DENVER EDUCATION COMPACT  
Board Meeting  
February 7, 2013  
Denver Chamber of Commerce

Executive Committee Members Present:

- Jill Barkin  
- Christine Benero  
- Elaine Berman  
- Tom Boasberg  
- Kelly Brough  
- Linda Childears  
- Robert Coombe  
- Mayor Hancock  
- Donna Lynne

- Anna Jo Haynes  
- Christine Marquez-Hudson  
- Terry Minger  
- Cliff Richardson  
- Dan Ritchie  
- Tony Salazar  
- Mary Seawell  
- Landri Taylor  
- Don Elliman

Staff:

- Terry Bower, Denver Education Compact Director  
- Lindsay Neil, Director of Children Affairs

Agenda:

- Shared Vision  
- Roles of The Compact  
- Mayor’s Educational Priorities  
- Two Big Goals  
- Brainstorming Strategies Related to Goals  
- Where Do We Go From Here?  
- Office of Children’s Affairs  
- Closing Thoughts

Welcome

Terry Bower welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. She said she had met with every Board member except for one and hoped that Members would see that their input was integrated into the way The Compact will be operating. She highlighted two action items for today’s meeting: 1) a vote on level of agreement for advocacy efforts; and 2) two strategies for each goal.

Roles of the Compact

Donna Lynne reviewed the roles of The Compact.

- Strategic alignment and gap filling  
- Community engagement – specifically around serving as ambassadors for The Compact’s work  
- Advocacy
Donna led a discussion among the full Board about the level of agreement The Compact wanted to have before pursuing formal advocacy around any specific piece of legislation. She emphasized that advocacy would only occur if it was tied to The Compact’s two specific goals. She suggested a 75% level of agreement.

Several Members talked about the importance of advocacy, especially as it relates to the School Finance Reform legislation. A question was asked about whether The Compact would focus on Denver-specific legislation or also statewide legislation. The Mayor said that we cannot just vote policy for Denver and that The Compact would always take into consideration what is best for Denver as well as for the State and if there was ever a conflict, The Compact would need to have further discussions about whether or not to pursue.

**Action Item:** Board Members thought that 75% was too high and decided that 66% agreement was needed to pursue any specific, formal advocacy role.

**Mayor’s Education Priorities**
The Mayor thanked everyone for their input and the insights that were received through The Compact survey and one-on-one meetings.

He explained that the gap in educational attainment between students of color and their peers has become the greatest threat to our City and to our nation. The Mayor went on to explain that closing the achievement gap is what matters to him the most and that he hopes that The Compact can focus on how to achieve this.

There are three key focus areas for the Mayor around closing the achievement gap:

- Helping early learners
- Supporting great teachers and principals
- Preparing young people for success (postsecondary and career)

The Mayor asked the group how we can meet this challenge. Tom Boasberg explained that DPS schools focus on helping to close this achievement gap but that we must start education early so that kids enter school prepared which makes them less likely to fall behind.

Members spoke about how many children strive towards the expectations set for them and we need to do a better job working with parents, schools, and community partners to create high expectations for all children.

A Member talked about Lincoln High School and emphasized that many students and parents saw finances as the biggest barrier to going to college. There was additional discussion about setting high expectations for our students.

**Two Big Goals**
Terry briefly reviewed the two big goals (third-grade reading proficiency and first-generation college completion) and explained how they cross the entire continuum from cradle to career. She explained that The Compact is uniquely prepared to address these two goals since Members span the continuum as well and we can benefit from the best horizontal thinking.
Brainstorming Strategies Related to Two Goals
Terry asked Members to break into two groups, one around each of the two goals. She explained that Lindsay Neil would facilitate the third-grade reading group and that Terry would facilitate the postsecondary completion group.

Instructions were given for each group to produce two strategies that they would like to employ to achieve their respective goal. Groups would then report out to the full Board for discussion and agreement.

Before final reports were given, Terry reminded everyone that the PowerPoint presentation included information about the Office of Children’s Affairs and Next Step but that we wouldn’t have time to go through these today since our breakout groups lasted a little bit longer than planned. She also reminded Members that Senator Johnson would be presenting to The Compact on February 15 from 2-3pm at the Capitol.

Final reports included:

**First-generation postsecondary completion**
**Action Item:** Two strategies that The Compact would like to focus on:
- Concurrent enrollment
- Transition plan (could include work/internships, tutoring, mentoring, and other wraparound services that support this population)

A question was asked about the ASSET bill and whether or not this would discussed in the postsecondary breakout group. It was not discussed but people recognize its importance to first-generation student. One Member pointed out that even if ASSET is passed, tuition is still very high and we need to work hard to make college affordable. Also, undocumented students will still not be eligible for federal student aid.

**Third-grade reading proficiency**
**Action Item:** Two strategies that The Compact would like to focus on:
- Transition between pre-k and kindergarten
- 0-3, focusing on setting expectations for parents early, specifically as they pertain to the significance of child development and access to resources

Lindsay reported that the group discussed the idea of surveying teachers to find out what they see and need (ECE and K).

Terry stated that as a follow-up, she is going to do an environmental scan to see who is already offering these types of services, to what degree, what best practices are, and develop some financial models that would support this type of work.

The Mayor closed the meeting by reminding Members that their feedback is critical to the success of The Compact and thanked everyone for their participation.

**Next Meeting:**
Tuesday, April 16, 12:30 – 2:00pm at The Daniels Fund. Lunch will be provided.