

District School Improvement and Accountability Council
Minutes from February 28, 2012

Sherry Eastlund, Co-Chairperson, Rita Montero, Co-Chairperson,
Paula Ortlieb, Co-Chairperson, Jesse Sutherland, Vice Chairperson,
Dorolyn Griebenaw, Secretary

Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes: Rita Montero called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and introductions were made.

Board of Education Report: Board of Education members Jeannie Kaplan and Andrea Merida attended the meeting. They provided a list of items on which the Board of Education voted at their February 16 meeting. Other items discussed were:

- School budgets and the concern that fewer students in a building result in less money available for the school.
- Innovation Schools and the C-3 Innovation Plan for Merrill Middle School. It was noted that students need experienced teachers and that Merrill has had an Indian Focus program as well as non-English speaking students. Slaven is getting \$5 million for a K-8 and will have some students who would have gone to Merrill.
- IB program at Smiley and Venture Prep.
- The push for extended learning opportunity that puts the student in school for one additional hour each day.
- Discussion about DPS going for a bond election next fall. The next bond meeting is Wednesday, March 1, at 4:30 p.m. at Place Bridge Academy.
- Letter from the A+ Committee to the Board of Education.

Council members discussed the reasons for the K-8 structure, what has been done to the middle school program, and the fact that K-8 schools take students from middle schools. The loss of programs at the middle school level was addressed, as was the inequity of student-based budgeting. It was observed that the District is taking \$25 million out of reserves for next year and that grant money is being used to prop up the proposed budget. It was noted that the District needs an understandable strategic plan.

Personal Financial Education in DPS: Gary Jaeckel presented information about the importance of personal financial education. He also expressed strong concern that all of the content standards, especially economics, are not being taught in DPS. He has been talking with Susan Cordova, Chief Academic Officer, and has information that DPS teaches personal finance to 1900 students. Rita Montero said the Council will put the item on the agenda for a later date.

A+ Committee Letter to the Board of Education: A copy of the letter was provided to Council members. Several members commented by email. There was discussion by members that the letter expressed a number of concerns that District Accountability Council Members have expressed over the last several years. It was felt that the Council should draft a response to the BOE regarding the A+ letter. Don Griebenaw will draft a letter for Council to the BOE regarding the need for the BOE to respond to the A+ Committee.

Budget Subcommittee: Mary Armstrong, Sherry Eastlund, and Jesse Sutherland attended the proposed budget presentations to the Board of Education.

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ELA Discussion: Dr. Barbara Medina attended the meeting and did an overview of ELA-E and ELL-S. She noted that there are 137 languages spoken by students in DPS. The three legs of her job are to identify, assess, and provide effective programs. There was detailed discussion and questions regarding the focus of the program, the Court Order, and the training of ELA teachers. Rita Montero thanked Dr. Medina for taking her time to meet with the Council and answer questions.

Call for Quality Schools Timeline (Spring 2012): The letters of intent are due on March 9 and complete applications are due on April 9. DPS will conduct interviews on May 7 through 9. On June 7, there will be new school presentations to the Board of Education, and on June 14 there will be the public comment session at the BOE. The Superintendent's recommendation will go to the BOE on June 18 and the Board will vote on June 21. Paula Ortlieb said that District SIAC needs to form a subcommittee to review the applications.

Charter Schools: Monitoring of new charter schools was tabled.

District Unified Improvement Plan Update: Rita Montero reported that the subcommittee has been reviewing the District UIP and is working on a draft to present to the Council.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from January 31, 2012, were read. Jorge Merida moved for approval of the minutes and Jesse Sutherland seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in room 108 of the DPS Administration Building.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

dsg