DENVER EDUCATION COMPACT
Executive Committee Kick-Off
December 12, 2011
2:00 PM – 3:30PM
1437 Bannock St. Rm 389

Executive Committee Members Present:

Anna Jo Haynes        Jill Barkin        Michael B. Hancock
Cedric Buchanon      Kelly Brough       Pat Hamill
Christine Benero      Kent Thiry         Terri Minger
Christine Marquez    Landri Taylor       Tom Boasberg
Hudson               Lara Alkarim        Tony Salazar
Dan Ritchie          Amy Schwartz (Pat
Janet Lopez          Hamill)
Helayne Jones        Linda Childears

Absent:
Steve Jordan          Walter Isenberg    Mario Carrera
Donna Lynne           Robert Coombe      Jerry Wartgow
Cliff Richardson

Staff: Theresa Peña, Executive Director, Denver Education Compact

Guests: Bill Fulton - Facilitator

Meeting Notes:

Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Objectives by Theresa Peña

Agenda and Meeting Objectives:
1. Review the Vision and Mission statement
2. Discuss role and scope of Compact
3. Discuss a theory of change to lead the Compact work
4. Select goals

Role and Scope of Compact

Today lots of initiatives working in separate spheres, not systemic or integrated. The Education Compact focus, with the ongoing community work, is centered on synergy to ensure that current investments are having the desired outcomes for kids.

The Executive Committee will authorize key educational goals, serve as a member or co chair on the subcommittees formed around each goal, and monitor key short and long term outcomes to ensure success.

The subcommittees will be formed via a “request for engagement” to ensure broad community participation in the work of the Compact to accelerate the performance of each of the goals. The work of the subcommittees will consist of the following:
• Identify short and long term indicators/milestones to monitor progress towards macro goal
• Leverage existing work, already in process, to determine how to scale key components that will positively impact the indicators
• Develop a workplan
• Work with universities to analyze data and publish results
• Report back to the Executive Committee to identify opportunities, gaps and challenges

Compact Goals
The objective of the goal selection, and ultimately the work of each subcommittee is to: Identify the series of things that need to be done to successfully move Denver kids from cradle to career points in order to achieve economic success. We will be most effective by choosing a limited number of educational goals/objectives that incorporate moral, social and economic components.

We have three goals to start with, kindergarten readiness, graduation from high school, and pathways post high school. We need to find the right breadth and depth in the subcommittee work to ensure comprehensiveness. We will sequence the launch of each subcommittee to make sure that we are operating effectively before beginning the next subcommittee.

“We are looking for the ripple effect: begin with early childhood education, focus on the midpoint (middle school and high school) and end with graduation and beyond. As we set goals, we look at how they are phased in. We need to think boldly, out of the box and focus on pursuing goals together.”

Other issues to consider:
• We need to figure out how to engage parents and improve public awareness.
• The definition of early childhood should be birth through age 3.
• We must incorporate the broader community in the goals, especially the tracking and developing of systemic strategies.
• Consider non-academic indicators: out of school time, character, etc. The challenge is how to measure the performance of these types of indicators.
• The goals should be school based as well as community based. We must leverage existing partners and engage new resources.
• There should be a moral/ethical component to the Compact goals.
• There must be a strong sense of shared community values implicit in the Compact work.
• The goals and/or the indicators must answer the question: “Towards what end are we preparing kids for: kindergarten, high school graduation, and post secondary pathways?
• We want the Compact to be inclusive of the community so the description of our work, and specifically the mission and vision of the Compact must be succinct.
• The indicators must look at and focus on the key transition points.
• The definition of “every student” must be inclusive and should address the needs of undocumented students that do not currently have access.

• Each subcommittee must address current capacity and ability to meet demand. This will require analysis of the financial resources necessary to meet the goals and objectives. It is likely that we will need to find new resources to meet the gap.

• The scope of the subcommittee work will include:
  o assessing goals
  o identifying gaps
  o determining where best to focus the efforts of the Compact
  o determining where we will have the biggest impact for kids which may include policy recommendations
  o reporting on the progress of the key initiatives

The next meeting of the Compact will be February 13th, 2012 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm at the Parr-Widener Community Room.