

## CSC Meeting Minutes: November 1, 2012

Welcome to everyone. Thanks to Sian and Susan for bringing food and drinks.

**Present:** Wendy Ladner; Sara McDonnell; Ksenia Popke; Susan Roberston; Whitney Colley; Lucy Pfeffer; Martha Biery; Principal Jennifer Harris; Debbie Stricker, Sian Miletich

**Absent:** Betsy Sedig

**Community Members Present:** Sed Keller

**Additional Teachers Present:** Brent Conklin, Alex Keldin

**DPS Administrators Present:** Tammy Giessinger, Diane Smith.

### Introductory comments

Jennifer Harris explained that Diane Smith is attending as part of her supervisory capacity. Jennifer presented her leadership framework and explained that she had selected the following areas of focus:

- a) IL 1 – This indicator is: Leads for high-quality, data driven instruction by building the capacity of teachers to lead and perfect their craft.
- b) SL 1 – This indicator is: Leads the school’s Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals to support college readiness for all students.

Susan asked how an elementary school gets ready for college. Jennifer said it is part of the common core standards and that teachers can talk about and promote college. Susan noted that the questions about college preparedness are low on our parent survey, but then the group realized that the questions don’t seem relevant to elementary schools. Ksenia mentioned that she is on an advisory board at DU and is interested in creating a partnership between the two.

### Survey and Review of Draft Survey Questions:

Jennifer spoke with Charles Elbot, her Principal coach, about the survey questions. Charles thought we should be careful and we need to make sure it is a positive survey. Surveys might look at what do the teachers, administrators, parents need? Jennifer would like to look at family and community engagement standards. These are standards that each school should have to make it a positive environment in the school. DPS has a handout regarding these engagement standards.

We may need exit survey to send to people who have left Cory. And ask them why they left, etc. Tammy answered a question about our re-enrollment rate, noting that even though our rate is high, it is not sufficiently about that of the cluster to allow us to rank high. It was noted that we need to research existing tools before creating new ones and that we should avoid using surveys to make any high stakes decisions.

Committee members include: Parents Wendy Ladner, Susan Robertson and Sed Keller and Teachers Alex Keldin, Whitney Colley and Mrs. Keppler (As Mrs. Keppler was not at the meeting, her participation will need to be confirmed). They will look into:

- 1) Surveys for parents that have not re-enrolled
- 2) Parent/Teacher survey: What is working and what could be improved?

### **Personnel Committee Nominations**

Three nominations were received for Personnel Committee. The following people were selected: Jennifer Fish and Tom Gonnella.

### **Paraprofessional Update**

Jennifer provided handouts and explained para allocations in the school. PTA gave more money for the paras, but it has greatly depleted our funds and we will need to re-address everything again for the next semester. The teachers noted that the staff needs to look at their para requests and figure out what they really need (versus what they would like). The PTA would like to survey the teachers and to find out what they need in terms of resources to help in the allocation of funds (it was noted that this is probably the first survey that should be done). It was also noted that we might want to consider looking for technology grants to help pay for upgrades.

### **5) UIP Update from Jennifer**

Jennifer presented the status of the UIP, which was completed in first draft form prior to the meeting. It is an evolving document and will still be updated throughout the year.

It was noted that Cory has a number of areas to celebrate, such as the status indicators. Some specific successes include the following:

- The overall rating for academic achievement for Cory is Exceeds.
- The overall rating for academic growth for Cory is Exceeds.
- The overall rating for growth caps for Cory is Exceeds.

There are some areas of concern, however, particularly in Median Growth Percentiles (MGP), which compare our students to similar students across the state. The new focus of the UIP will be on reading, based on a root cause evaluation that instruction is not being adequately differentiated. Excerpts of narrative from the UIP are as follows:

- *Last year's target, more than 62% of students will score proficient and 22% of students will score Advanced on TCAP, was not met. We believe it was not met due to us creating and refining our continuum but not having time for implementation. We believe we will see an increase over the next two years in writing.*
- *The MGP in reading decreased from 71 in 2011 to 58 in 2012, falling below the district expectation of High Growth (65)." Root causes: "1. We have not consistently differentiated*

*instruction that targets specific instructional reading levels. 2. We lack Guided Reading strategies and resources, in particular for lower and higher level reading groups. These strategies and resources are needed to effectively teach the wide range of student instructional levels.*

It was noted by Tammy that we should look at last year's UIP and ensure that there aren't any strategies contained within that should be carried over to the current UIP. Last year the primary focus was on writing and many of the strategies used have already become systemized at Cory.

Jennifer noted that the "Big Blue Action Plan" will include strategies for how parents and students can be involved in the UIP and its strategies.

The full UIP is available for review.

**Community Input:**

Sed noted that he loves Cory and reminded the group that the school is doing an excellent job. He moved to the Denver area and chose Cory specifically on the basis of its high performance.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.