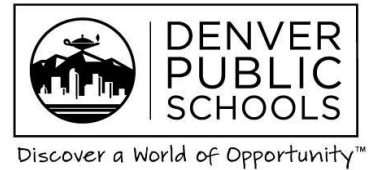


CSC Meeting Minutes

Lowry Elementary

8001 E. Cedar Ave.
Denver, CO 80230



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

Meeting Location: Online Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Adrienne Nault-Principal, Lisa Davis-Parent, Merlin Holmes-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, Amy Holthus-Pera-Parent, Mahmoud Kharif-Parent,

Additional Attendees:

none

Discussion Items

1. Call to order, welcome
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.
2. Public Input
 - a. There were no additional attendees present to provide input.
3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Barbara Volpe made a motion to approve the minutes. Susan Rayburn seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of approving the minutes.
4. Principal's Report
 - a. What is currently going well?
 - i. Adrienne is currently seeing the value of building sustainable systems. While these systems may take several years to develop, once in place they work well. It is good to reflect on where we were three years ago to where we are at now. It is worth it to slow down enough to rethink systems and how they can be sustainable.
 1. Teacher professional development is one of the systems that is currently working really well. The three Team Specialists running the PD are doing a great job. The quality of the sessions has been extraordinary. Adrienne is looking forward to adding a fourth team specialist next year to run PD.
 - ii. The staff has responded and really bought in to the Foundational Reading Skills training. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is requiring this be completed by all K-3 teachers in Colorado. Staff understands how critical it is to have these skills and track students on these skills at an early age.
 - b. What are current struggles/pain points?

- i. The CMAS parameters keep shifting causing Lowry to revise their CMAS plans. It has been a challenge to schedule tests with all of the different variables and moving parts. The state has applied for a waiver to the federal government to change the testing requirements and if approved, this could bring about more changes to the schedule. It is truly taking a village to make this happen this year.
 - c. Updates
 - i. With recent changes to cohorting rules, K-2 teachers are no longer needed to proctor CMAS on the remote days. K-2 students will now be in-person on the four asynchronous days.
 - ii. Teachers have been given an option to use paper packets for remote days. Lowry has lost a lot of chromebooks this year and hopefully this will help to maintain our chromebook allotment.
 - iii. At the Board Meeting tonight, the board will be considering moving to a district-wide three-tiered bell system. There are currently over 25 different start times throughout the district, which proves to be logistically challenging for transportation. If approved, schools will be assigned to one of three start times: 7:30, 8:00 or 8:30. The board is also considering a move to have middle and high schools have a later start.

5. UIP Status Update

- a. Progress Monitoring update
 - i. Goal #1: Guiding questions have been completed across all grade levels. The guiding questions are fully embedded into day to day work. This goal is complete.
 - ii. Goal #2: Adrienne has not heard any updates from the district on the next round of the Wellness Survey. She is currently trying to get information from the district on when it will be released, but hasn't heard anything. Lisa mentioned that as a parent she has received the parent survey and also received an email with a preview of the student survey. No progress has been made towards this goal.
 - iii. Goal #3: All teams have done a universal sweep of their class for MTSS. The MTSS team is meeting weekly to establish process and action steps for these students. Goal is ongoing, yet completed.

6. Black Excellence Plan Update

- a. The template that the district provided for the Black Excellence Plan didn't make sense for Lowry. After discussion with Kevin King, our Instructional Superintendent, Adrienne is changing the format to make it work for Lowry. She has started working on the new version.
- b. The new version has three big parts:
 - i. Data Analysis
 - 1. Adrienne has compiled iStation data for each month this year and has separated the data by all students and black students looking at what percentage of students at each grade level are At or Above Grade Level or Significantly Below Grade Level. This has created a clearer picture of the work we need to do and what goals we need to set.
 - a. Because there is not a universal commitment across DPS on frequency of iStation testing, it is hard to compare Lowry's data to

other schools. Some schools only do iStation every other month, while others do it every month.

- i. Lowry has 26% Significantly Below Grade Level, district wide is 29%, state wide is 31%.
 - b. Data this year has to be taken with a grain of salt. The testing environment has differed (in person vs. remote) and in the remote setting, parental assistance (or lack of) has likely boosted (parent unintentionally help) or dragged down (parents are not available to help with technical support) scores.
 2. An important part of the data analysis is naming which students this plan is supporting and providing evidence as to why the plan is needed.
 - a. Data analysis meetings have occurred with Kinder and First Grade teachers. This leads to intervention meetings, which next year will have more in depth planning and collaboration on intervention steps.
- ii. Goals
1. In looking at the data, it is easier to identify goals.
 2. The main goal right now is to increase the number of students who are At or Above Grade Level by 10% and decrease the number of students who are Significantly Below Grade Level by 10%.
- iii. Action Steps
1. Adrienne is currently working with various groups to brainstorm Action Steps. CSC members brainstormed several ideas including:
 - a. Anti-racist parenting workshops. Paul has a contact with Dr. Vanessa Santiago Schwarz to offer this training. She is an Assistant Teaching Professor at CU-Boulder.
 - b. Driving family engagement at the three low-income housing communities. Perhaps an End of Year Celebration there.
 - c. Owning our diversity (what is it and what does it mean at Lowry to be diverse) by being upfront with our diversity on the website and making the pros and cons of a diverse school known. This is similar to what Stedman has done.
 - d. After School/Out of School Tutoring on-site at the three low-income housing communities.
 - e. Increasing student engagement through a Black Student Union/Black Leadership Group/Philanthropy Group.
 - f. Encouraging more diversity (racial, economic, language, learning difference, sexual orientation) on parent committees.
 - g. Encouraging/Recommending/Requiring more active parent participation through volunteering.
 - h. Hiring a Family Liaison
 - i. One-on-one reading buddies
 2. It is anticipated that the Foundational Reading Skills course will make a huge impact on the data/goals. Research has shown that these foundational skills have a huge impact on reading.
 3. There is an Equity School Partner for schools in the Near Northeast region. They are available for consulting on Action Steps.
- c. Adrienne and Staff are feeling handcuffed to make a huge impact by May. With testing, days off of school, there are really only 5 weeks on instruction left. Additionally the pandemic restrictions make implementing change harder.

- d. The Colorado Association for Bi-Lingual Education is offering a webinar in Culturally Responsive Family Engagement next week (March 25 4:30-5:30). This may offer some good ideas.

7. Unfinished Business Items:

- a. Parent Survey
 - i. What are the biggest takeaways and action items?
 - 1. Adrienne and Zed have not had the time to look at this carefully. This will be tabled until next month.
- b. Enrollment Trends Discussion
 - i. While our choice-out numbers are going up, overall enrollment (pandemic related drop in 2020-2021 excepted) is increasing.
 - ii. While Lowry does not need to make a Herculean effort to attract families (direct mail flyers, phone calls to potential families, etc), it is important that we portray an accurate picture of who we are so that families have a good understanding of what Lowry is all about. This will allow families to make an informed decision on their school choices.
 - iii. We need to update our website to showcase and highlight what Lowry is all about and create a unified sense of pride about our school. These features may include:
 - 1. Mission and value statements
 - 2. Why is diversity a strength? How is it beneficial for all students?
 - 3. What does Lowry have to offer
 - 4. We are focused on rigorous instruction and social-emotional learning.
 - 5. Conscious Discipline is a cornerstone of the school
 - 6. Everyone who walks in the door fits in and belongs.
 - 7. Needs to showcase the passion and voice of our administration, staff and students (videos are a great tool for this).
 - iv. Merlin Holmes has volunteered to work with Adrienne to update the website.

8. New Business Items:

- a. Community Survey Results
 - i. The survey has been sent out to the community via the Lowry Foundation and Lowry United Neighbors (LUN). We have had 65-70 responses so far with several respondents expressing an interest in volunteering.
 - ii. The survey will be sent out via the HOA soon, and in the Lowry Aviator Magazine in the May issue. Paper copies are also going to be distributed to the low-income communities.
 - iii. We can expect to have final results in May or June.

9. Additional Discussion Items

- a. The Lowry Aviator Magazine is planning an issue focused on Lowry Schools in September. They are also looking for students and young writers to write features in every issue. Barb Volpe will work with Stephanie Thielan to recruit students (beyond just GT students) for this.
- b. There was discussion on whether or not Lowry has taken advantage of the Small Classroom Grants from the DPS Foundation in the past. This may be a source of funding for Out Of School Tutoring. We have applied for A-to-Z Grants in the past.

10. Setting of agenda for next meeting
 - a. Parent Member Nominations
 - b. Parent Survey Discussion and Action Items
 - c. Parent Volunteer Recommendation

11. Date for next meeting - April 15, 2021

12. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

3/25: Culturally Responsive Family Engagement webinar

3/26: Asynchronous Day for 3rd-5th grade

3/29- 4/5: Spring Break - No School

4/6: PTO Meeting

4/16: Asynchronous Day for 3rd-5th grade

4/23: Asynchronous Day for 3rd-5th grade

4/30: Asynchronous Day for 3rd-5th grade