

Accountability Meeting Minutes
From January 21, 2004

Attendees: Allen Hankla, Lisa Gjellum, Tim Carrig, Vicki Lundquist, Pam Huetson, Angie Lull and Sheryl Shafer.

Called to Order: Allen Hankla called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Allen asked for secretarial help and Vicki agreed to be secretary for the day. (Note, I've never been secretary for anything before. I'm not sure of the usual layout for the minutes. I apologize if this is different.)

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed by Tim Carrig and approved without change.

Surveys: Parent surveys have been sent out, or will be sent out by Friday. They should start to be returned next week and then the process of review will start.

Strategic Plan: Sheryl Shafer gave an update and brought the 'Plan' book for review. She believes that there has been a positive change this year, in that with the current organization, they are able to set agendas for the Board that fit the plan. The 'Plan' book, or folder, has a file for each goal and committee. Because of this they can easily see and keep track of progress from each.

CSAP and its preparation, is a priority goal right now.

As Sheryl sees it, an accomplishment with the Strategic Plan has been in curriculum. Lisa Gjellum mentioned the use of the Core Knowledge program.

Sheryl is interested in where the holes are for the Strategic Plan. The 'Plan' book will help outline these. An example is the 'Top 100 School' plan. Nothing has been added to the 'Plan' book yet, therefore indicating that this is a hole.

Pam Huetson asked if Special Ed was in the plan. Not having a copy of the plan yet, she was unaware. Sheryl explained that, yes it is, but we have limited resources. "We can't be everything for everybody".

A question was posed about the hiring and retention of teachers. There is a survey out to the teachers to find out who plans to return. The return rate looks good. Another Spanish teacher has decided to leave. The turn over in this subject seems high. One possible reason is the high demand for Spanish teachers in the Boulder area. When asked what the change might be from last year, Sheryl noted an atmosphere change in the Admin. Team. They work well together.

Tim Carrig noted seeing things happen in regards to the 'Plan'. There is an organization book for each grade similar to the 'Plan' book. For example, in the area of curriculum Course Pathways and option flows are known. Report Card revision is underway. Lisa said the new Standards Based Report Card and the old would be shown at conference time, to help parents to understand the change. Tim also noted that Middle Schoolers are getting High School credits. And Summer Academy is used for options.

How is the ACCESS program working? It is still being tweaked and changed.

Sex Ed has been positive this year. No negative feedback to report.

Board differences from last year to this. Last year the Board was run by crisis situations. This year there is more structure and the board is more focused on policy issues.

Exit Interview: Angie Lull indicated that on the 18th of December a list was created. They have been working their way through the list. Nothing new has been reported. Mostly just carpool struggles, school wasn't right for their child...nothing new.

Open Enrollment: Sheryl indicated that with only one more week remaining in the open enrollment period, 25 kids were open enrolling out, 14 of which were high schoolers. Tim Carrig said that he thought no new seniors were being accepted in because of the possibility that they may not be able to catch up and be ensured of receiving a P2P diploma. (The requirements could be too hard to meet.) No vote was made on this. It is unofficial.

Surveys: Surveys again, were discussed. Tim said HOD, (Hiring and Organizational Development), action was discussed by the Board. It was decided, by majority, that written comments were no longer required. In the past they had looked at each survey comment. They were useful, but somewhat difficult to go through. Allen agreed and said, as with the suggestion box, comments and suggestions by an unidentified source are also hard to find backing for and, therefore, changes are hard to make. Sheryl disagreed and was sad to see them go. Allen asked if the \$3500. that is paid for the analysis of these surveys was justified. Are they analyzing what we want? Unknown answer. However, they are relied heavily upon. Angie asked if there would be fewer questions further down the road? Pam pointed out that the questions would have to remain somewhat the same so that trends could be followed.

DAC: Allen has missed a couple meeting, but said that subcommittees had been formed. The Budget committee is working. The School Improvement Plan Committee will address the rubric for accreditations. It was discussed that for Core Knowledge, we may become a visitation site. It has been tabled, at this point, to answer further questions. Tim asked if an outside accreditation would be worth the cost. Does it make a difference with college entrance etc.? If yes, then he believes it's worth it, but if it's just for a title, maybe not.

District Parent Council: Pam attends meetings. Sue Williams was there. It was a panel discussion. Questions were address about Pro-Charter vs. Anti-Charter. Some say Charter is segregation of education. However, Pam said that the atmosphere has greatly improved. It was very positive. The administrators, other than Garcia, were open minded and welcoming.

Meeting Adjourned.