

DPS District Accountability Committee Minutes

March 22, 2016

Welcome: Ed Krug called the meeting to order at 5:42pm.

Introductions: Mike Johnson, Board Member, was introduced.

Minutes Approval: February Minutes were approved as read.

District Presentation-Bond and Mill Levy:

- Dustin Kress, Manager of Bond and Mill Levy Programs presented. His role is in the area of oversight regarding the 2012 Bond and Mill Levy and planning for the 2016 Bond and Mill Levy. His objective in presenting was to help the group understand bond and mill levies and the differences between them. His presentation covered the following topics:
 - How DPS is funded
 - The financial state of DPS
 - Maximizing dollars in the classroom
 - How funding for DPS has been shrinking – impact of the negative factor
 - Understanding of why DPS does not receive marijuana tax revenues as well as understanding that these revenues are not as high as many people believe
 - Explained differences between a bond and a mill levy
 - Described how the Mill levy has no impact on state funding
 - Overview of the output of the 2012 bond
 - Overview of how the 2012 mill levy is now supporting schools
 - The district will have a map of 2012 bond projects and mill levy dispersements that will go live after Spring Break
 - Timeline for 2016 Community Planning Advisory Committee process
 - What considerations were made on where to focus investments in the 2016 mill levy which are grounded in the Denver Plan 2020
 - Small group discussion: Observations; Where to focus; What is missing
 - Overview of ways to get involved

DAC Committees:

- Ed Krug will send out key meeting dates.
- The DAC would like to propose creating two new subcommittees that will meet quarterly.
 - Whole Child – Office of Student Services and Family & Community Engagement – FACE
 - Sherry moved to add these two new ad hoc Committees. The motion carried.
 - Fernando and Ed volunteered to Co-Chair the Whole Child Committee
 - Karen and Cristina volunteered to Co-Chair the Family & Community Engagement Committee
- Committee Updates
 - **Great Schools**
 - There are two phases of applications. Applications are due April 8th. Expecting a quick turnaround with these applications.
 - We do have a good group to review but can always use more support.
 - Performance

- The committee is trying to give some feedback on the UIP to the Board. The school visits will start soon – starting with elementary schools.
- Schools were chosen as they are outperforming their peers on at least one area.
- Budget
 - The committee will be meeting to finalize recommendations to the Board. They have been looking at the next five years which includes the broader picture of where things are heading. They realize that the state’s financial situation will always be in flux.
 - A suggestion was made for this committee to visit the Finance and Audit Committee before going to the whole Board. Everyone understands that there is not a lot of wiggle room this year for us to make recommendations.

Mike Johnson:

- The big issues are: What do we do? How do we support schools that aren’t doing well? Especially those that are persistently underperforming. If our goal is 80% of schools being high performing, we need to focus on low performing schools.
- One way is to give schools more site-based control. This is a number one issue from everyone. We did give schools more autonomy related to professional development, curriculum and assessments. We would like to significantly shrink the central staff. We are encouraged by the new effort by a group of Innovation schools to create an innovation zone. They will form their own non-profit. DPS Central Administration will be one of many providers of services – more of a customer service model. It’s exciting work. The decision will be made in April on innovation zones.
- Innovation zone schools are still accountable for performance. It idea is of becoming a think tank – a hub for new school ideas.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.