

**Denver School of the Arts  
Collaborative School Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, 12 March, 2008**

A meeting of Collaborative School Committee (CSC) was held in Conference Room 2 at the Denver School of the Arts from 4:30pm until 6:00pm. Members present included:

Pamela Hawkins    Jonathan Howard    Andrea Wiseman    Donald Brizendine    Gregory Diggs  
Ron Mediatore    Lucy Phillips    **Linèe T. Perroncel-Principal**

---

**Public Comment**

**Jeanne Price** Introduction of her background

Concern about CSC Parent who wanted to attend the last meeting but was told that CSC was in executive session. Front office was turning people away due to coverage of personnel issues. Price reminded the CSC that personnel is not the prevue of the CSC. Ms. Price asserts that the only exception, circumstance for executive session is at the end of the year with principal evaluation.. Talked about need for meetings to be transparent and open. Better notice about meeting dates and times.

Price was also concerned about misinformation about scheduling

- ✓ DPS does not limit us to 70 credit hours
- ✓ Budget information provided seems to have been incorrect
- ✓ Rumor about man who murdered Emily Keyes was seen on the premises.
- ✓ Review of budget starts with budget assumptions (talked about her experience with this) What are the budget assumptions? Are they valid or relevant today? Adminstrative staff seems to be heavy compared to other schools.

Price has heard that teachers are only allowed to teach 5 classes. Cutting classes might impact class sizes.

Other Issues:

Time when teachers will be available before or after school

Passing period will cause trouble for female students if reduced to 4 minutes.

Also visual spatial learners (artists, musicians, painters) etc. Need to look at that in relation to mathematics

DSA has traditionally received funding for 4 extra teachers from the DPS. Jeanne wants to know where these 4 teachers are assigned; where are those dollars going. We have 4 and this is more than other schools.

**Kim Grogan**

Has concerns related to communication.

Mile High Teacher Award...family deliberated according to criteria. Teacher nominee is not returning in the Fall. Disqualified for award because of probationary status. Concerned about how decision was made. Asks that the CSC follow guidelines and rules...need to think about accountability measures. Some concern was expressed that the teacher is being retaliated against for intervening in a student issue. Spoke about feeling some responsibility for the teacher's circumstances

Benchmarks. When DPS tried to hold students back in math, benchmarks were used to justify the decision. We received benchmark data that appeared to be inaccurate. Asked for individual student data. Concerned about benchmark scores at the beginning of the year. Found out that her daughter's scores were not scanned. Concerned because these tests are sometimes used for placement decisions. DPS was willing to fix problem for Kim, but not for everyone. Discovered that benchmark tests had been misplaced or shredded and other irregularities regarding the administration and scoring of tests.

Please review Article 13 related to personnel decisions and asked CSC members to review it.

Special Education Issues. Those designated students represent less than 4% of the student population. Encourages CSC to consider that in budget decisions.

Kim asked that the ineligible teacher discussed earlier be allowed to be considered as a candidate for Mile High Teacher.

### **CSC Meeting**

Don spoke about Requirements of the Colorado Sunshine Law. Stated that there is almost no reason for CSC to be in executive session. Chair took responsibility for mistakes in communication along and offered a commitment to do better. Minutes should be taken for any meeting held with two or more members of the committee.

### **School Communications**

Some discussions and suggestions It was suggested that the CSC establish sub-committees relevant to the SIP. Communications might be a good candidate for starting a sub-committee. Take a look at our system, review what is going on (e-mail, website, etc.) One idea is to develop a small committee. Should we consider a Blog? What kinds of things can we do to improve committee? This seems like a reasonable area to explore.

Linee: Administration is working on identifying on parent as main contact for different groups in order to streamline communication. Maybe they would also be a good conduit for this effort.

### **Special Education Request**

Parent sent an e-mail about special education. Merredith suggests that we have some more staff training, professional development to improve service to our special education population. Particularly in issue related to IEP's Individual Education Plan. Merredith is investigating issues and talking.

Andrea: What box does this fit in, SIP? Providing Instruction?

Lucy: ...does not fit into one box, but focus might be on SIP and School Climate.

It was recommended that we be very clear about the scope of work so that the effort does not overlap into areas that are beyond the charge of the CSC. (e.g., personnel). Discussion was tabled to next meeting when Merredith will be present.

### **BUDGET**

Submitted last Friday. DPS misplaced or cannot locate it, but it is being tracked. April deadline for final approval. Still have not heard if pension is going through. If it does then DSA does not benefit in any way from the \$95 set aside for middle school GT. May need to mobilize our resources. We have well over 30% GT and will get none of the money. Tom Bozeberg's office has made an executive decision that DSA will not benefit...no access for GT money. Need to study the issue and understand before getting everyone actively involved. Let the DPS folks finish their jobs and then we will be able to act. Will communicate and propose strategy to response. Caution the groups not to flood the District with inquiries and concerns prematurely. Linee would like to work collaboratively with the District on this issue.

Budget was submitted to DPS and reflected action (RIB) CSC took on recommendation of the personnel committee.

#### Budgetary transfers.

Made a good connection with woman that works for Botanical Gardens, she would want DSA to be the opening act for summer events there. That coupled with Faculty Show may reach the \$100,000 target for fundraising. That might allow us to use that money to fund paras as a grant. Or if DPS knows the money is there...we could post for a staff position now and get quality person. Depends on how much we raise. If we raise \$30K = equipment; \$50K may be a staff person.

About 60% of the middle school is identified GT. Is this (pension) an ongoing funding stream or one time award? Assumption is ongoing, but unsure.

### **Schedule Plan Update.**

Parent group meetings have been held: theatre, dance...soon VA. Re: schedule. We are working with Transportation but that is going slow now. Transportation said there would be a charge of \$70K for a proposed change of 3 minutes in the DSA schedule. We will try to work through the normal protocols for another week. If not we may rally kind inquiries from parents and community to encourage more flexibility on the schedule. It informs whether we have a 4 minute or 5 minute pass period. All we are asking is to return to the original times from two years ago [Linee will forward the times for the notes] Janice has been coming to parent meetings to answer to answer district-level questions.

There are six faculty members who believe that they will be qualified to be CU Succeed Professors. That may happen as early as the fall. Already have two teachers certified. (Pat Dubrava, Pamela Hawkins, Sable Collins, Michael O'Bannion, Jeff Miller, Michael Thorton)

**At 5:25pm it was proposed that we finish the CSC meeting and open last 15 to public [consensus]**

Where is the FAQ about schedule? It has been sent electronically in newsletter and was re-sent.

It was suggested that a blog or web-site be established where people could discuss questions and issues. There was some support for that on the committee, but also concerns about managing this. It was suggested that a communications committee be established to handle this topic. It was suggested that a communication sub-committee is crucial to this effort.

*Set up a web page with as many questions and as many answers as possible. Special section, continue to add questions through Jonathan as questions come in through regular account or web access.*

*As questions come in from our caring and concerned community, we would like to share this information with the larger community. Would it be all right with you if we posted questions and answers in a public space?*

It was suggested that it be made clear that there is a space for parents to address their concerns privately. But also let people know that we want to post parent questions in FAQ section but will not do so with out prior approval from the parent.

Discussion continued and guests were invited to provide feedback on the FAQ issue. Jeanne:...be careful about giving the impression that their e-mail is private, because it really is not. Kim: concerned about candor and credibility in terms of communication at DSA. Shared Amendment A with the committee and asked for members to review it.

**Table the e-mail question for a month and let the administration take a look at this. [concensus]**

Question re: cu succeed. Silver and Gold need to clarify in terms of what is accepted by colleges. Concerns about some universities who have language indicating that they do not have to accept college courses taught in a high school setting. Linee suggested that these questions go on the FAQ sheets.

Cu Succeeds. Lack of syllabi, lack of returned assignments in timely fashion, same with grades, progress, etc. Still room for improvement on class websites of DSA teachers. Get better turn around time for assignments in the classroom.

Meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

**Next meeting will be April 3, 2008  
4:30pm.**