

District School Improvement and Accountability Council Minutes from January 6, 2015

Kristen Tourangeau and Ray McAllister, Co-Chairpersons
Jesse Sutherland, Vice Chairperson, and Dorolyn Griebenaw, Secretary

Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of the November Minutes: Kristen Tourangeau called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The minutes from November 18, 2014, were reviewed. Jesse Sutherland moved for approval and Ray McAllister seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Happy Haynes was present from the Board of Education. Don Griebenaw moved that out of courtesy to Happy Haynes that she speak at the beginning of the meeting. Jesse Sutherland seconded the motion and it was approved.

Board of Education Update: Happy Haynes addressed several areas for the Council.

- Student Political Action - - Happy Haynes discussed the DPS student political action and noted that the students organized on their own but did talk with school administrators. The incident with the police officer who was injured upset the students and they initiated a fund for the officer and his family. There has been good dialogue between the students and police officers. Students who participated received unexcused absences except for those with notes from their parents.
- The Denver Plan Update - - The Denver Plan guides the District and is the responsibility of the Board of Education. The Board of Education and the Superintendent will work next month on goals and benchmarks. The Superintendent's evaluation was done by the Board of Education in December and there was a shift in goals as the goals relate to the Denver Plan. A steering committee and task force is under way to address the goal to provide support for the whole child. The task force is made up of DPS partners and will determine where DPS is today in relation to the goal. Recommendations will go to the Board of Education in February. The whole child goal has strong student involvement with a student co-chairing the task force.
- Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) - - Work around the UIP will reflect the goals from the Denver Plan. The UIP plan for this year was done before the Denver Plan was adopted.
- District School Improvement and Accountability Council (District SIAC) - - The applications have been gathered and there are 40 at the last count. The Board of Education does not want a cast of thousands and needs to provide structure as put in place by State law. The Board of Education members have been waiting until after the first of the year to make their decision. The expectation is for a decision by the Board of Education in January or at the February meeting. The new Board of Education policy spells out the mix for the new District School Improvement and Accountability Committee which ensures diversity by geography and background. The recruiting was done on the web site and with information presented by Board of Education members. The role District SIAC has played has been helpful to the Board of Education in relation to the budget, new charters and charter renewals. District SIAC members expressed concern about getting the mandated work accomplished with the current uncertainty of the structure of the Council. Happy Haynes replied that the Council should have guidance from the Board of Education by next week.
- DPS Advisory Committees (Special Education, Bilingual Education Advisory Committee, etc.) - - The Board of Education is working on a new group of policies, updates, and changes. This is being accomplished a bit at a time.
- Manual High School - - Manual High School now houses ninth grade through twelfth grade. It will not be a part of East High. There is no plan to close the school which will now have more of a career and technical education focus. The new Federal grant provides focused career strands to a lot of schools. Manual will be a biomedical strand. Manual is currently searching for a school leader.

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Board of Education Update Continued:

- **Bond Oversight Committee** - - The Bond Oversight Committee has a report on the District web site. The figure of \$30 million in savings was presented a couple of months ago and the Bond Oversight Committee asked the District to review the bond. They came back with \$33 million in needs which has been increased to \$35 million. The Board of Education must approve.
- **DPS Budget** - - The Board of Education will be looking at the budget with the focus of putting money where the priorities are developing. The budget information will be presented to the Board of Education in January at the work session.

Kristen Tourangeau thanked Happy Haynes for attending the District SIAC meeting and sharing information with the Council. She shared the hope of the current Council that the Board of Education will work with the new DAC to develop a partnership and strengthen the accountability process.

Committee Reports:

- **Budget and Finance** - - Lynn Otto reported that at the September 10 meeting, the committee identified items for focus from the budget. Lynn Otto will send the list to Kristen Tourangeau to distribute to the Council members. On October 11, a letter was sent to the Board of Education listing three topics of focus from the above list. Lynn Otto received thank you correspondence from three Board of Education members but did not receive any suggestions regarding the list.
- **UIP (Unified Improvement Plan)/Denver Plan** - - Kristen Tourangeau shared that Colorado school districts received their ratings from the Colorado Department of Education. The rating for DPS is yellow which indicates that an improvement plan must be put into place. Kristen Tourangeau will request a copy of the Denver Public Schools UIP.
- **Charter Schools** - - Kristen Tourangeau reminded the Council that the Charter School report was emailed to members. Escuela Tlatelolco has a phase out plan and Sims-Fayola International Academy voted to close their high school.

Miscellaneous Announcements and Comments: Kristen Tourangeau reminded Council members that the next District SIAC will be Tuesday, January 27, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.