

## **District School Improvement and Accountability Council Minutes from April 30, 2013**

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

**Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes:** Roger Kilgore called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. He welcomed Jeannie Kaplan, member of the DPS Board of Education, and John MacPherson who retired from the DPS Retirement System as interim executive director in 2006 and is currently active with the Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security and with Friends of PERA. Council introductions were made.

**Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes from March 19, 2013, were read. Sherry Eastlund moved for approval and Lynn Otto seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Announcements:** Roger Kilgore announced that Happy Haynes, DPS Board of Education member, will attend the District SIAC May meeting as well as representatives from District staff to provide information about DPS pensions, etc.

**John MacPherson, Guest Presenter Providing Information on the DPS Pension:** John MacPherson thanked the Council for the invitation to speak. He provided background information on the DPS Retirement System and the change to PERA. With the background information, he distributed copies of the DPS press release dated April 18, 2013, titled "DPS Successfully Transitions Pension Debt to Long-Term Fixed Rate at Attractive Interest Rate" and a spreadsheet covering the years 2010 through 2039 with information on DPS PERA Employer Contributions, PCOP payments, and DPS PCOP payments plus Actual to PERA. John MacPherson pointed out that on January 1, 2008, the Denver Public Schools Retirement System (DPSRS) was 88% funded. However, in 2008 DPS took a loan for \$750 million with variable rate financing to allow the school system to merge the DPSRS with PERA. At the end of 2011, the DPS pension liability had grown to \$637 million. The Board of Education, in May of 2012, approved unanimously a resolution authorizing the conversion of the 2011 Certificates of Participation (COP) to a long-term fixed rate if the all-in Total Interest Cost (TIC) of the conversion could be obtained for less or equal to 7.25%. John MacPherson encouraged the Council members to study the information and be prepared to discuss the pension situation with District staff at the May DSIAC meeting. Roger Kilgore thanked John MacPherson for taking the time to share the information with District SIAC.

**Jeannie Kaplan, Member of the DPS Board of Education:** Jeannie Kaplan thanked Roger Kilgore and Kristen Tourangeau for inviting her to the District SIAC April meeting. She noted that there are lessons to be learned from the DPSRS conversion to PERA and the loans made to facilitate the conversion. Jeannie Kaplan shared that the Board of Education is looking at discipline across the District, the upcoming graduate rates and the lowering suspension rates, the cut backs with DPS transportation and the providing of transportation to the far northeast section of the District. She shared information on the proposed Policy FN-Shared Campuses which addresses shared campuses and said that a BOE member had requested that District SIAC review the policy. She reported that the next BOE Public Hearing is May 16. The following areas of interest prompted discussion.

- The DSIAC Report on the Unified Improvement Plan that was submitted to the Board of Education and the desire for feedback from the BOE on the report.
- The District SIAC request for a copy of the UIP that the District submitted to CDE.

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### **Jeannie Kaplan Continued:**

- The involvement of Padres Unidos with the District and in what areas of the city they are active.
- Charter Schools and the original intent of the law, which was to develop innovative successful educational methods that could then be replicated in other schools.
- Concern that there is no longer a need for proof of community support for Charter applications.

Roger Kilgore and Kristen Tourangeau thanked Jeannie Kaplan for taking time to meet with District Council.

**Budget & Finance Committee Update:** Lynn Otto distributed the April 22 minutes from the Finance and Budget Committee. She shared that the committee had their first meeting in March and that the District staff has been reaching out to her with information. Roger Kilgore said that he plans to attend the BOE work session and share the District SIAC goals for next year. The Budget & Finance Committee report to the Board of Education will be a list of concerns and comments regarding the education process for learning about the DPS budget.

**Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) Committee:** Kristen Tourangeau reported that District SIAC has not received a reply to the request for a copy of the UIP that was submitted by the District to CDE. She will send another request to Mary Seawell with copies to the Board of Education.

**Charter Schools Committee Update:** Sherry Eastlund said that the committee has read the applications and interviewed the applicants. Work on writing the report will begin next week. In addition to the charter applications there were six performance school applications submitted to the District. The Charter applications being reviewed are: Uhura School for Authentic Learning; Aman STEAM Academy; DSST VI MS & HS; DSST VII MS & HS; STRIVE Prep Elementary; and YouthBuild Charter School of Denver.

**Modified Consent Decree Ad Hoc Committee Update:** Kristen Tourangeau reported that the Judge approved the Modified Consent Decree. Rite Montero shared that she has some information to share with the ad hoc committee. She added that the monitor is to be selected by the end of May. Kristen Tourangeau said that she will call another meeting of the Modified Consent Decree Ad Hoc Committee.

**Facility Sharing Policy:** Roger Kilgore asked for volunteers to form a subcommittee to review the shared campuses policy. The following members expressed interest: Val Flores, Don Griebenaw, Dorolyn Griebenaw, Roger Kilgore, Rita Montero, Meg Schomp, Kristen Tourangeau, and Jesse Sutherland.

### **Announcements & Comments:**

- It was suggested that the revitalization dollars be put on the next agenda.
- Dorolyn Griebenaw announced that the Denver Teachers' Awards Excellence in Education Banquet will be held on May 3, 2013, at the DoubleTree Hotel.

**Next Meeting:** The next District SIAC meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in room 108 of the DPS Administration Building.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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