

DAC Minutes

October 24, 2017

1. **Welcome** – Meeting was called to order by Ed Krug at 5:40 pm
2. **Approval of September minutes** – Jesse Sutherland moved to approve the minutes as read.
3. **Board comments** – Anne Rowe is no longer able to make it tonight.
4. **Strengthening Neighborhoods update** – Dustin Kress,
 - Primarily involved with Bond and Mill Levy
 - Helping by being the DPS contact for the SN effort - Focus – how can we promote integration?
 - The District working toward a \$1 million grant – an effort to better integrate schools. The grant was cancelled, but the District moved ahead anyway with the work.
 - Increases in population and changes in housing patterns and values. Risk of further segregation and isolation.
 - Committee was formed in March.
 - DPS doesn't control housing or RTD or other areas, but what can we control?
 - Integrated schools, when done well, benefit all students. This is the starting premise.
 - What is segregation...desegregation...integration?
 - How to not repeat the mistakes of the past?
 - Areas of focus:
 - Choice and enrollment system
 - Inclusion work
 - Different focus areas
 - Discussion guide
 - How are you experiencing the changes? How are changes impacting your schools?
 - What would the integrated school look like – attractive to you?
 - End goal is policy, strategies & pilot recommendations
 - October count still being finalized and tabulated
 - Teachers not being able to afford housing
 - An example is the possible use of Rosedale. Considering transforming it into housing.
 - DHA, and other housing reps, on the SN group.
 - Is District interested in becoming a landlord? What does the neighborhood think?
 - District can only go so far. Can encourage developers to have affordable set-asides.
 - City stakeholders are a part of these conversations.
 - Other parts of the nation? Examples from integration efforts in other states. Example from Dallas. Discussing “diverse by design”. Louisville, KY – Cambridge, MA
 - Concern of people abandoning the public for private with schooling again if changes are too drastic.
 - DPS does have some weighted lottery schools (preference for FRL, for example)
 - High schools tend to be more diverse than other schools.
 - What would an integrated school look like?
 - 80% to 50% drop
 - Often have a school within a school that promotes segregation
 - Choice process taking away from natural integration. ELA-E and ELA-S. TNLI school. Create separations – then ends up being reflected in parent groups, on the playground, etc.
 - Why can't each neighborhood school be an attractive school to all the families in the neighborhood?

- Forcing people to go to a different school doesn't strengthen the neighborhood.
- Ask, "What don't we like about the school, and how can we change it."
- How do you avoid self-segregation – NW Enrollment Zone as an example
- People want to choose into good schools.
- Get schools to be communities rather than dispersing neighborhood kids
- Segregation based on housing patterns
- Choice can be a tool – but then if force anything – will likely get backlash.
- If you want to advantage kids, reward the schools that take on a more challenging population.
- Seeing some organic growth. DSST and GALS...neighborhood programs.
- Extra money for FRL & ELA isn't necessarily translating into stronger academics?
- Difference between hauling people across town and giving people a choice.
- People will self-segregate naturally.
- Pressure and incentives...looking at both.
- Key Questions: Exploring trends. Choice process and what role charters played in segregation of schools. Would like to learn from this.
- School serving a specific population – built that way – how does that impact segregation
- Where least integrated?
- Is it an isolated incident. SW & FNE more segregated. Newly gentrifying neighborhoods more integrating.
- Research – Academic outcomes disadvantaged students do better and non-disadvantaged students don't suffer.
- Affluent schools – so many more benefits than just the money.
- We make it too easy to allow families to disinvest from neighborhood schools. Make it too easy to jump ship.
- Make it a non-issue by having excellent schools down the street
- Good thing – DPS does provide more local autonomy.
- Problem – tiered supports disappear once schools improve
- By this definition, STRIVE would be "bad" – because it is not integrated.
- District needs to learn to listen to the community – not coming with a prebaked plan.
- How is the community getting engaged with this larger process? Meetings are open to the public. Doing neighborhood organization meetings.
- Need to look at how "model" drives segregation
- Looking at the different Working groups and their focuses
 - Access to Schools
 - In school & classroom equity
 - Design & Sustainability of Schools
- Issue of losing school age kids. Therefore declining enrollment – projections are that it will continue
- Kinder – 7% lower than last year.
- With student based budgeting, this is a big issue.
- District is subsidizing small schools. Not sustainable.
- How can communities condense four schools into three as needed, for example.

5. **DAC leadership and subcommittee chairs candidate announcements**—11 leadership positions available. The following members are open to filling these positions:

- DAC Leadership Positions
 - Chair – Ed Krug
 - Co-chair – Thalia Nawi
 - Secretary – Anna Hewson

- Subcommittees
 - Great Schools
 - Michael Orlando, Chair
 - Heidi Erbe, Co-Chair
 - Performance
 - Kristin Barnes, Chair
 - Ed Krug, Co-Chair
 - Budget
 - Darci Cherry, Chair
 - Erich Bethke, Co-Chair
 - Family and Community Engagement
 - Brian Manburg, Chair
 - Ed Krug, Co-Chair
 - Mary Smith moved to accept the slate of candidates. Michael Orlando seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor.

- **Great Schools Subcommittee**

- Meeting on the 23rd
- Look at email from Michael Orlando.
- Have five schools that we have identified – renewals to review
- Look in the folder for the documents
- Anyone can go in and make comments or pose questions
- Will do this through November 5th
- Thursday, Nov. 2nd – next meeting which will be a work session
- Between Nov. 6th – 10th will create PowerPoint. Will give our recommendations to the Board on the 10th. Will present at the Work Session – 13th.
- Will circulate to the whole DAC for review.

- **Performance Subcommittee** – not met yet

- **Budget Subcommittee**

- Met last Thursday.
- District is not doing bad given the negative factor but still suffering.
- This was a preliminary meeting looking at funding sources – state vs. federal funding.
- Overarching challenge is that funding has not risen. Have 10% in reserve.
- Enrollment going down overall. Regional differences.

- **FACE Subcommittee**

- Meeting on Monday, Oct. 30th
- Looking at parent satisfaction survey.
- Looking at offering schools surveys to use at different points in time.
- A key responsibility of this committee is also holding the district accountable.
- The importance of keeping parents informed as a topic– more likely to know how to help their kids at home.

6. **Announcements** –

- Internal leadership of the UIP shifted, so Performance Committee meeting will be scheduled. Rob Jabowski will be our new UIP contact.
- Nov. 1st – Superintendent Parent Forum – in FNE
- Gains with early literacy plan – brought handout for our information.

7. **Adjournment:** Paul Zucherman moved for the meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.