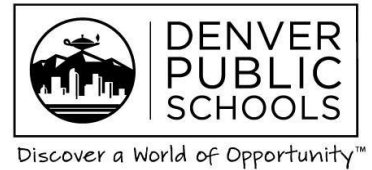


CSC Meeting Minutes

Lowry Elementary

8001 E. Cedar Ave.

Denver, CO 80230



Date: December 16, 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, Courtney Riordon-Kindergarten Parent, Secretary, Kelly Tasky-3rd grade Parent, Dindi Gaines-5th grade Parent, Barbara Volpe-Community Member, Lexi Higgins-1st grade Teacher, Dave Miles-Special Education Teacher

Members Absent:

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

Additional Attendees:

Alona Hastings-Administrative Support, Anthony Chavez-2nd grade Parent, Kevin King-Regional Instructional Superintendent, Nichelle Tarver-Hammons-Budget Partner, Tamara Marocco-2nd grade Teacher, Stephanie Theilan-Senior Team Lead/Gifted and Talented Teacher

Discussion Items

1. Call to order, welcome
 - a. Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm.
2. Public Input
 - a. No additional input was provided.
3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Barbara Volpe motioned to approve the minutes. Dindi Gaines seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the minutes.
4. 2022-2023 Budget-Questions on budget/budget process for our Budget Partner
 - a. The next month will involve intensive budget conversations. Currently, DPS is in the very preliminary budget process, mainly because choice enrollment hasn't opened yet.
 - i. Typically, the process will work as follows:
 1. The governor will address the state and provide information regarding K-12 funding.
 2. On January 20, 2022, Dr. Jemison will receive a spreadsheet from the budget partner with proposed money available for the 2022-2023 school year.
 3. The administrative team will have about a week to put together a few options for the budget, which will be presented to the CSC at the first January meeting - date tbd.

4. The CSC will have opportunities to ask clarifying questions at the first meeting.
 5. A second meeting (date tbd) will be held with the CSC to discuss the options and come to a consensus recommendation for the best direction for the school regarding the budget. All decisions will be connected to the Universal Improvement Plan (UIP).
 6. A finalized budget is due to the Budget Partner on February 11.
- ii. CSC members are invited to attend a meeting on January 11 (5-6:30 pm) to hear directly from the DPS Finance Department about important budget updates that impact CSC work. Additional staff and parents who may be interested in joining the CSC are invited to attend. Zoom Meeting ID: 693 928 7597.
- b. How does Title I funding impact Lowry?
- i. All students receive free meals in 2021-2022. The school will not be penalized for incomplete Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) forms from the current year; the 2020-2021 FARM percentages will provide the data for the 2022-2023 year. The forms collected in 2022-2023 need to be accurate and complete in order to impact funding the following year.
 - ii. Lowry is not a full Title I school. The threshold for receiving Title I funding is 63% of the students receiving FARM; Lowry's current percentage of students receiving FARM is 56.1% (2020-2021: 58%, 2019-2020: 56.6%).
 - iii. Lowry does receive some funding based on FARM percentages. FARM percentages and Mill Levy dollars (funds voted on by taxpayers) are added to school budgets based on the DPS equity formula, which results in higher per pupil budget assistance.
- c. What extra money do we have that has not been spent or allocated this year?
- i. Stimulus money has been accounted for. It was used to supplement programs/procedures already in place at Lowry and it could only be used to support specific things related to education, health, behavior, and administrative support in behavior/discipline.
 - ii. The budget assistance dollars went to paying Janice Spearman.
 - iii. The budget is "healthy but lean". The school is being run effectively and the money is being used to support the students and staff as best as possible.

5. Unfinished Business Items:

- a. Dean of Culture updates
 - i. In October, the CSC recommended hiring a Restorative Justice Coordinator. Normally, a CSC would name the need (i.e., someone to support social-emotional learning), but administration needs the autonomy to find the specific right fit. With this specific question, Dr. Jemison wanted CSC input on the three options (Restorative Justice Coordinator, Behavior Technician, School Counselor). With the guidance of HR and Dr. Kevin King, Dr. Jemison advertised for a Dean of Culture position.
 - ii. Hiring the Dean of Culture position is currently paused because Alona Hastings is being brought on to support the administrative team. Dr. King is providing the funding for Ms. Hastings' position. If the Dean of Culture position was needed, it could have been afforded with Lowry's current budget.

6. New Business Items:

- a. Lowry will be a pilot school for the DPS Behavior Barriers team. The funding for the program is also coming from Dr. King. The program will utilize DPS staff members, including behavior support specialists, a psychologist, and special educators, to analyze the school systems to determine how to better meet the needs of the students; these positions will be provided by DPS. The goal of the pilot is to support students school-wide, especially in areas of the building with fewer classroom structures (e.g., hallways, cafeterias, specific classrooms). While the traditional Behavior Barriers program only works with students who have identified disabilities (students who have a Section 504 plan or Individualized Education Program), the pilot program will work with all students at Lowry. There will be a focus on connecting Conscious Discipline and Behavior Barriers, in addition to a social-emotional curriculum. Examples of this include a ritual for welcoming students into the classroom each day and behavior success plans.
- b. Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer's office contacted the Lowry Foundation regarding the installation of an Urban Arts Fund Mural. The Lowry Foundation recommended the mural be placed at Lowry Elementary or Montclair Recreation Center based on available space. Lowry seems like the right place because the mural represents the goals of the school. The mural is based on the work of Nancy Rourke, an internationally known deaf artist from Colorado. If it is placed at Lowry, it would be on the north side of the building where a mosaic is currently located (the mosaic would be removed). The Lowry Foundation may be able to provide some of the maintenance funding and Councilwoman Sawyer's office would fund maintenance for 2-3 years. It is unknown if the community could be involved in the installation. Lowry's Senior Leadership Team is in favor of the mural and the CSC is in favor of it, however there is a concern that the proposed location is hidden from general view. Dr. Jemison will present the proposal to the PTO. The CSC will discuss the project again in January. If the school decides to move forward with the mural, DPS will need to approve the project.

7. Principal's Report

- a. What is currently going well?
 - i. The new social media accounts are going well.
 - ii. As a sign of appreciation, the staff has received meals/treats a number of times this week by administration, PTO and our business partners.
 - iii. Staff received Lowry t-shirts.
 - iv. Christina Borrego (WINGS Psychologist) and Sussi Raber (Psychologist) were both recognized by DPS for supporting students.
- b. What are current struggles/pain points?
 - i. Instructional professional development (PD) has been a challenge. A new plan is now in place for the second semester: teachers will be assigned to one of the following instructional PD topics, which they will complete for 9 weeks. During/after CMAS testing, PD may continue through direct PD sessions or coaching. ILT will also conduct rigor walkthroughs. The PD topics are:
 1. Culturally Responsive Teaching (led by Bochra Bendjebbar)
 2. Behavior Supports and Classroom Management (led by Ellen Petrilla, in collaboration with the Behavior Barriers team)
 3. Science of Reading (led by Amy Morin)
 4. Content Language Access (led by Carrie Richardson)
- c. Updates
 - i. No additional updates were provided.

8. UIP Status Update

a. Progress Monitoring

- i. All Grades Overall Reading as defined by iStation scores (Tier 1–on grade level, Tier 2–approaching grade level, Tier 3–below grade level):
 1. Percentage of students at Tier 1: increased from 47% in September to 50% in December
 2. Percentage of students at Tier 2: holding steady at 19%
 3. Percentage of students at Tier 3: decreased from 34% in September to 31% in December
- ii. Kindergarten only tests on iStation every other month, as opposed to monthly like the other grades. The percentage of students in Tier 1 by 17% from October to December. The percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 10%.
- iii. The percentage of first grade students in Tier 1 and Tier 2 combined increased by 2% in each tier from September to December. The percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 4%.
- iv. The percentage of second grade students in Tier 1 increased by 13% from September to December and the percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 7%.
- v. The percentage of third grade students in Tier 1 increased by 5% and the percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 4% from September to December.
- vi. The percentage of fourth grade students in Tier 1 increased by 7% and the percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 2% from September to December.
- vii. The percentage of fifth grade students in Tiers 1 and 2 decreased from 75% to 73% from September to December.
- viii. The Lowry READERS program started in October. Staff saw gains in students' iStation scores in November and December. Quite a few students in grades 2-4 are in the READERS program; 5th grade has fewer students.
- ix. 5th grade needs more support. The students in the READERS program have had fewer sessions than those in other grades due to testing and the Balarat overnight field trip.
- x. Lowry's growth has not been analyzed and compared to DPS growth, in part because not all schools use iStation. However, staff is seeing overall growth.
- xi. One UIP goal is still undefined. (By the second interim assessment student achievement with R.I. standards assessed will increase from ____% to ____% .). It will be discussed in SLT and ILT and then more will be shared with CSC. Percentages were 34%, 48%, 36%.
- xii. Teachers like the new phonemic awareness curriculum and are seeing student growth. Students are making gains within their specific tiers.

9. Black Excellence Plan Update

a. Progress Monitoring Update

- i. Goals: By May 2022, 64% of Black students in grades 3-5 will be at grade level on iStation Reading. By May 2022, there will be a 20% increase of students per grade level that are reading at grade level on iStation Reading. Teachers will host weekly DDI meetings with a member of ILT to monitor student growth.
- ii. More interventions are needed for students on the cusp of Tiers 1 and 2.
- iii. For the overall school data on iStation, the percentage of Black/African American students in Tier 1 increased by 5% from September to December and the

- percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 4%. The percentages for white students are comparable (3% increase in Tier 1 and 4% decrease in Tier 3.
- iv. In Kindergarten, 50% of Black/African American students are at Tier 1, a 22% increase from October. 50% of white students are also in Tier 1 in December. The percentage of Black/African American students in Tier 3 decreased by 7% from October to December and the percentage of white students decreased by 23%.
 - v. In first grade, the percentage of Black/African American students in Tier 1 has increased by 4% from September to December. The percentage of white students in Tier 1 increased by 3%.
 - vi. In second grade, the percentage of Black/African American students in Tier 1 increased by 4% and the percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 4% from September to December. White students in Tier 1 increased by 21% and the percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 9%.
 - vii. In third grade, the percentage of Black/African American students in Tiers 1 and 2 had an overall increase of 13%. The percentage of white students had an overall increase of 5%.
 - viii. In fourth grade, the percentage of Black/African American students in Tier 1 increased by 16% and the students in Tier 3 decreased by 6% from September to December. The percentage of white students in Tier 1 decreased by 3% and the percentage of students in Tier 3 increased by 2%.
 - ix. In fifth grade, the percentage of Black/African American students in Tiers 1 and 2 had an overall decrease of 3% from September to December. The percentage of students in Tier 3 increased by 3%. The percentage of white students in Tiers 1 and 2 had an overall increase of 1% and the percentage of students in Tier 3 decreased by 2%.
 - x. The new PD plan will be connected to student data as appropriate.

10. Additional Discussion

- a. A parent requested a later start time for the 2022-2023 school year. Dr. Jemison has already spoken to transportation and the school doesn't qualify for a later time. Dr. King will try for flexibility if at all possible.

11. Setting of agenda for next meeting

- a. January: 2022-2023 Budget
- b. February: Meeting the needs of all students

12. Date for next meeting -

- a. Due to the timing of the Budget Development Process, our January meeting has changed. We will be meeting on Thursday January 27 and Tuesday February 1 to discuss the 2022-2023 budget. These dates are subject to change should the budget timeline change.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

Winter Break - 12/18 - 1/3 (Staff has PD on 1/3)

PTO Meeting - 1/11

Martin Luther King Day (No School) - 1/17