
DENVER EDUCATION COMPACT
Board Meeting
August 13, 2012
1437 Bannock St., Parr Widener Room389

Executive Committee Members Present:

Anna Jo Haynes	Jerene Peterson
Cedric Buchanon	Landri Taylor
Christine Marquez-Hudson	Kent Thiry
Donna Lynne	Linda Childears
Helayne Jones	Mayor Hancock
Kelly Brough	Robert Coombe
Dan Ritchie	Tom Boasberg

Staff: Lindsay Neil, Director of Children Affairs
Rhonda Williams, Early Childhood Education Director
Lisa Piscopo, Data and Research Director

Meeting Notes:

Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Objectives by Lindsay Neil

Agenda and Meeting Objectives:

1. Denver Education Compact Director Update
2. Denver Education Compact Survey Results
3. Working Group update
4. Proposed action items for consideration
5. Consideration of Potential DPS mill/bond support

Compact Director Search Update

- The position was posted. The pool did not contain many qualified candidates.
- The position has been modified and reposted.
- Several candidates were asked to consider resubmitting their application.
- The position will be open through August 31.
- Keep in mind that once the compact has achieved the early childhood literacy goals we will be moving to the next component of the pipeline which is why this position requires someone with an elite and sophisticated set of skills to address the goals birth through post secondary education.
- Please forward the job description to qualified candidates. Lindsay can make calls or do the necessary follow up with people recommended by the committee.
- The position closes on August 31. The description can be access through the link - <http://denvergov.org/jobs2/SearchJobs/tabid/433041/Default.aspx>

Survey Results

Update:

- There was a lot of conversation at the previous board meeting about the Compact's first goal. Particular tensions were noted around three key areas:
 - All kids, or a percentage of kids
 - The timeframe for achieving the goal - nearly everyone who responded stated that 2020 was not ambitious enough
 - The age range - everyone agrees that the goal should have a strong early childhood component, but most members responded that the focus should be from birth to 8
- Due to the results of the survey, Lindsay proposed a goal of having at least 90 percent of DPS third grade students reading proficiently by 2015.

Group Discussion:

- If we are going to create something sustainable and address the issues that got us here we may need to consider moving at a slower pace initially in order to accelerate progress in a more sustainable way in the future.
- Board members should review the Maryland report. (Maryland set a goal of 85% over 10 years.)
- Age group focus should be 0-8 (Prevention and Intervention)
- Consider that it's going to take a year to eighteen months to build the infrastructure before implementing the action plan.

Revised Goal Proposal:

- At least 90 percent of DPS third grade students will be reading proficiently by 2017.
- The proposal was approved by those in attendance.

Working Group update

Long before the Compact chose reading proficiency as their first goal, the National Civic League and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading invited cities across the country to apply for the "All America City Award" by submitting a literacy plan for their city. The Office of Children's Affairs worked with more than 35 community stakeholders from top notch organizations in the city, ranging from early childhood to post-secondary education (which is where the goal of 90% by 2020 came from) to write and submit a plan for Denver. The plan is focused on three main things - access to books, summer learning loss, and chronic absenteeism. Additionally, it has a focus on training for parents and professionals. The age ranges (0-8) align with those of the Compact.

Proposed Action:

- The 35 stakeholders who are engaged are the "doers" in the community.
- Turn the Grade Level Reading group into the working committees of the Compact.
- Work with this group over the next several weeks to fully develop and vet the action plan proposal.
- This proposal was approved by those in attendance.

Initial Action Plan Draft

There is still a significant gap in reading proficiency for low income kids. Everyone on the Compact agrees that all children have the potential to achieve the goals that we are going to set. In order to

have the maximum impact, we must invest in a 0-5 prevention plan and a 6-8 intervention plan in partnership with DPS. Lindsay presented 7 possible action items for the Compact to consider (see attached presentation).

Group Discussion:

- Outline goals for each of the audiences we are focus on. E.g. what are the goals for families etc?
- Review best practices out of Maryland for the age groups laid out in frame work
- Include the medical industry in the campaign for literacy development
- Ensure that access to books include a wider variety of books in other languages and include picture books
- Measure kindergarten readiness for the transition piece of action plan which will help teachers and families to identify the intervention strategies as early as possible

Approved Proposals:

- Make low income kids the focus of the strategies and actions while being intentional not to exclude other children and families.
- Approve action plan framework. The framework will focus on three different audiences - families, ECE providers/teachers, and the broader Denver community.
- Next steps - put together a vetted action plan on the 7 strategies below for the Compact's consideration at the October meeting.

Approved Action Strategies:

Ages 0-8

- City-wide public engagement campaign in English and Spanish
- Increase Access to Books

0-5

- Improve quality of early childhood education settings

3-5

- Increase access to quality Pre-K education and full day kindergarten

5-6

- Improve the transition from preschool to kindergarten, building on existing foundation

7-8

- Increase the number of DPS students who have access to small group literacy tutoring
- Expand summer ELA academies for English Language Learners

DPS Mil Levy/Bond

On August 23, the DPS School Board will vote on whether or not to place both a mill and bond initiative on the ballot for November 2012. There is some alignment between the Compact goals and those of DPS, particularly as far as increased access to preschool and full day kindergarten are concerned. This will be an opportunity to add up to 1,000 preschool slots in Denver. New slots will be provided by DPS as well as third party providers just as the Colorado Preschool Program does.

Recommendations:

- The Compact Board signs a letter of support for the DPS mill and Bond initiatives
- A draft letter was provided to those in attendance

Discussion:

- Would the letter list each member individually?
- Do Compact members need to get permission from their own boards of directors in order to sign on?
- What are the other expectations for action?
 - The team running the campaign should it make it on the ballot, will reach out to solicit individual and organizational endorsements.
 - No other action would be asked of the Compact.

Proposal:

- Those in attendance voted to support submitting the draft letter with the following conditions:
 - The letter be revised to reflect the modified goal of the Compact
 - The letter be signed: Denver Education Compact, with an option to list abstaining votes
 - That members of the Compact have 2 weeks to discuss this action with their respective Boards of Directors and get back to Lindsay with any concerns by September 7.

Next Meeting:

- Monday, October 8 from 2:00-3:30 pm.