

DAAC Minutes April 8, 2015



A regular meeting of the **District Advisory Accountability Committee** was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at the district administration building.

Present: Sue Johnson, Troy Zabel, Debbie Wilhelm, Mike Foutz, Jen Dvorak, Elizabeth vonTauffkirchen, Gayle DuPree, Gayle Reynolds, Laurie Roberts, Karen Lunceford.

1. Introductions: Introductions were made.

2. Approval of minutes from March 9, 2015. Mike moved, Gayle seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Bond Study Update: Troy reported that the bond study committee has met several times. There has been one meeting with the district employees that had volunteered to participate. We are not going to move forward with a bond until 2016. That is in the best interest of the district. That is the advice that several bonding firms have given Troy. Bonds are always more successful when put on the ballot with a major election. That also means that the bond will not be run the same year that we have school board member elections – we will have three positions open this coming fall. We need to spend more time on studying the district needs. Our district could apply for BEST monies. **Build Excellent Schools Today** is what BEST stands for. There is an application process.

We want to make sure we have a really good plan and haven't rushed into the decision to try to pass a bond. The committee wants to be very thoughtful about this process, and good stewards of district finances. The bond study committee will continue to meet.

4. District Unified Improvement Plan: Troy handed out what is on the District UIP so far. With the first improvement strategy we are trying to get more specific than we have been in the past. **Strategy #1:** *The district will provide the tools and training necessary for teachers to strengthen their daily practice of meeting learner needs through the continual process of embedded formative assessment, data analysis, and adjustment of instructional practice with the goal of improving student achievement.*

Troy explained the action steps listed with the first strategy. There will be individuals that will receive specific assessment training instead of trying to train every teacher.

Strategy #2: *Enlisting appropriate stakeholders, the District will prioritize an actionable set of key levers for improving performance and develop corresponding implementation plans.* This goal is written around the district's efforts to prioritize all the initiatives that we have going on in the district. Action plans will be developed for the initiatives/mandates identified as the highest priorities will have 3-5 year action plans developed.

Strategy #3: *Improve relationships within the school community to provide essential supports for learning.* We will search out what it is we need to do to make this work happen. Some ideas: expeditionary learning, International Baccalaureate, Competency-based Learning, just to name a few.

Troy and Becky Smith tried to visit with students in each of the buildings about the student perception surveys. They are not done having those visits but they have found the conversations very enlightening.

5. Update on Professional Learning Communities (PLC): This really is all about what we just finished talking about with the Unified Improvement Plan.

6. School Reports:

BES/BEPS: Gayle reported that at the meeting before the March meeting Amy Lyons came to talk about the district budget. At the March meeting they discussed the school improvement plan. They will continue to work on using *The WriteTools* for writing. Grades K-2 have been using the Montessori manipulatives for math. That will be continued and is going to be extended beyond second grade as a component of the math curriculum.

BMS: Karen Lunceford reported that the last meeting of the year was April 6. They have two strategies on their school improvement plan. One is related to math, and speaking to each other about math, and the types of questions to get kids to think deeper and be able to explain. The program is called "Talk Moves". The second strategy is literacy across the curriculum. They will be doing a standards inventory to look for commonalities in the curriculum during the next staff development day. Again, looking at how to get kids to think at higher levels. They will also be looking at common rubrics that can be used across the content areas related to claims and evidence. Their goal is to make kids more thoughtful. They had a lot of opt-outs on the state tests. Karen has done some class meetings about that and then had a parent handout she sent home. Staff at the mid school has been working on different ways to celebrate those who made the Honor Roll. Sixth graders will be doing their manners field trip. Seventh graders will be doing some weeding around the school. Eighth grade has continuation on the last day of school. Girls to Women and Boys to Men events are coming up. The staff at the mid school was slow to embrace peer coaching but they have begun doing that and they are liking it. Next year the mid school would like to have a quarterly parent night. Karen is committed to an ultra smooth transition to the new leadership at the school so she will help out however she can.

BHS: Jen Dvorak reported they worked on the school UIP. They have three strategies. Each of those have 4-5 action steps. Rtl is on there. They are reconfiguring the way it has been done. Everything on there is something that was identified at the beginning of the year as a priority. They want to bring more of the student centered learning in. They have done a few changes to the bell schedule. They want to make sure the students are college or work force ready. Student success period is going to be called Seminar. It will be grade appropriate. The focus on writing will be increasing. In the cross curricular PLC's they have been compiling strategies that different teachers use related to writing and those will be compiled and put on the website for the teachers. They are doing something separate for math so it isn't on the UIP for the high school.

7. Superintendent Report: Troy reported that our technology went pretty smoothly during the PARCC testing so Troy wanted to pass along kudos to all involved in helping with that. With students who were opted out of the testing there were 38 at BMS, 38 at BHS and 9 at the elementary school. Mid school principal selection process has begun. There are 9 applicants for the position. Three committees have been put together – administration committee, staff committee, parent committee. April 18 is when interviews will be conducted. There have been some conversations about putting a Head Start program in Bayfield. They have been working with Fred Schneider who is the Head Start Administrator. They would begin with just one classroom. Access to Head Start for Bayfield Families has been difficult. A moderate needs program is being added to the high school. We will be hiring a staff person for that. Accelerated Grant: Troy wrote a Grant to CEI which he hasn't heard about yet but thinks that will go through. Huge concerns in the area of state financing of schools. Many costs are going up and with flat

funding we will have to adjust. Looking at insurance companies again. Got a grant to send two teachers for four days for training. One from BHS and one from BMS to the Thinking Strategies Institute up in Denver. The next School Board meeting will be in Durango on Tuesday evening, April 14. It will start in the Durango Board Room at 5:30.

If you recall Troy mentioning this at a previous meeting, we were part of a case study by the Center for Ed. Leadership. Troy just received information back this week about that. He will send that information out to the DAAC group.

Competency Based Learning study committee is meeting again this month on the 22nd at 5:30 at BHS. That is a yearlong study. They are being methodical and taking it slow. Troy handed out something that was sent out to all parents that lists all the SAAC and DAAC meeting dates for next school year. He also handed out next year's school calendar.

8. **The next meeting:** We originally had a meeting scheduled for Monday, May 4. However, we have met 6 times this school year, and cannot think of a reason why we need to meet in May. Therefore, **the next meeting will be September 28 at 6:00.**



Sue moved, Debbie seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Johnson, Secretary

Have a great summer y'all!!

Ideas for future agenda items: Results from the teacher perception surveys

