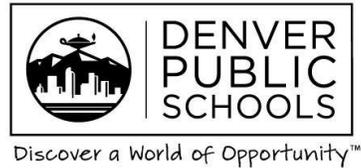


CSC Meeting Minutes

Lowry Elementary

8001 E. Cedar Ave.

Denver, CO 80230



Date: May 18, 2021 *Time:* 5:00- 7:00 pm

Meeting Link: Online Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Adrienne Nault-Principal, Lisa Davis-Parent, Merlin Holmes-Parent, Amy Holthus-Pera-Parent, Barbara Volpe-Community Member, Paul Vranas-Community Member, Lexi Higgins-1st grade Teacher, Dave Miles-Special Education Teacher, Amy Morin-Literacy Intervention Teacher, Susan Rayburn-Special Education Teacher

Absent Members:

Zed Jemison-Assistant Principal, Chanel Harper-Parent, Mahmoud Kharif-Parent

Additional Attendees:

Courtney Riordon-2021-2022 Parent Member, Dindi Wade-2021-2022 Parent Member, Emily Weber - Parent

Discussion Items

1. Call to order, welcome
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm.
2. Public Input
 - a. There were no additional attendees present to provide input.
3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Susan Rayburn made a motion to approve the minutes. Barb Volpe seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of approving the minutes.
4. Welcome to New Members
 - a. Brief Overview of CSC work in year ahead
 - i. We welcomed our new parent members and gave a brief overview of what work we can expect next year and when it will occur.
5. Principal's Report
 - a. What is currently going well?
 - i. Staff has currently been working on revamping the school's mission statement and adding a vision statement. This will make it clearer about who Lowry Elementary is and what we stand for.
 - ii. Staff is deep in planning for next year. ILT and SLT have both been contributing to this strategic planning. They have mostly completed the master schedule and it feels good to be planning for a return to "normal".

- a. What are current struggles/pain points?
 - i. We continue on the journey to own our identity and to be equitable and welcoming to all people. With this comes the need to understand what that means to everyone involved - community, parents, students and staff.
 - ii. The results from the community survey had some negative feedback in it as well as areas for growth. For some, their perception of the school is reality, whether it is accurate or not. We need to figure out the best next steps to reclaim our narrative. A narrative is currently being told that is not from our vision. As we continue to process the feedback from the survey, it is important that we are honest with ourselves and figure out what we can do about it.

- b. Updates
 - i. Master Schedule changes for 2021-2022
 - 1. The Master Schedule has been approved by SLT and will be presented to staff on Wednesday 5/19.
 - 2. The schedule represents a shift in vision and focus towards a model of inclusion and inclusionary practices.
 - 3. A notable change to the master schedule is that every grade level will have their own time in the lunchroom next year and will not have to share it with another grade.
 - 4. Specials will continue as before with a three day rotation between Gym, Art and STEM and Music taught once per week. Each special will have a 45 minute block. New next year is that ECE will participate in all specials, which will be co-taught between the Specials teacher and the classroom teacher.
 - 5. ELD classes will have 45 minute windows every day and this time will be held sacred.
 - ii. Save the Date for August 19 from 4-6 pm for a BBQ and Supply Drop-Off.

- c. Mission/Vision Updates
 - i. Staff has been regrouping in a shared mission and vision. This will provide a united sense of who we are as a school, our identity and purpose as educators and school family.
 - ii. The purpose of a vision and mission were shared with CSC members with DPS' vision and mission as examples.
 - iii. ILT has developed a new mission: "Lowry Aviators are unstoppable learners who embrace inclusion and achieve their full potential." The language of this was very important to ILT and they found meaning and depth in each word and phrase choice.
 - iv. A revamped mission statement is currently in development. The old one will be tweaked to better align with the new vision.
 - 1. The current mission was created six years ago after a lengthy process. We are continuing to honor the ideas and values of this mission statement and the people who developed it, but updating it to reflect the vision.
 - 2. To help in the development of the new mission statement, CSC members brainstormed words that come to mind when you think about educating unstoppable learners. Staff is doing a similar process. Words included: engagement, fun, confidence, equity, equitable, celebration, possibility, passionate, passion, focused, resilience, tenacity, leadership, achieving

goals, unstoppable, safe space, setting goals, enthusiasm, excited, and enrichment.

3. Ideas will be taken from different groups to rebuild the mission statement, which will hopefully be in place by the end of the school year.
4. Each grade level team will create a set of value statements on how they plug into the mission and vision.

2. UIP Status Update

a. Progress Monitoring update

- i. Goal 1 (Unit Guiding Questions) and Goal 3 (MTSS process) were initially completed earlier this year and staff continues to work on these processes.
 1. MTSS is shifting to internal leadership with a solid team to oversee this process and more collaboration into what this process will look like next year.
- ii. Goal 2 has shifted throughout the year with the elimination of the Whole Child Survey and addition of the Wellness Survey. Final results from the most recent Wellness Survey show that we did not meet our goal. Several questions in the survey related to feeling safe, challenged and engaged. There were 43 overall responses to the survey, of which 30 were Students of Color (SOC). SOC responded to these questions with a range from 77%-87% feeling they belong, are challenged and are engaged. While this did not meet the goal of 95%, it does demonstrate an increase from the previous surveys.

3. Black Excellence Plan Update

a. Goal Update

- i. In January, the goal was set that by the end of the school year the number of Black students reading At or Above Grade Level would increase by 10% and the number of Black students reading Significantly Below Grade Level would decrease by 5%.
- ii. iStation data is still coming in, so the final numbers may change.
- iii. Kindergarten iStation scores did not meet the goal and actually went down from January numbers.
- iv. First Grade scores did not meet the goal, but did show progress from January.
- v. Second to Fourth Grade scores meet the goal for a decrease in the number of students Significantly Below Grade Level and increased (although not enough to meet the goal) the number of students At or Above Grade Level.
- vi. Fifth Grade scores met the goal in both areas.

b. Plan Development Update

- i. As this plan is designed to be a fluid document, it will continue to grow and change as needed.
- ii. Next year there will be a big push for parent and family engagement to better understand the identity of our black students and educators.

4. Unfinished Business Items:

a. Website Redevelopment Update

- i. Merlin, Adrienne and Zed met earlier this month to develop a list of to-dos. New content will be provided by July. Merlin will update the website and offer training to staff on updating content. A refreshed website will be launched by the beginning of the school year.

b. Parent Volunteer Program

- i. The Parent Volunteer Program is being called the Lowry Family Commitment. The goal is to encourage opportunities for families to be engaged at school.
- ii. All families will be provided with a Family Welcome Letter that encourages family support and engagement opportunities that go beyond donating money and materials. Families will be encouraged to volunteer 4 hours each year and a list of ideas of how this can be accomplished will be included. Families will return their Family Commitment Form and staff will contact them about volunteer opportunities in their desired area.
- iii. Adrienne recognizes that there is a fine line between engaging families and feeling as though this is an obligation.

c. Community Survey Results

- i. Members were provided with a summary of the results prior to the meeting.
- ii. As we review the results, it is important to recognize what is constructive feedback vs. complaints.
- iii. If there are community members and/or Lowry families who are dissatisfied, they should direct their complaints through the standard DPS process.
 1. DPS has a standard process to deal with complaints, which asks families to first direct their complaints to a school administrator (Adrienne or Zed). If they feel uncomfortable approaching them, they may contact FACE (Family and Community Engagement) via their hotline (720-423-3054), website or email (FACE@dpsk12.org). You will typically leave a message, but someone always gets back to you.
- iv. Since time is limited at the meeting, a sub-committee will be formed that will address the results from the parent survey in February and the community survey to identify areas for improvement and opportunities for growth. The sub-committee will meet over the summer.
- v. Committee members shared their initial impressions from the survey and discussed themes. These included:
 1. Many families choose Denver Language School as an alternative. They have a completely different instruction model (dual language) than Lowry.
 2. Many people do not understand the differences between the GT program which still exists at Lowry and the HGT magnet that was phased out. There is a desire for more opportunities for advanced learners.
 3. Paper copies were distributed to residents at Blue Spruce, Renaissance and Boulevard One VOA. No paper responses were received from these communities.
 4. The community wants to be involved more at the school.
 5. There are concerns about behavior and violence at the school.
 6. There are concerns that classrooms are chaotic.
 7. The community recognizes the diversity of the school.
 8. The community wishes there was more enrollment from the neighborhood.

5. New Business Items:

- a. None at this time

6. Additional Discussion

- a. No additional discussion occurred.

7. Date for next meeting - August 19, 2021
 - a. Agenda TBD at a later time
8. The business portion of the meeting ended at 6:14 pm. Adrienne and additional attendees were asked to leave the meeting so members could complete the Principal Performance Review.
9. Principal Performance Review
 - a. Current CSC members discussed the Principal Performance Review, which evaluates the ability of the Principal to provide leadership to the CSC process. A summary of the discussion will be shared with Adrienne and then forwarded to Kevin King, our Instructional Superintendent.
10. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

5/20 - We Are Lowry Night

5/27 - Fifth Grade Continuation

5/28 - Last Day of School, Half Day, Kindergarten End of Year Celebration