

**Denver School of the Arts
Collaborative School Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 4 2008**

Members present included:

Jonathan Howard Andrea Wiseman Meridith Branscombe Lewis Donald Brizendine
Gregory Diggs Ron Mediatore AJ Tapia Ryan Foo **Peter Castillo, Assistant Principal**

Susan Lawson Gonzales, Lia Woodall, Jan Holland-Beachley, Jenny Roberts

Agenda was reviewed by CSC Members. Pete Castillo, Assistant Principal was present to communicate important news and updates from the Administration.

Administration Updates

Back to School Night. Very nice. Enjoyed different aspects. We had a kiosk set up to get some feedback on a parent survey that we will make available in the near future.

Parent Teacher Conference

One day from 8-4pm does not work for working parents. Looking to move the day into two separate nights. And then give a day back to the teachers. Proposed Conference Dates were 10/21 and 10/22 from 4 to 8pm. It was reported that DSA Teachers are supportive of the move.

CSC reached consensus, approving the new Parent Teacher Conference dates.

Next Steps: The Instructional Superintendent approves the change and then it will go out through the DSA communication process.

School Leadership Team

What will group look like when the 09-12 teacher contract. SLT = 4 teachers, DCTA and building rep. Principal. Advisory. The focus of the SLT will be Budget Allocation for Instructional Materials. Because of the way the new budget is formatted, school based control, but still with restrictions. Also looking at lunch time, professional development days, maybe two or three other items. (see document). Currently we have about 6 people who have offered themselves for nomination. Secretary will tally secret ballot. SLT will probably established in the near future.

What is the role of CSC in light of SLT?

Collaborative effort. CSC approval of SLT decisions/recommendations. SLT focused on the structural support and application of budget allocation for instruction.

Greg spoke of need for clear communication of structure and roles.

Pete said that this is probably intended to coalesce existing teacher groups formed into one.

School Improvement Plan

Reviewed numbers from the CSAP scores from the spring. We had goals of reducing...9th and 10th grade...by 30% . Results for 2008 9th grade = 22% and 24% for 10th grade math. Pretty similar for other grades.

Pete reported that this was a good result, pretty close to the target. Huge growth from 9th grade, significant success among sixth graders. The last few points are going to be a little more challenging but that is where the work to be done.

Pete reported that Linee was talking about bringing in RTI. If it is the same kids over and over that we are not reaching, what are the implications? The idea is to reach kids with specific needs with specific interventions and monitor what is working and not working. No longer how we are going to move numbers, but how are we going to reach individual kids.

Parent: Connected Math...we don't always know how to make the transition to 8th grade math (kids/students). It used to be that you could purchase information...the parent guide. Questions about how to get a reference book...to support. Ron says that he has one. But if you go to the connected math web site and you should be able to find the resources there. Ron may look through his parent guide and compare to the information on the website. How can we get access to this resource?

Parent Constituency Meeting

We had one recently, August 28th. Some issues were continued from the previous year.

Merredith spoke to subcommittees and areas of interest in:

Communication Special Education Schedule Feedback Inclusion/Diversity

We then thought about having a School Improvement Committee with representation from every major. Want to reduce the silos by major that reduced collaboration. We would like to examine issues related to school climate that could be included to the school improvement plan.

Pete gave some feedback...there seems to be a theme about communication; *I have tried to be involved and responsive to those needs. I think that the discussion is already out there regarding how to do it that will make sense...w/o creating substructures the create steam without having opportunities to vent the steam. One suggestion has been to establish a kids link. I've tried to have completely accurate e-mail lists, but sometimes not successful. Often we are at a place where you (CSC) are at...what are the possibilities? So there are some things that can be looked at. How do we get all of this into a protocol that makes sense.*

Don. We will continue to work and move forward...and have a proposal by the next CSC meeting. Are there not already goals in the SIP? How can you move forward with the SIP without looking at all of that? When will the review of the SIP goals happen?

The CSC would like to take comprehensive look at the SIP for next meeting, including how the SLT relates to the SIP as well as other goals. [General Consensus] Also the committee structure.

Committee Members and Parents please review SIP goals before next CSC meeting

Parent Communications

Don has set up a website for CSC and parent communication, teacher communication, teachers. Vehicle for communication. Don will get it started with the parent lists that we have. Will get the address to us.

DSA BUDGET ISSUE

Action Item. Has to do with budget. We did not hit our student enrollment goal. We are going to have to RIB one position. From a non-teaching sector; from the Counseling Department. One of the two counselors. It will ultimately happen. We have already reviewed the options. It will have to be within the department. Administration is making a recommendation to the CSC about the department that the RIB would occur. We have limited choices. There is x amount of teachers and x amount of kids. The budget for 928 students approved last year. We are at 902 leaves us at 26 short. Now we have to RIB back to the actual numbers.

- *CSC did not reach consensus in support of the administration recommendation of a RIB to occur in the Counseling Department.*
- *Greg Diggs was selected to be a parent representative on the personnel committee.*
- *The Personnel Committee will meet in the near future to consider and approve the RIB recommendations presented by the DSA administration.*

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Next CSC Meeting: October 2nd 4:30pm

Addendum:

The CSC acknowledges that DSA has a budget shortfall that must be address. The Personnel Committee is authorized by the CSC to work with the administration to resolve this issue. CSC consensus will be sought by e-mail and the minutes will reflect the outcome.