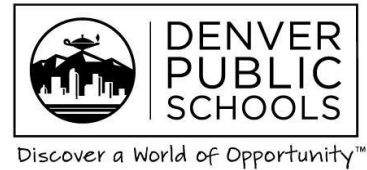


CSC Meeting Minutes

Lowry Elementary

8001 E. Cedar Ave.
Denver, CO 80230



Date: October 21, 2021 *Time:* 5:00-7:00 pm

Meeting Link: Online Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Zed Jemison-Interim Principal, Adler Dacunha-5th grade Parent, Lisa Davis-4th grade Parent, Committee Chair, Lexi Higgins-1st grade Teacher, Dave Miles-Special Education Teacher, Courtney Riordon-Kindergarten Parent, Secretary, Kelly Tasky-3rd grade Parent, Barbara Volpe-Community Member

Members Absent:

Adrienne Nault-Principal (on leave), Janice Spearman-Administrator on Special Assignment, Merlin Holmes-5th grade Parent, Dindi Wade-5th grade Parent

Additional Attendees:

Robert Peace-4th grade Parent, Carolyn Lohr-1st grade Teacher

Discussion Items

1. Call to order, welcome
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm
2. Public Input
 - a. The additional attendees did not provide any public input.
3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Barbara Volpe motioned to approve the minutes. Adler Dacunha seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the minutes.
4. Principal's Report
 - a. What is currently going well?
 - i. Dr. Jemison met with our budget partner on October 21, 2021. He had previously applied for financial assistance from DPS and it was approved; this is the first time we have been approved for this money. Due to the financial assistance, Dr. Jemison did not have to utilize all of the Carry Forward account to pay DPS the money the school owed due to lower enrollment.
 - ii. The Lowry Readers program launched on October 21, 2021. More than 30 people volunteered to work with students who are approaching their grade level in reading.
 - iii. Business partners will be providing pizza for 1 primary class and 1 intermediate class who have the most Accelerated Reader points.
 - iv. The PTO has secured a DJ for a potential fall dance that will occur at the same time as the book fair.
 - b. What are current struggles/pain points?

- i. The budget will have to pay for some additional staffing positions (paraprofessionals in 1st grade and a few other grades) that were deemed necessary.
 - ii. School staff are continuing to see signs of trauma in our students. Dr. Jemison and other staff are working on safety plans with DPS Special Education resource personnel for a few students. The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) will generate a list of students who are struggling and Dr. Jemison will meet with the families of identified students; he is hoping to conduct these meetings by the first week of November. The ILT is putting together professional development (PD) to support teachers with behavior management, including PD on Tier I (minor behaviors), Tier II (major behaviors), and Tier III behaviors (significant behaviors). In DPS, K-3 cannot be suspended and in-school suspension cannot be utilized unless there is someone to monitor students. Dr. Jemison sees the need to implement this PD in order to support both teachers and students, and he views this as a Lowry family/community approach.
- c. Updates
- i. Dr. Jemison did not have additional updates.

5. UIP (Universal Improvement Plan) Status Update

- a. Review of Lowry's Major Improvement Strategies
 - i. Elevating Rigor and Productive Struggle--Students will be given daily opportunities to engage in rigorous tasks and discourse around their thinking
 - 1. By May, 100% of teachers will grow one or more LEAP indicator 1.2.
 - 2. By the second interim assessment, 80% of our students will be able to demonstrate text evidence to support their thinking.
 - 3. By May, 100% of teachers will effectively utilize rigorous task and technology as shown through the MyTech walkthroughs.
 - ii. Increase Student Engagement by asking them to demonstrate their understanding by formulating higher-level thinking questions--LEAP Tool: LE.1 Teachers are engaging in best practices that demonstrate highly equitable and culturally responsive teaching
 - 1. 100% of the staff will be rated either effective or distinguished using the DPS equity walk-through tool.
 - 2. By May, 100% of teachers are effective or have grown professionally around LE.1 as noted through LEAP.
 - iii. Data-Driven Instruction (DDI) School-Wide--ALL teachers will engage in monitoring students' weekly progress by utilizing a schoolwide system that is based on mastery of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and/or Colorado Learning Objectives (CLO)
 - 1. By May, 100% of teachers have designed a reteach after DDI meeting and effectively implemented as shown through instructional walkthroughs.
 - 2. By October, 100% of teachers come to DDI with data and lessons read as shown through DDI protocol.
- b. 2020-2021 Data Overview
 - i. CMAS Data
 - 1. Lowry was 3rd in terms of participation out of 20 schools in our network of schools.
 - 2. English Language Arts (ELA): 162 students out of 234 eligible students tested. In 2020-2021, the ELA test was mandatory in grades 3 & 5,

optional for 4th grades. With the exception of the percentage of students who exceeded the standards, Lowry was on par with the district (DPS had 8% exceeded, while Lowry had 1%). Lowry data:

- a. Did Not Meet: 21 %
 - b. Partially Met: 25 %
 - c. Approaching: 24 %
 - d. Met: 28 %
 - e. Exceeding: 1%
3. Math: 61 4th grade students were tested; additional 3rd and 5th graders tested but not represented in these numbers. In 2020-2021, the Math test was mandatory for 4th grade, and optional for 3rd and 5th). In DPS, 24% of students met or exceeded the standards; Lowry students were on par with the DPS data. Lowry data:
- a. Did Not Meet: 30%
 - b. Partially Met: 26%
 - c. Approaching: 20%
 - d. Met: 20 %
 - e. Exceeding: 4% again

ii. Reading:

1. September iStation reading data (students in grades 1-5):
 - a. 38.2% of students reading significantly below grade level
 - b. 18% of students reading below grade level
 - c. 43% of students reading at/above grade level
2. October iStation reading data:
 - a. 32% of students reading significantly below grade level
 - b. 24% of students reading below grade level
 - c. 43% of students reading at/above grade level
3. Some students are not making gains as quickly as anticipated, so teachers are increasing work in small groups
4. In 1st grade, there was a 60% increase in phonemic awareness between September and October testing.
5. Lowry Readers should address some of these students. In 1st grade, the struggling readers are more significant than in years' past due to missed instruction/prior knowledge due to covid.

iii. Feedback

1. We discussed including social-emotional learning (SEL) in the UIP at our last meeting. Since that meeting, DPS stated that SEL would be addressed in their own major improvement strategies, as opposed to asking the schools to do it. DPS transition priorities include equity, accelerating learning by re-envisioning education, social-emotional & mental health. DPS has purchased a SEL curriculum; Lowry is continuing to use Conscious Discipline this year, but will use the DPS curriculum next year in addition to Conscious Discipline. Lowry is currently seeing Tier II & III behaviors, which is resulting in structured supports and safety plans for a few students.

6. Black Excellence Plan Update (BEP)

a. Plan and Goal Overview

- i. Plan Goal for Lowry: By May 27, 2022, 64% of Black students in grades 3-5 will be at grade level on iStation Reading and 80% of all students will be at grade

level on iStation Reading. Teachers will host weekly data team meetings to monitor student growth.

- ii. The goal was not changed from 2020-2021 because online learning made it hard to compare/assess goals and learning.
 - iii. Nothing additional (i.e., PD) is being done with the staff right now to address BEP. Dr. Jemison recognizes that teachers are overwhelmed and does not want to put additional tasks on their plates.
 - iv. BEP data will be shared with the CSC each month.
- b. Reading Volunteer Program--Lowry Readers launched on October 21. Most students in the program are Black. The goal of the program is to have the students demonstrate growth in reading (they are all close to reading on grade level). Paul Vranas is thankful for the community's support. There are 43 students and 27 volunteers in the program. A part-time volunteer manager was hired to help facilitate the program. The plan is to continue the program through the academic year.

7. Unfinished Business Items:

a. Enrollment Updates

- i. Count Day and Free and Reduced Lunch participation final numbers
 - 1. Lowry currently has 425 students, numbers are growing slightly (3 families enrolled this week). New students do not impact the budget for this year, but will help our projection for next year.
 - 2. Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) numbers were submitted to DPS and DPS will let us know our specific FRL numbers in early November. FRL numbers impact our funding and Title I status for 2022-2023.
 - 3. Dr. Jemison went to Boulevard One to meet with families and will be riding the school bus to then meet with more families in November (to Boulevard One, Blue Spruce, and Alton Way).

b. Marketing to Prospective Parents

- i. What ideas do we want to pursue?
 - 1. Ideas in progress
 - a. Virtual tours: starting November
 - b. Lowry Aviator magazine article each month (November: reading, December: SEL, January: Tools of the Mind curriculum)
 - c. Community events (ex: Dance party in mid-November)
 - d. Park meetups
 - 2. Other ideas:
 - a. Dr. Jemison spoke with Brittany Cohen (DPS Marketing). She does not recommend direct mail flyers, but recommends facetime in the community. In addition, she recommended a social media presence. A DPS employee needs to run/operate any social media pages. There is currently a Lowry Elementary Facebook page, but it is a PTO page and run by a parent. Lexi Higgins volunteered to work on social media sites for the school.
 - b. Town Hall presentation at Eisenhower Chapel
- ii. While Dr. Jemison is interim principal, he is willing to let people tour the building after hours.

8. New Business Items:

- a. 2020 Bond School Determined Funds (SDF) - Discussion of proposed fund utilization
 - i. There are 3 projects that can be funded with the SDF:

1. The front office (logo, painting, new furniture)
2. The auditorium (painting, carpet replacement will cut down on dust, curtains)
3. The cafeteria (new flooring, new tables)
- ii. These areas were selected because the projects could be completed with the money. Classrooms were not selected because the funds would not cover all classrooms, so other funding avenues will be pursued in the future.
- iii. The CSC unanimously supports the decision to spend the SDF on those 3 areas.
- iv. The renovations will begin this summer; Discovery Link will not be able to use the building but Avid for Adventure will be able to operate.
- b. Discussion of a new staff member to address trauma and behavior issues:
 - i. There are 3 options for staffing:
 1. Behavior Technician: This person would work with identified students. The behavior tech would be a reallocated position from central office.
 2. Second Restorative Justice Coordinator: This person could work with all students on restorative practices and is also a reallocated position from central office.
 3. A counselor/therapist: This person would be hired from the outside and could work with any student.
 - ii. The behavior tech or restorative justice staff member will be shared with another local elementary.
 - iii. Dr. Jemison suggested saving the money until next year so he doesn't have to RIB an employee at the end of the year.
 - iv. After discussion, the CSC recommends a restorative justice coordinator be hired to help immediately but recommend hiring more mental health professionals in the future.

9. Additional Discussion

- a. Substitute teachers: Lowry is in need of substitutes. The Lowry Foundation is happy to promote the need for substitute teachers. When applying, people can specify that they want to only sub at Lowry.
- b. Meeting the needs of all of our kids (our kids in the middle, not the extremes)--how can the school be restructured in order to support all kids

10. Setting of agenda for next meeting:

- a. UIP
- b. BEP
- c. Meeting the needs of all students

11. Date for next meeting

- a. November 18, 2021 - 5:00-7:00 pm

12. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm

Upcoming Dates:

11/19 - End of Trimester

11/20-11/28 - No School (Thanksgiving Break)