

District School Improvement and Accountability Council

Minutes from June 25, 2013

Kristen Tourangeau, Co-Chairperson, and Roger Kilgore, Co-Chairperson
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. He welcomed Landri Taylor, member of the DPS Board of Education, and David Suppes, DPS Chief Operating Officer. District SIAC members introduced themselves.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from May 28, 2013, were read. Sherry Eastlund moved for approval, and Lynn Otto seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Landri Taylor, Member of the DPS Board of Education: Landri Taylor thanked the Council for the invitation to attend. He provided information on his background with the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver. He believes that achievements with the Urban League are transferable to the District schools in establishing a culture of excellence and eliminating the achievement gap. District Council members had questions about the Modified Consent Decree and the expenses and legal fees associated with the MCD. Mr. Taylor said he will work to provide the information to the Council. The District SIAC recommendations regarding the Charter School Applications were discussed, and Mr. Taylor acknowledged that the Board of Education heard the concerns of District SIAC regarding the growth in the number of charter schools in the District. In addition, there was a discussion regarding the DPS Do Not Hire Policy. Mr. Taylor shared that the Board of Education voted unanimously to urge District staff to return to the BOE within 30 days with changes in the policy so that the do not hire practice will not be permanent. Roger Kilgore thanked Landri Taylor for sharing his time with District SIAC.

PCOPS and PERA, David Suppes, DPS Chief Operating Officer: David Suppes thanked the Council for inviting him and provided some background regarding the PCOPS and PERA. In 2008 DPS issued Certificates of Participation (COP) to pay outstanding unfunded liabilities in the pension system. PERA had concerns about bringing in a pension system that was not fully funded. On January 1, 2010, the merger with DPSRS and PERA was completed with a separate division within PERA for DPS. In 2011, DPS had to restructure obligations. One-half of the obligations were converted to a permanent fixed rate of 7.89% and the other half to a variable 6.9% interest rate. In 2013, the Board of Education made the decision to move to a fixed rate (just under 7.3%) for 30 years. The principal is now \$925 million. Discussion followed with emphasis that this is a public policy issue and that this evening was an important discussion. Lynn Otto said that the District SIAC Budget and Finance Committee will look at the refinancing. Roger Kilgore thanked David Suppes for attending the District SIAC meeting and sharing information with the Council.

Membership Updates/Friends of District SIAC: Roger Kilgore reported that he and Kristen Tourangeau contacted District Council members and that the membership is now at 22 people. Vernon Jones, Sheila Keightley, Jorge Merida, and Marie Meyers indicated that they are unable to continue to serve. Rita Montero noted that the new members should receive the District SIAC notebook. The email list will include members and friends of District SIAC who would like to receive information. It was suggested that Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) be included on the friends list.

**District School Improvement and Accountability Council
Minutes from June 25, 2013 - - Page 2**

Committee Reports:

- Charter Schools - - Roger Kilgore reported Sherry Eastlund, Jesse Sutherland, and Kristen Tourangeau attended the work session of the Board of Education and presented the District SIAC Charter School recommendations. They asked for feedback on the report from the Board of Education, and the Board agreed to provide feedback.
- Budget & Finance Committee - - Lynn Otto shared that the committee will meet during the summer. July 11 will be the first meeting, and the committee will meet every two weeks following July 11 on the second and fourth Thursdays. Jeannie Kaplan and Anne Rowe will meet with the committee at the first meeting.
- Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) Committee - - Roger Kilgore shared that he and Kristen Tourangeau are following up with the District on the UIP that was submitted by the District to CDE.
- Facility Sharing Policy - - Roger Kilgore reported that this policy was postponed by the Board of Education and has not been rescheduled.

Proposed “Research and Evaluation” Ad Hoc Committee: Val Flores shared that she is working on a proposal to be presented in September.

New Business:

- The District SIAC meeting dates for 2013-2014 were discussed. Historically, the Council meeting dates are the last Tuesday of each month. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, August 27.
- The upcoming election for new DPS Board of Education members was discussed. Earleen Brown and Rita Montero volunteered to work on developing a forum for candidates to be held in September.

Next Meeting: The next District SIAC meeting will be Tuesday, August 27, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in room 108 of the DPS Administration Building.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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