Kilgore offered the assistance of the District School Improvement and Accountability Council to the Board of Education and thanked Rosemary Rodriguez for taking her time to attend the District SIAC meeting. He added that Mike Johnson is scheduled to attend the next District SIAC meeting on August 26.

Committee Reports:

- Budget and Finance - - Lynn Otto reported that she plans to arrange a meeting with the New Chief Financial Officer sometime around the middle of July. Kate Kotaska notified Lynn Otto that the District will be ordering budget books for the Committee.
- UIP (Unified Improvement Plan)/Denver Plan - - No report.
- Charter Schools - - The Council members noted that Sherry Eastlund, Kristen Tourangeau, and Jesse Sutherland did a good job of presenting the Charter School Report to the Board of Education. The group presented the District SIAC concerns at the beginning of the report and then followed with the District SIAC recommendations. The Council members expressed concern that the BOE approved more schools than the projected need which has budget implications for the District.

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Redistricting: There was discussion regarding the redistricting of the areas for the Board of Education. The map is on the DPS web site. There is a scheduled public hearing regarding the redistricting on August 21. Dorolyn Griebenaw moved that Kristen Tourangeau and Roger Kilgore write a letter suggesting that the public hearing on the redistricting be postponed until September to allow more time for the public to participate in the public hearing process. Jesse Sutherland seconded the motion and it was approved.

New Schools and Student Projections: Information regarding new schools and student projections is important information for the Budget and Finance Committee. Sherry Eastlund suggested that District SIAC have a presentation regarding the regional analysis. It was also suggested that District SIAC should look at the TCAP scores when they are available.

Bond Oversight Committee and Mill Levy Committee: Roger Kilgore noted that Anne Rowe is serving on the committee. The meetings are public as are the meetings of the Mill Levy Committee. The agendas and the meeting dates are posted on the DPS Web Site. The Superintendent and members of the Board of Education appoint the members serving on the two committees.

New Business: Council members expressed serious concern about the major problems at George Washington High School, the Baccalaureate Program at George Washington, and the District proposed plans regarding East High School and Manual High School.

Old Business: No old business.

Miscellaneous - - Announcements and Comments: Suggestions for the August agenda included the East/Manual issue and the problems at George Washington. Roger Kilgore wished everyone a good summer break.

Next Meeting: The next District SIAC meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, with the location to be announced.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.