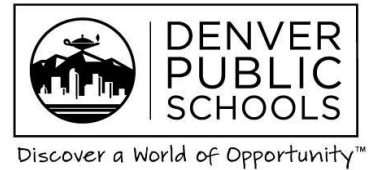


# CSC Meeting Minutes

Lowry Elementary

8001 E. Cedar Ave.  
Denver, CO 80230



*Date:* January 28, 2021 *Time:* 5:00- 7:00 pm

*Meeting Link:* <https://zoom.us/j/97882895035?pwd=MUtPOGIhTk9vM2hJQzdabnhOTEZqQT09>

## **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:**

Amelia Roche-Kindergarten Teacher

## **Discussion Items**

1. Call to order, welcome
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.
2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
  - a. Paul Vranas made a motion to approve the minutes. Amy Holthus-Pera seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the minutes.
3. Summary of CSC Members email discussion since Monday 1/25 meeting
  - a. CSC members posed a handful of clarifying questions via email. Some of these questions were answered via email and are summarized here. Other questions were not answered via email, but discussed during the meeting and are represented in the Discussion Summary below.
  - b. Next year DPS will likely move the Title I funding cutoff back to 60%. With Lowry currently sitting at 59% FRL, there is a risk of losing this funding in 2022-2023. However, the trend in Lowry's FRL has been upwards for the last six years. DPS is projecting our FRL to be 61% next year. It is likely that the trend will continue and we will hit the 60% threshold next year to receive Title I funding. However, if we do not, DPS recognizes this as a funding cliff and will fund us at 50% of the money for one year to help adjust.
  - c. The trend of several student demographics was analyzed. Overall, the amount of students considered English Language Learners or Students of Color and qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch, Special Education or Gifted and Talented services has steadily increased. GT students did see a dip, but has rebounded and currently has higher numbers than before.

- d. We anticipate having a Carry Forward next year to help alleviate any changes caused by a reduction of students at the Fall Adjustment. Our amount of money in the Carry Forward will likely exceed the maximum amount imposed by DPS and approximately \$60,000 is expected to be placed in a Reserve fund for future years.
- e. The budget as currently proposed is balanced. The amount of money allocated to Lowry given our enrollment projection is the same as the amount of money proposed to be spent. Small changes during the final budget meeting tomorrow might cause small changes to this.

#### 4. Public Input

- a. Amelia Roche thanked CSC members for their time, energy and thoughtful discussion. She reminded CSC members that school is so much more than what you do in the classroom and reminded us of the option of using some of the extra money for after-school activities and enrichment so that all students can participate in cool, fun things.

#### 5. Continued discussion of budget scenario amongst CSC Members

- a. Discussion occurred as to whether the addition of a Special Education (SPED) Para would help the SPED team meet the required minutes. Since they are not a licensed teacher, a Para's work can only be used towards required minutes if they are under the supervision (in the same room) as a licensed SPED teacher (a classroom teacher does not count). The SPED team feels like it might be more work to supervise and train a Para than it is worth. CSC members discussed other options for this money including a part time SPED teacher, restorative justice coordinator, part time psychologist or enrichment and after-school activities. Many of these options would cost more money than the Para and their part time nature comes with many drawbacks. This position is being funded with Stimulus Funds and has restrictions towards its use. CSC members agreed that we would recommend this position, but if the SPED team feels like it will not be a useful addition after more exploration and discussion, then we can revisit the use of the money at a later time.
  - i. DPS has changed the way they fund SPED teachers for the current year. The allocation for the number of teachers is still dependent on the number of students served (not total hours required - some students need 30 minutes, some students need 5 hours). However, they added in discretionary funding based on how a school's total required minutes compares to the district average. As a result, Lowry received an extra \$25,515 into the budget for next year (2021-2022). No additional funds were received for the current year (2020-2021)
- b. Historically the PTO has contributed towards staff salaries through the Aviator Fund. Given the continued unknowns of this year and the anticipated lower PTO fundraising total, no Aviator Fund money was used in the development of the budget. Adrienne's vision is to work with PTO to use this money to support more enrichment and after-school opportunities.
- c. As with other demographic trends, the number of students needing Literacy Intervention is going up. With learning loss from the pandemic and our continued shift in student population, we expect the need for Literacy Intervention to increase next year. The addition of a part time Literacy Intervention Teacher will likely help tackle this increase and boost kids up to grade level, moving them out of Intervention. Even if just a one year position, it will still be impactful.

- i. The Para Educator Interns from UCD (to be classified as Tutor Paras next year) have historically been of significant help in working with kids on the cusp of being at grade level and will continue to be helpful in addressing this.
    - ii. The Senior Team Lead side of this position will help affect Classroom Teachers' effectiveness in literacy instruction. The Colorado Department of Education is now requiring all K-3rd grade teachers to undergo a 75 hour Literacy Professional Development prior to January 2022. The STL team will be able to support teachers in their learning and implementation from this.
  - d. The idea of developing a five year plan was brought up. From a financial perspective this could be hard to accomplish. While we do have a five year projection tool for our budget, unforeseen changes do occur (and have in recent years) and we have to adapt accordingly. Discussion of a five year plan in terms of goals, enrollment, budget and other factors will be revisited at a later meeting.
6. Consensus agreement on budget recommendation
  - a. CSC members looked at each of the recommendations for Reductions, Adjustments and Additions and came to a unanimous consensus approval of each one. They unanimously recommended the entire budget as presented with the caveat that the SPED team will determine whether they can effectively utilize the full time SPED Para position and if not, we will look at other ways to utilize the funding given the restrictions imposed by Stimulus Funds.
7. Setting of agenda for next meeting
  - a. Discussion of Parent Survey results - to be sent out early February.
  - b. We will add a regular Budget update to our agenda. With so many unknowns due to the pandemic and the master schedule, this will allow us to revisit any necessary changes.
8. Date for next meeting - Thursday February 18, 2021, 5-7 pm
9. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm

### **Upcoming Dates:**

1/29, 2/5, 2/12 - Asynchronous Learning Days for all students/ACCESS testing for ELD students  
2/3 - Coffee with the Principal, 9-10 am  
2/5 - Parent Virtual Tour, 9 -10 am  
2/9 - PTO Meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm  
2/10 - Individual Picture Day  
2/15-2/16 - No School  
2/17 - Coffee with the Principal  
2/18 - CSC Meeting