

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FALL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 25, 2006
Review by Paulette Gleason

Purpose of the Council:

(as stated in the DCSD School Advisory Council Guidelines)

The purpose of the School Advisory Council (SAC) is to inform, to encourage, and to provide opportunities for parents and community members to be involved in the planning and evaluation of the school's instructional program and quality improvement processes. By definition, the School Advisory Council is an advisory body. Final authority of any decision rests with the principal.

Handbook for Colorado Educational Accountability:

Picked up an extra copy of this yellow handbook and will give it to the principal to be accessible in the office.

Given a copy of **EL 2.0 Academic Achievement Board of Education, Policy Governance.**

Featured Speaker, Dr. Douglas Reeves

Educational Accountability and Evaluation Considerations for Parents, Teachers, and Community Leaders.
(The following day Dr. Reeves trained Principals and Leadership Staff)

Highlights:

1) **Accountability Principles:**

- Accountability is more than test scores - external tests are important, but not sufficient as a basis for evaluation and analysis. (Parental Involvement)
- Standards are a floor, not a ceiling - high performing districts must do more than settle for "proficiency" and "meeting standards." (Challenge beyond with Arts, Music, PE)

2) **Grading Principles:**

- The purpose of grading and other elements of teacher feedback to students is improved student achievement. Evaluation and judgment may be part of the system, but evaluation is not the only purpose of grading.
- He was very impressed with DCSD wording of grade scale: "C" = is progress (not average) and "D" = does not meet intervention necessary (not below average)

We are "Telling the Parents the Truth"

-Work Habits and Proficiency are separate in our district. Other places make them the same.

3) Writing:

-Nonfiction writing is essential for every class. Associated with better scores, most powerful thing to do.

-Editing and rewriting is the key to improved writing. (Asking questions is best way to edit writing.)

4) Reading:

-What is "good reading" anyway? (Kids think reading is about speed. Need to stop them and check for understanding.)

-Read aloud as a family. (Most Powerful thing you can do.)

5) Additional Ideas:

-Put accountability at all things, not just tested. (Tech., world lang., library, media, music, art, physical education, every staff member engaged in student achievement)

-Student Leadership in accountability system.

-Homework: Not dull repetition of what is learned, choice in what to do, stimulating, thought provoking (ie reading with parent, write a question for the teacher)

Teachers let parents know what homework to help on and what they would like them to do on their own. (ie Help your kids.....Don't help your kids, I need to see their rough draft so I know where they are getting stuck. and can better plan how to help them in the next days lessons.)

-Laws will change with Left Behind Act. Don't settle for DCSD accountability.

REDEFINE IT ourselves. Look at models that are successful like Private Schools, see what they are doing that is working. Give fewer choices (ie Everyone takes the Literacy, Arts, Music, Lang., put extra emphasis on literacy)

-Give children specific accurate, timely feedback (like video games.

-Make school policy more specific.

6) DCSD has a new Web site.

If you would like more information about Dr. Reeves or his web site I will get you the information.

cc:

SAC Committee

Governing Council