

**District Accountability Committee  
Meeting Notes  
September 2, 2008**

**Subcommittee Meetings** 6:00-6:30

**Meeting Called to Order** – DAC Chair, Peter Ruh

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Chris King** – spoke a little about the Bond Oversight Committee – when bond was passed, BVSD promised voters that there would be an oversight committee made up of laypersons, parents and community members.

Introductions - Around the table; name, school and number of years or new.

**Board Member Reports**

Ken Roberge –

- Introduced Patti Smith who is replacing Jean Paxton as board liaison. Jean and Patti are switching the committees they are on so the committee members get to know other board members and get a fresh perspective.
- Normally, there is a 15 minute board report at the beginning of each meeting. In the past, they would review upcoming agenda items, including any policy changes and major board items. Ken wants to take the opportunity to find out what DAC members would like to hear.

Suggestions/Want to hear about:

- 1) Issues that are discussed in DAC if they are coming up in board issues as well
- 2) Legislative updates
- 3) Board issues that are being struggled with – hot button issues, things that make the letter's to the editor
- 4) Open communication for subcommittee interests
- 5) Share things that should be passed on to other parents
- 6) When presenting anything, give the relevant historical context of an issue
- 7) How is everything connected – do an overview of the structure at the beginning of each school year, including the different committees, the board and the district overall structure
- 8) Want the ability to provide feedback to the board

Ken suggests reinstating the DAC report to the board, making it a monthly standing slot at the board meeting to give DAC an opportunity to provide feedback or present any issues.

## **Discussion – Structure of DAC and Review Process**

Peter Ruh - It is legislated that the district must provide the state (CDE) with a report of how schools are doing. State gives great leeway in how this is reported. Some districts have small groups of staff do it all. BVSD utilizes the parent community through DAC to do this rather than district staff.

Prior to the November interview night, Peter suggests going by the school's to meet the principals and see firsthand the demographics of the school.

Jonathan suggests making an appointment and being respectful of the principal's time; don't make it a "site visit".

Member questions/suggestions:

- As the DAC rep for your school, bring back the possibility of visits and phone calls to the principals. As a 3 person team, break it up to one person per school. It is worth the time to see the school – How does the front office staff treat you? What is on the walls? How do the students and teachers interact?
- Can we have the ability to email the principals and receive responses before the interview night?  
Jonathan & Ellen response – questions need to be filtered and refined through the supervisor before going to the principal. Some of the questions challenge their leadership and there really could be too many questions for principals to answer. They are busy people.
- Suggestion to give questions that review teams wants addressed to the DAC rep for that school to take back to the SIT team, instead of directly to the principal.
- Chris King – in the interest of continuous improvement, it is not unreasonable to ask for principals to answer questions.
- Want a straightforward, clear direction of what would be the best use of time during interview, given that it is such a small amount of time. Peter – Focus on this at the October meeting – quantitative vs. qualitative.
- Want principals to consider who the audience is when writing reports – not using abbreviations and terms that are used only within a group or specific school. Make them meaningful.

Peter Ruh discussed upcoming work session with BOE: Expecting one person from each subcommittee (preferably the chair) to come to the worksession, or give questions to take to the session – Tuesday, September 16, at 6:30. DAC Exec is meeting before the work session (4:00-5:00) to set priorities for the worksession.

Review Team Breakout

Colorado Growth Model DVD – Viewing

Q&A with Jonathan Dings – Chief of Planning & Assessment. What does this mean for BVSD and the goal setting process?