

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (DAC)

ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOOL CALENDAR YEAR 2016-2017

ROSTER & ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

DAC's first meeting was held on September 13th, 2016. We started the year with 11 members. Mary Sonsino, Chair; Dick Vickery, Vice Chair; Julie Hansen, Secretary; Other members are: Mary Lorenz, Mary Beth Sherrod, and Dee Adams. Alexis Donaldson, Mary Farmer, Heather Huntoon, and Sharon Lutes as administration. Katie Yocum joined our committee as a Montessori administration. Victoria Edwards joined us in January. Atidah Holbird who was a new member and Mary Beth Sherrod will not be here next year. Dr. Dave Mackenzie attended our meetings as an advisory member.

The roster created in May is attached.

BY-LAWS

No changes made

CHARGES

The charges given to DAC from the Board of Education for the year were Teacher and Principal Effectiveness Evaluation Model and Process (SB 191), Unified Improvement Plans (UIP) for Elementary, Secondary, and the District, Gifted and Talented (GT) Program Delivery, nutrition and wellness, and district budget changes for the 2017-2018 year. We decided as a group that since we are small we would all discuss each charge together at our meetings. We also decided to schedule each topic in our calendar year for discussion, like we did last year.

SB191

Dr. Dave shared the SB191 (Senate Bill 10-191) overview for new members. The Accountability bill was established in 2010. Scores are based on 50% teacher performance and 50% student achievement. Dave explained how developers of the bill reached across the state to get teacher input, State assessments, and use of Colorado state standards. The PARCC test was developed by Colorado teachers as another reach out to gather information on elementary and secondary students. He cited three books, *Enhancing Professional Practice*, *Classroom Instructions that Work*, and *Professional Learning Communities at Work*. Late start Wednesdays are

designed so teachers can come in, work with data, and collaborate to increase student achievement and growth.

Our district needs a District Personnel Performance Evaluation Council. Members must include at least one teacher, one administrator, one principal, one parent and one person who does not have a child in school.

Last year we switched to RANDA, an online performance management system to support districts in the implementation of the Colorado State Model Evaluation System. Teachers get scored on 50% student achievement (5% district accreditation rating, 15% school accreditation rating, 10% individual standardised, 20% individual local) and 50% teacher performance. Teachers get to choose 20% of the data that is used in their evaluation. They choose what they are comfortable with and the best data available for that teacher. Overall the evaluations are friendly and favors the teachers. Gilpin is always building and growing so we can become a school of distinction.

ACCREDITATION, TO INCLUDE UNIFORM (UNIFIED) IMPROVEMENT (PERFORMANCE) PLAN

“Uniform (Unified) Improvement (Performance) Plan (UPP) SB-09-163 The DAC’s charge was reviewed with the verbiage of SB 09-163, The Accountability Act, which reads, “The school’s DAC shall advise the local SQE concerning the contents of the District Improvement Plan. In advising and making its recommendations, the DAC shall take into account and incorporate any of the School Performance Plans, Improvement Plans, Priority Improvement Plans or Turnaround Plans that the Public Schools of the District submit to the DAC”.”

Dr. Dave gave the UIP presentation to discuss Gilpin County School District's mission and vision moving forward as a District of Distinction.

Our teaching practice is “great, first instruction” while the focus is one student at a time. Marzano High Reliability Schools is highly effective in promoting student learning and is a school wide initiative. These are strategies used to turn schools around. Dr. Dave explained how they ask teachers to post objectives so the students know what they need to do to be able to master the objective and prepare the students for next level.

“Teachers Teaching Teachers” is not focusing on the organization but rather the individual teacher. The idea is to keep brainstorming ideas hoping the teachers will

find something to help in the classroom. Mary Farmer explained how a few teachers will attend a conference and then give a presentation to other teachers at the school to show what they have learned and give a different perspective. Sharon explained how a teacher can sign up for different classes depending on which could help them in their classroom. It has been dubbed “Gilpin University” and teachers spend a lot of time preparing for these classes.

Gilpin County Elementary School now has a ranking of Performance. Dr. Dave noted when he first joined our school more than half the students were not at or on grade level in reading and math. Now our goal is to have 9 out of every 10 students in a classroom to be at or on grade level. The UIP emphasizes our “next steps” which include engagement, rigor and differentiation.

Heather spoke about Marzano’s nine strategies. Down in elementary PBIS (positive behavior) is showing a significant difference in the students learning. A concern was engagement; how to get kids moving and teachers out of their box. Differentiation- what does it look like and how to do it without losing control of the classroom? An example would be one big targeted lesson with three different groups going on. Not sending the kids to an interventionist but keeping the student in the class. “I do, we do, you do”, abstract thinking, and making sure within the engagement there is rigor. Differentiation has to be on point. Teachers must have different options for learning. In a classroom there are average learners, lower learners, and high learners. Teachers should plan lessons with the same concept on three different levels.

Alexis spoke about middle school and high school 43 key strategies. Secondary teachers have them all online in folders so they can click on an engagement and it gives all the reference on one shared drive. It goes back to “Teachers teaching teachers” because the more resources a teacher has, the better. The science of teaching and the art of teaching is all based in the science spectrum. A strong emphasis is on the art of teaching so the students become engaged and enjoy themselves.

1. Check out Schooldigger.com Gilpin School was ranked 14th out of 106 Colorado schools!
2. Accountability isn’t the hard part- it’s sustainability.

Gifted and Talented (GT) Program Delivery

Sunny Vincent was here to present for Gifted Education and read the new philosophy which has been accepted into BOCES for all GE referral processes. Test

scores are an earlier indicator of a student who may be gifted with scores of 90% or above, however a new referral process checklist was shared with entire staff in January.

Universal screening begins in the 2nd grade which gives teachers feedback, and again in the 5th grade to identify more kids who may have been missed. Teachers use methods, tools, and data to build a body of evidence to use in identification and programming. In order to succeed, a student will need a developed plan in school so they can continue to grow. The Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) outlines programming for identified gifted students and is used as a guide for educational planning and decision-making. The ALP uses parents, students, teachers and counselors, and monitors quarterly with progress reports. Sunny works with all elementary, middle school, and high school students with the help of counselor, Ms. Cobb, and Rebecca Odegard-Segele the Assistant Director of GE.

Nutrition

Jane Yerkman, Food Service Director, came and gave a presentation on our Food Service program. Jane began the year by surveying the 3rd-11th grade students to get an idea of what the kids would like to eat. Chicken teriyaki, tacos and cheeseburgers were rated at over 60% also high on the list was pizza. Pizza Thursdays were introduced with a choice of cheese, pepperoni and a specialty. Lunch numbers are growing with 283 purchased lunches on the last Pizza Thursday. The 51% whole grain pizza crust is purchased and toppings are added in house.

An audit was done in May by Tammie Rempke of the BOCES who oversees the nutrition in entire state. Tammie was present all day from breakfast and prep to ordering. She was impressed with the fresh servings, scratch cooking, and the pride in meal preparation. Tammie was focused on ideas on how to increase participation and looked for waste (which she didn't see much).

Gilpin does not participate in the state's Summer Food Program. We post a flyer on our website which shows programs in our area. (Evergreen, Golden, and Boulder). This year we will be keeping better tabs on students lunch room charges. Parents will receive an email if the student's account is more than \$20.00 If a student owes over \$20 then they can not purchase an ala carte item. However, no child will ever be turned away from being fed.

The first one of two Health inspections came with no violations. Dave added Jane became the Food Service Director in a time of transition. We were not meeting the government guidelines, nothing was cost efficient, and our Wellness Program was not implemented. Jane has come a long way, turned a corner, and spent about \$14,000 less doing so. Gilpin has adjusted the bus schedule to get students to school earlier for breakfast. The school receives \$10,000 reimbursement from the Free and

Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP). However, families are reluctant to apply for the FRLP. Three things to communicate to other parents: FRLP, pizza Thursdays and quality meals.

Wellness

Schools current Wellness Policy is up to date and compliant with laws if any changes are required HACCP committee will inform district. However, Dr. Dave mentioned that the policy is due for an update.

Aaron Moran gave an update on the District's Wellness health program. He stated that the program is doing well, and gaining in popularity and numbers. He also stated that physical education needs two classes each week because if a student misses the day of class, it may be two weeks before that student returns to any physical exercise. There are activities/running events planned for the first week in May for the elementary students. Aaron feels that the community is quite fit because of programs such as snow dodgers, and other activities including the weight classes held before and after school. He feels that the program is going in the right direction. He is trying to conduct each activity for two weeks, and will get this in future curriculum. Aaron also noted that there were fewer injuries this past year, giving credit to structure of the classes.

Preschool

Directors of preschool, Beth Worley and Anne Lloyd-Taylor, came to give a presentation on the Colorado Preschool Program. The Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) is a state-funded early childhood education program administered by the Colorado Department of Education. CPP provides the opportunity for young children who are at risk for starting elementary school unprepared. They monitor speech, motor and cognitive skills for children birth to four years old. CPP is a great program which provides funding for families with children who have certain risk factors in their lives that are associated with later challenges in school. (For example: qualifying for free/reduced lunch) Gilpin offers seven half day slots. Family must agree to program and meet three times to address child's goals and ways to help child.

The curriculum used in traditional preschool is "Creative Curriculum". "Getting to Know You" books come with different activities that includes, physical, language, and math. This curriculum matches up with teachers goals and it is easy to put in the information on each individual child.

Anne is using traditional Montessori curriculum aligned with teaching statistics, a goal in line with Colorado state standards. In Montessori, kids are all working at

their own level. Teaching strategies during school, Anne takes notes and pictures then documents the notes on each individual child's goals and objectives which all goes into a main system. Anne can then print out reports for parent/teacher conferences. In addition, the class profile report is neat because it has every different questions (157 all together) which helps determine if small groups are needed and helps plan activities. The montessori preschool department developed an end of year check off to make sure all students are ready for kindergarten. Everything in the classroom has a purpose for kids to gain, and the teachers concentrate on things from the beginning to end.

Budget

The DAC is responsible for recommending to it's local BOE priorities for spending school district moneys.

In May, Terry Scharg presented to us the proposed budget for 2017-2018. She also gave us a list of additions and deletions to the expense side of the budget. The committee moved through parliamentary consensus regarding the proposed budget.

Other items

Superintendent Dave MacKenzie, Secondary Principal Alexis Donaldson, and Heather Huntoon Elementary Principal kept DAC members informed of ongoing events throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Mary Sonsino

District Accountability Committee Chair