



DISTRICT ADVISORY ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 18, 2016
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. @ BEPS

Present: Sue Johnson, Elizabeth von Tauffkirchen, Debbie Wilhelm, Mark Haeussler, Jen Dvorak, Gayle Reynolds, Bill Hesford, Kristin Dallison, Savannah Baird; guests Amy Lyons and Becky Smith.

1. **Introductions:** Introductions were made.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mark moved, Gayle Reynolds seconded, to approve the March 21, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. **Budget:** Amy Lyons, district finance director spoke. She gave us a review of the budget and budget considerations. Amy explained what the negative factor is: we really don't get the amount of funding the state is legally required to give us. We did get the inflation factor, but it was only 1.2% for FY 16/17. Our funding is about 1,000 dollars per student lower than it should be. That means a loss of funding to the tune of \$8,255,184.00 since school year 2009/10 since the negative factor was put into effect by the state.

Other things impacting our funding:

- Enrollment!
- We will need one additional classroom teacher for the 2016/17 school year at BES; also adding a half time position at the mid school and a half time special education aide at BMS.
- Adding a Dean of Students for grades 4-8.
- School district health insurance going up 8%.
- Every year each school districts' contribution to PERA goes up .8%. Currently that amount is 19.15% for this past school year, this coming school year it will be 19.95%.
- BHS Orchestra

Two ideas being considered to help our budget...

Scenario 1: Ideally, the administration would like to add two additional work days at the beginning of the school year. Due to budget concerns those two days *could be cut* from the calendar for this coming school year.

Scenario 2: Not cut the 2 teacher days. Instead, increase the deductible of what the district pays for insurance. Would save the district 50,000 dollars. Downside is the cost of increase of deductible which impacts the employees using the plan.

Scenario 2 looking better than scenario 1. This will harm the least number of people financially. Potential deficit of \$97,000. We hope our enrollment stays up. If we maintain even half of our enrollment increase, we should be able to stop the "averaging" calculation, which could have a significant impact on our funding. With the "averaging" we are allowed to do with the October count we should be okay.

4. **1338 Committee:** Becky Smith was in attendance to speak to us about the BSD teacher evaluation process. We have put into place a strong support program for teachers. Becky works with teachers to become more effective instructional leaders. She has also worked with the principals for them to become

strong instructional leaders. We have a mentoring program, a peer coaching program and teachers are given PLC time. Additionally...

- Admin team is getting ready to finalize a district walk through program.
- Teachers are all required to create a professional growth plan.
- Teachers also do the self-assessment (teacher effectiveness rubric).

Senate Bill 191 gives districts power to hire/fire teachers. There are 5 standards which indicate aspects of effective teaching that teachers are rated on. Teachers are also rated on student academic growth. Each district gets to design the process that is going to be used. This coming school year is the first year that school districts must use the process they have designed. Becky has been working on this the past two years. The state is also implementing a state assessment for this coming school year and BSD is going to pass on using the data from the assessments as part of the teacher evaluation process.

In Colorado, if a teacher is rated *partially effective*, or *ineffective* for two years in a row a teacher may lose his/her non-probationary status. It can be earned back with an *effective* rating for three years in a row. The district is obligated to help that teacher improve. The intent is not to fire the teacher but to help him/her grow.

How do we measure student growth?

- Formative assessments
- A focus on individual student growth
- Acknowledging *levels* of student growth

How much growth should be considered as acceptable growth had to be determined? Becky said the method that Austin, TX uses is a good fit for our district. To measure student growth a point system was created for student growth levels: 3 points given for high growth, 2 points given for acceptable growth, 1 point given for low growth, 0 points given for negative growth. Looking at the growth points, the Austin formula is applied and a converted score is figured out. That score is added to the score the teacher receives on the teacher effectiveness rubric. Then the teacher ends up with a final effectiveness rating.

Thanks for your dedication and hard work on this Becky. 😊

5. Discussion about Beginning of Year Welcoming Get Together: Deb doesn't want us to forget about this topic. We do need to generate some ideas to **discuss at the next DAAC meeting**. This would not take the place of the Open House held at each school. Bring ideas to the next meeting.

6. School Reports: BES: They have not met since the last DAAC meeting.

BMS: Mark reported that they had discussed the dean of students position, and also the role of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports coordinator. The mid school is doing work on values. The two top values identified are respect, and honesty in that you can call things the way you see something, and be called out yourself by somebody else. These values need to be integrated by the teachers and the students. They had a discussion about students advancing from 8th grade. Apparently there have been inconsistencies determining who can participate in continuation activities because they were lacking some requirements, but it wasn't pointed out to the students early on. There are not any procedures in place to determine who gets to attend continuation and who can't due to the lack of some requirements, even though they will be moving on to ninth grade. There are some strong feelings about this. No clear decision was made. This is a topic that should be studied at the beginning of the school year. The next meeting will be May 2 at 3:45.

BHS: Jen reported that BHS has not had any meetings since DAAC last met. There will probably be one more meeting before the end of the school year.

7. Superintendent Report: Deb handed out a typed up report since Troy was not able to join us. Here are the highlights:

-The book the administrative team is reading is called “In praise of American Educators: and how they can become even better” by Rick DuFour.

- New positions at BSD which are being funded through adjustments to staffing pattern and new prioritization of the fund balance.

- MTSS Coordinator (MTSS stands for multi-tiered system of supports)

- A grades 4-8 Dean of Students

- BHS Orchestra

- Another ELL teacher. Currently Holley Hughes has been doing that for the entire district. With a second person that means they will probably split the grades they work with. Bill Hesford spoke about this need.

- The G/T Enrichment Task Force will have the first meeting on May 3. Adrea Berghoff has agreed to provide us with consultation and facilitation throughout the school year.

- BEST/Bond update: we are in the middle of the property annexation process, details are still being worked out; the BEST grant is in the hands of the BEST board; the core planning committee has been meeting to develop a campaign committee.

- Attendance Policy: Work is being done to strengthen our attendance practice, and to bring consistency to the policy we develop with Durango, Pagosa Springs and Ignacio school districts.

- Calendar Committee: the 2016/17 calendar is done but the committee is going to work on the 2017/18 calendar and plan on meeting about this on April 27.

- PARCC Testing: This is our second week of PARCC assessments. Many students were opted out of the testing at BHS - - 54 out of 85 juniors, and 30 out of 107 freshmen. At BMS fewer students were opted out: 1 in sixth grade, 12 in seventh, and 18 in 8th grade. Fourth graders will begin the testing on Thursday, April 21. Four 3rd graders and three 5th graders were opted out.

8. Next Meeting: It is supposed to be May 9. Stay tuned for an email.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Johnson, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: bring ideas on how we can get more families coming into the schools on occasions other than for conferences. We want them to feel comfortable and welcome!! Maybe we should ask parents if they have any ideas on what activities/events would get them coming in.