

## I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the September 15, 2009, meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

### ***Roll Call***

The following members were present:

Matt Cook, president  
Jeanette Carmany, vice president  
Peter Cukale, treasurer  
Jane Barber, secretary  
Judith Edberg, director  
Mary W. Lewis, director  
Amy Prince, director

Also meeting with the Board of Education were:

John L. Barry, superintendent of schools  
Tony Van Gytenbeek, deputy superintendent  
Barbara Cooper, chief equity and engagement officer  
Rod Weeks, chief financial officer  
Kari Allen, chief personnel officer  
William Stuart, chief academic officer  
Anthony Sturges, chief operating officer  
Tonia Norman, assistant to Board of Education

### ***Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome to Visitors***

Cook led the Board and audience in the pledge to the flag. He then recognized a boy scout from Troop 171, who was in the audience working on his merit and community badge.

### ***Approval of Agenda***

The September 15, 2009, agenda was approved as written.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held September 1, 2009, were approved as written.

## II. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

### **Reports from the Board of Education**

Barber reviewed an article from the Denver Post that listed area districts that had not settled with their teacher unions. I would like to thank Brenna Isaacs, Tony Van Gytenbeek, Kari Allen and John Barry for working to ensure an agreement was completed earlier this year. Thanks also to the Aurora voters for providing the district with a means to ensure we had an agreement.

Barber attended the Colorado Association of School Boards Fall Regional Meeting and heard a presentation in regard to school finance. I am so grateful that we have Rod Weeks, chief financial officer, and the finance staff, and can depend on their expertise.

September 15, 2009

Barber thanked the talented students at Elkhart and Aurora Frontier for the artwork displayed on the walls in the Dr. Edward and Mrs. Patricia Lord Boardroom.

Lewis attended Elkhart's first leader of the pack assembly for the school year in which one teacher selects a student who is doing well in school, following the rules, and helping classmates. This is also the first year that student council candidates have been allowed to make speeches at the assembly. The students did a great job and it was exciting to see. Every student candidate who was running for president addressed the dress code and wanted to have it changed. Two candidates mentioned that teachers were allowed to wear jeans, but the students could not. It was very interesting and an issue that the staff at Elkhart should discuss with the students. The dress code, school lunches and soccer poles were the big topics among student candidates.

Prince attended "Remembering September 11," a performance presented by the Toll Gate Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Sandy Sweeney. The performance was held at Jewell, but had previously been presented at Century and Fulton. This is the third year that I have seen the impressive performance. All of the students had flags and were very well behaved.

Cukale attended numerous softball games throughout the district and noted that it is always interesting to watch parents interact with referees.

Cukale attended parent/teacher conferences at Gateway and shared how impressed he was with the unbelievable amount of support and advice teachers provided to parents as to what their student could do to increase learning and be more successful at school.

Lewis encouraged the audience to visit the Denver Post Web site and view the video of Superintendent Barry talking to a class of students at Aurora Central about his experience in the Pentagon on September 11. One reporter interviewed students and asked if hearing the experience from someone who had been in the Pentagon on that fateful day had changed their thoughts. It is a great interview and everyone should view it if they have an opportunity.

Cook attended the Gateway/Rangeview football game with his son's youth football team. Both schools represented themselves very well and a good time was had by all. I would encourage everyone to attend an APS high school football game on Friday or Saturday. Admission is \$5 per adult for home games at Hinkley and Aurora Central and \$4 per adult for home games at Rangeview and Gateway.

Carmany reminded the audience that the APS Foundation Luncheon will be held on Monday, October 5. Kevin Fitzgerald, former host of Animal Planet, and Rick Crandall, breakfast club host on KEZW 1430, will be guest speakers. The cost for APS employees is \$20; the cost for the general public is \$35. The luncheon will be held at the Red Lion Hotel at 3200 S. Parker Road from 11 a.m. to 1p.m.

### **Superintendent's Celebrations**

Barry thanked the Elks National Drug Awareness Program for presenting the entire APS community with a free opportunity to hear one of the nation's most sought-after motivational speakers, Milton Creagh. Milton will be speaking on

September 15, 2009

drug and alcohol awareness at East Middle School on Wednesday, September 23, at 6:30 p.m. and at Hinkley High School on Thursday, September 24, at 6:30 p.m.

Please join North Middle School in celebration of their 50th Anniversary on Thursday, September 24 at 5 p.m. Aurora City Councilwoman Deborah Wallace and other guest speakers will be in attendance as the North community takes a walk down memory lane and looks forward to the school's new direction as the North Middle School Health Sciences & Technology Campus. Refreshments will be provided.

Congratulations to Matt Cook, president of the APS Board of Education, for earning the prestigious 2009 McGuffey Award from the Colorado Association of School Boards. Cook was nominated for his commitment and passionate service to public education.

Cook is a proud Colorado native and 37-year Aurora resident. He has served as APS Board President for the past four years, is a long-time APS volunteer and remains a highly active member of the Aurora community. His recent leadership and efforts were instrumental in passing APS' bond and mill levy measures in the 2008 election.

Cook is a graduate and past Board member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Aurora, and served on the Aurora Citizens Advisory Budget Committee as well as the Aurora Open Space Board. He enjoys coaching for Aurora Youth Sports and teaching Sunday school at Faith Presbyterian Church. He has been engaged in all aspects of the community and the school board. He is a well respected member of the APS Board and the community.

We are truly honored by Cook's service and dedication to Aurora students and the community. He always goes above and beyond the call of duty, and we are extremely fortunate to have him serve a second board term starting in November.

Barber accepted the award for Cook on behalf of the Board at the Colorado Association of School Board Fall Regional Meeting on September 9.

### **Opportunity for Audience**

No Items

### **Superintendent's Report**

Items of Interest

Barry shared that the Board was informed that the district received one charter school submission. The proposed charter, School Without Borders, is slated as a career and technical institute. The district has 75 days to review the application. Information will be presented to the Board on November 10 and the Board would take action on November 17. DAAC will review the charter application on Thursday.

Barry noted some shortcomings on the charter application. The charter will have two weeks to make corrections once they are notified by the district.

Barry shared that the Board had heard information regarding the proposed Horizon Pilot School and Lend Lease, the company that assisted in the development of Horizon. Some excellent work has been done by APS teammates to review plans and prepare information on the proposed school. Horizon is slated to open in the 2011-12 school year as a K-8 school. Information will be presented to the Board once all necessary approval is granted and design plans are finalized.

Lewis asked if construction had begun in the proposed development. Barry noted that many site options were being considered including opening in a storefront, trailers provided by Lend Lease or possible building construction. Lend Lease will be responsible for providing the facility. Van Gytenbeek commented that commercial space would be developed before residential development. The school would be constructed at the same time with the idea that people who work in the area would make their home in the area.

Barry updated the Board on letters of intent received from parents and students interested in enrollment in the proposed fine arts and performing arts pilot school with a focus on film and theater. The proposed pilot school would be located in the northwest quadrant of Aurora and is slated to open in the 2011-12 school year. The Gates Foundation has proposed \$1,000 per student for professional development and program planning. As of now, the pilot school is slated to open as an expeditionary learning school.

Carmany asked who the main contact for the school was. Barry replied that Jane Shirley, principal of William Smith, is leading the charge. Van Gytenbeek noted that expeditionary learning approached Shirley and staff with an interest to replicate successes seen at William Smith. Expeditionary learning has access to significant funding from the Gates Foundation and has underwritten APS in planning efforts that the design team is working on. The proposal will be presented to the Board in January 2010.

Prince asked for a brief overview of differences between charter and pilot schools. Barry shared that pilot schools and charter schools are similar. Pilot schools operate within the district. They have autonomy, accountability, prepare a plan, set curriculum and are able to exercise a lot of work rules as defined in the memorandum of agreement with AEA. Charter schools operate outside the district, but are still part of APS and we partner with them. The district is responsible for chartering the charter and determines approval. Charter schools have a lot of autonomy, but the district does not have much responsibility with the charter. The district monitors the charter school budget, special education services if requested by the charter, and student achievement. Required responsibilities are noted within the contract between the charter and APS.

Escárcega will prepare a fifth block information packet for the Board to review at the October 6 Board meeting. Data revealed that reading improved for fifth block students; writing and math significantly improved for fifth block students. Data from students who attended fifth block last summer was compared with this year's CSAP data and it showed that students who attended fifth block accelerated. Carmany asked if CSAP scores of students who attended fifth block were higher than their peers who did not attend fifth block. Barry replied yes.

Barry shared that it appears that the district is 600 to 700 students over the projected enrollment. Based on historical reporting, enrollment is pretty stable two weeks prior to the October count. The additional revenue from increased

student enrollment will help with our budget. Barbara Cooper, chief equity officer, and school liaisons continue to do an amazing job to ensure kids are in school during the October count window.

Lewis asked if school liaisons were partnered during home visits. Cooper replied that school liaisons are partnered and only make home visits during the day.

Carmany asked if there was a significant enrollment increase in the district following the Labor Day holiday. Allen spoke with three principals who shared that they historically see an enrollment increase after Labor Day as was the case this year. Student enrollment increased mostly at schools in the northwest quadrant of the district.

Barry passed out information to the Board in regard to the new APS Online Program. Ivan Duran, director of Instructional Technology, and Randy Wood, online education coordinator, were both present to answer questions or concerns from Board members.

We are planning to start with fifty students in the online program, but hope to expand to an online school through a state application process. Lynn Fair, principal at Aurora Central, has provided a room for the online high school. Students will be required to check-in with staff twice a week in the afternoon or evening. One instructor will be hired in addition to the online coordinator. Funds will be provided through Duran's budget and Weeks will reallocate \$17,000 toward the program. The total cost of the six month program, January through June, is \$224,000.

This is another effort to offer choice in APS. According to the Sloan Consortium, the overall number of K-12 students nationwide engaged in online courses in 2007-08 is estimated at 1,030,000. This represents a 47 percent increase since 2005-06, and is the first attempt of online learning in APS.

Cukale asked if there was an enrollment cap for the online program. Barry replied that the maximum number was 60 to 70 students. Cukale asked if the cap was due to space. Duran replied that 50 students was the initial start up number for the program. Wood added that the online program will have one instructor and we want to ensure availability to students. Duran noted that the Colorado Department of Education has strict guidelines for online programs. The district can only accept 10 out-of-district students. If we exceed 10 students, we would have to go through a formal application process through the Colorado Department of Education in order to be a state certified online program. Wood has been working on the application and we plan to submit it in January so we have the capacity to go beyond 10 students.

Lewis commented that we have already estimated that about 700 students who live within the APS boundaries are taking online courses in other districts. We would not have a problem filling spots. Barry commented that we do not always have access to the number of students who are taking online courses in area districts. Lewis asked about possible expansion plans in the online program in fall 2010. Duran noted that it is dependent on space at Aurora Central. We will know more in the first couple of months of the program. We saw some good models in New Mexico in which students were rotated in the program throughout the school day. If the online program takes off, we could expand to satellite centers dependent on available space in the district. We want kids in the online program to have counseling services, guidance, and check-in with staff twice a week. Wood added that we are hoping to provide the best elements of the

classroom as well as the unique characteristics of online learning.

Lewis asked if the \$224,000 just included startup costs. Duran replied yes. Instructional salaries, curriculum cost, Netbooks and broadband connections would be included in startup cost.

Carmany asked what grade levels the program would serve. Wood replied grades nine through 12. Carmany asked if there were plans to expand the program to lower grade levels. Duran replied it was a future possibility.

Cook asked about the per pupil allocation for students enrolled in the online program. Weeks believes that the per pupil allocation amount is \$6,300. The target is around \$3,400 per student. Barry commented that funding for this program would occur after the October count. These students would not be counted until next year's October count.

Cook asked if the Board could view the curriculum. Barry reminded the Board that the online program would utilize the ED2020 curriculum, which is currently used throughout the district. Wood shared that Board members could sign up for courses and experience online interactions. All Board members were in favor.

Prince asked where the students would come from. Wood shared that Aurora Central students would have priority and a number of students have already expressed interest. The director of online learning in the Poudre School District shared that a number of home school students have expressed interest in their online program and are returning to the district to take part in the program.

Lewis asked if a student could participate in an online learning course for a semester and then return to the building. Wood replied yes. Our goal is to make sure students are successful. Duran noted that there would be an application process for students. This was a critical element in program models that we studied. Parental involvement and student motivation is the key for online learning success.

Carmany asked if students who applied to the program had to sign a contract. Wood replied yes. Barry added that parents would also sign a contract to ensure parental support. Stuart noted the importance of having weekly contact with an adult to ensure safeguards are in place and students remain successful.

Barber asked if curriculum from area charter schools had been reviewed. Duran replied that we did a lot of research and reviewed curriculum at charter schools. We believe teachers make a difference and having an instructor available to students is essential. We hope to have a better program in place to ensure student success. Wood shared that the online curriculum has been tested in high schools with credit recovery programs for a year. We have had good feedback on the rigors of the program and overall student achievement.

#### Report Submissions

Barry shared that the Board of Education was presented with 19 reports in advance of the September 15, 2009, Board meeting for review. The reports are officially submitted into the minutes and record for public viewing, so we stay true to our theme of Trust, Teamwork and Transparency. The reports submitted are as follows:

- P20 Campus

- ELD/ELA (English Language Development/English Language Acquisition)
- ECE (Early Childhood Education)
- ESS (Exceptional Student Services)
- Standards-Based Grading
- Instructional Technology
- IB (International Baccalaureate)
- RtI (Response to Intervention)
- Aurora LIGHTS
- Galaxy
- Futures Academy
- Pilot Schools
- Facility Rentals
- Energy Conservation
- CA (Centralized Admissions)
- PBS (Positive Behavior Support)
- EIP (Early Intervention Programs)
- Rebound

Cook shared that the Board of Education adopted a policy governance model in June 2009. Quarterly informational reports on various district programs will be submitted to the Board as part of policy governance. The reports submitted are the first set of submissions.

Carmany asked for clarification on the quarterly report from Exceptional Student Services and the term "indicator 13." Stuart replied that indicator 13 refers to the extent in which the district complies with transition programs for students who are exiting the public school system. Carmany also noted under items to be addressed on the quarterly report from Exceptional Student Services it states "disproportionality with significant identifiable emotional disorder classrooms and discipline data," and questioned what it refers to. Stuart replied that it refers to data comparisons between students who have a disability and those who do not. Carmany commented that if a student is classified as emotionally disturbed, discipline issues should be out of proportion. Escárcega shared that data is not based on the number of referrals; it is based on student numbers in the discipline data field. A significant identifiable emotional disorder student may have 20 different episodes, but it only appears once in the discipline data field. Most significant identifiable emotional disorder students do not have discipline issues due to programs and steps in place, and we should not see an overrepresentation of discipline data. Barry shared that additional clarification and information would be provided to the Board.

Carmany asked for clarification on the quarterly English Language Development/English Language Acquisition report. Under issues to be addressed, it states "continue to determine/define guidelines for native English speakers for language development. Stuart noted that as we begin implementing the English Language Development block at school sites, one challenge is defining the overall structure and guidelines for an English Language Development block for native English speakers. One model seen in California had every student, regardless of their language deficiency, attend a language development block. We did not adopt the model used in California, but are in the process of determining guidelines for structuring instructional opportunities for proficient English students. Escárcega noted that this is strictly an issue at the elementary school level. Cook mentioned concerns brought forth from sites in that native English speakers were losing instructional opportunities during the English Language Development block time. Carmany also noted a comment

from a parent at a town hall meeting hosted by Larry Beer, Aurora city council member, in that native English speakers would be at a disadvantage by the time they reached high school because second language learners would be fluent in both Spanish and English. The parent requested that second language opportunities be offered to students at the elementary school level. Stuart noted that research indicates that language acquisition is much easier to learn at the elementary school level. It is somewhat of a challenge to structure language acquisition opportunities in APS because of our diverse student population. Barry added that some schools have used some innovative and exciting things to meet student interests. We are in the process of determining how to best meet the needs of students during the English Language Development block while meeting requirements set forth by the Office of Civil Rights and district's goals to setup a Center of Excellence for English Language Learners.

Lewis would like to have additional information included in Aurora LIGHTS, Galaxy and standards-based grading monitoring report submissions, and is most interested in how both programs and standards-based grading are being received by staff, parents and students. Cook clarified that these reports are considered informational reports. Monitoring reports are specific reports related to the Superintendent's performance in relation to policy governance.

Prince asked for clarification on the quarterly instructional technology report in regard to "completing a revision of an Internet Acceptable Use Policy." Barry shared that revisions were necessary in order to provide safety and security for APS students using the Internet. The new policy provides good guidance, understanding and tools for Internet searches.

Cukale asked for clarification on the quarterly Early Intervention Programs report and questioned how programs in Adams and Arapahoe counties provided mental health services and other services for at-risk students. Cooper noted that all of the traditional programs as well as the early intervention programs have opportunities for staff to recommend students for mental health services. We are working with Aurora Youth Options, which is a program that allows district staff to recommend more at-risk students for mental health services, mentoring and referrals to youth programs within the community. APS truancy specialists are aware of the program. We also receive funding through Safe and Drug-Free Schools to provide services for urinary analysis and other services that a judge or magistrate would determine a student needed. Cukale noted that the Early Intervention Programs report did not mention teen or truancy court and questioned if both were still options. Cooper replied that the district is still using truancy court and we now have a full-day in Arapahoe County. Adams County has a new magistrate who is starting to learn our program.

Edberg thanked district staff for all their work and efforts. The amount of information in report submissions is very impressive.

Carmany asked for clarification on the quarterly Rebound report and questioned how many of the dropout recovery students were APS students. Van Gytenbeek shared that we started with a list of dropouts within the district when the program began. Steve Dobo, founder and executive director of Colorado Youth for Change, has exhausted potential contacts within the APS boundaries and is now recruiting students outside the district to fill the final slots. There are currently 105 dropout recovery slots and 70 expelled slots in the Rebound Program, and 100 slots in the Futures Academy. Van Gytenbeek will provide the exact number of APS dropout recovery students to the Board.

Cook encouraged the Board to direct specific questions on future informational report submissions to Barry in advance of Board meetings so information is more readily available from district staff.

Barber asked for clarification on the Early Intervention Programs report and questioned responsibilities of family liaisons in the Truancy Reduction Program. Cooper shared that family liaisons were given direction that they could support the program to the extent that the school needed support. Their primary role is to be a family liaison within the building, which may require some home visits and other duties related to attendance.

Prince would like more information on standards-based grading. Cook noted that one of the first Board workshops was on standards-based grading. It might be time to revisit standards-based grading and include it as an agenda item on a future Board workshop agenda. Barry reminded the Board that the district has a standards-based grading Web site with lots of good information. Lewis would like to hear feedback from staff, parents and students in regard to standards-based grading. Carmany commented that standards-based grading is not easy to implement or explain no matter how long you use it. She would like to have more information related to the technology part of implementing standards-based grading. Cook asked the Board to forward questions or concerns in regard to standards-based grading for a future Board workshop agenda.

Cook thanked the leadership team for providing all of the informational report submissions, and addressing questions and concerns from the Board.

### **Leadership Team Reports**

#### Instructional Materials Adoption

Stuart noted that attachment II-D-4 in the Board agenda lists one elementary resource, kindergarten through third grade, proposed for supplemental adoption.

Additional support needs to be provided to teachers around writing as a result of this year's CSAP writing scores. The MONDO Pathway to Writing resource will allow teachers to transition between their current MONDO reading resource as well as transition from reading to more of a writing focus. The MONDO Pathway to Writing is closely aligned with our adopted basic writing materials, which are the Lucy Calkins materials at the elementary school level. Our goal is to learn as much as we can from this resource and use it as an intervention for fourth and fifth grade students as well.

Lewis asked how quickly the MONDO Pathway for Writing resource could be implemented into the classroom. Stuart replied that we are hoping to use the resource this year.

Carmany asked if this was a new program and if professional development training was required for teachers. Stuart replied that this is part of the reading program and professional development training would be provided for teachers.

Cook noted that this item would be included for action on the October 6 consent agenda as part of the required two week instructional adoption process.

### **III. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board has set forth in policies items that are operational and items that are

considered Board work. These are items that the Board is legally responsible to take action on. If a Board member has an issue or concern with any item for action on the consent agenda, the item will be brought forward for further review. If there are no concerns from a Board member or a community member who has signed up to address an item on the consent agenda, all items submitted for action will be voted on collectively.

## **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

### **Monitoring Reports**

#### Governance Policy 3.5 – Emergency Superintendent Succession

Cook noted that the Board was provided with the administrative backup list for the 2009-10 school year in advance of the September 15 Board of Education meeting.

Cukale asked Barry about the training process for district staff listed as backups. Barry commented that most of the training process is on-the-job training. We have not developed a structured training program, but may do so in the future. Every primary person listed is charged to make sure that their secondary person is trained and could perform required duties if needed.

Cukale asked about the monitoring and evaluation process for secondary staff on the list. Barry replied that we have not developed an evaluation process. We depend on the primary person to monitor and evaluate their backup. Tony Van Gytenbeek, deputy superintendent, is consulted in every district decision that I make. Van Gytenbeek noted that as part of his annual performance review, Barry makes conscientious decisions for me to write goals that initiate toward a superintendency. I am consulted on every district decision and have opportunities for hands-on experiences as well. If something were to occur that would require a leadership transition, the district would not be impacted.

Cukale noted that Rod Weeks, chief financial officer, has trained his staff. The best person to have in place is a person that could step in for you and no one would notice that you were gone. This is a true compliment to the person who provided the training.

Prince had an opportunity to view the Incident Response Team training and noted that all of the district backups were very well trained.

Barry added that this was a good effort in that it generated good questions. Information will be reviewed with the leadership team and district administrators to determine types of training provided to backups.

## **DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH**

*No Items*

## **DIVISION OF FINANCE**

#### Expenditures Summary and Financial Report as of August 31, 2009

Lewis asked about additional slot increases in the Colorado Preschool Program. Weeks replied that there is an annual process in which any school district that has space available for additional students and has teachers and staff in place

can apply for a certain number of slots. Sheri Charles, director of Early Childhood Education, applies for additional spots annually.

Barry commented that once Meadowood is built, the district might get additional allocations from the state or have to transfer students from other sites to fill space. If funds are available, the Colorado Department of Education might provide additional resources. Lewis added that having additional space might attract paying parents who want their student affiliated with APS.

#### **DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Classified Personnel

Licensed Personnel

Non-Licensed Administrative and Professional/Technical Personnel

#### **DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

*No Items*

#### **DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES**

*No Items*

Barber moved and Lewis seconded to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8104

Approved on a vote of 7-0

### **V. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

#### **VISTA 2015 Listening Tour Review and Plan**

Chief Communication Officer Georgia Duran shared that a draft outline of the VISTA 2015 Listening Tour was provided to the Board in advance of the September 15 Board meeting.

We will be reexamining the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan and adapting it to go beyond 2010. Our goal is gather feedback from the APS community stakeholders during the VISTA 2015 Listening Tour to ensure the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan reflects the goals and values of the APS community. The APS Board of Education and the leadership team will meet with a variety of groups including:

- students
- parents
- staff
- elected officials
- business leaders
- service providers/organizations
- community members
- other stakeholders

The VISTA 2015 Listening Tour will have two phases. The first phase will take

place from October 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010. Feedback that will be reviewed during the first phase includes:

- role of the APS Board of Education
  - Board members will determine questions for groups to address
- Is there anything missing on a strategic level in the VISTA 2015 draft?
- Is there anything that is not clear in the VISTA 2015 draft?

The Board will host a town hall meeting to kickoff the VISTA 2015 Listening Tour on October 20, 2009, at Gateway High School, 6:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, but there is a focus on parents. Tonia Norman, Board assistant, will contact schools to invite PTSA/PTO representatives and Lisa Escárcega, chief accountability and research officer, will invite DAAC parents. General invitations will be distributed throughout the community, and we hope to have a good turnout for the event.

From October 2009 to January 2010, our focus will be to meet with the following groups to gather feedback including:

- Student Advisory Committee
- parents
- internal partners
- VISTA Guidance Council
- Aurora Education Association
- Classified Employee Council
- School Executive Association
- APS Education Foundation
- Aurora Retired School Employees Association
- state elected officials

Phase one will continue from January 1, 2010, to March 31, 2010, in which our focus will be on the following groups:

- business and community groups
- Aurora Chamber
- Realtors
- Key Community Response Team
  - The Key Community Response Team consists of several groups including: Aurora Fire Department, Aurora Police Department, Aurora Human Relations Commission, district attorneys and some members of the Citizens Concerned About Minorities in Aurora.

Additional business and community groups include:

- area superintendents
- additional elected officials
- faith-based groups
- grant partners
- homeowner associations
- colleges and universities
- media
- political groups and active adults
- service organizations
- social service agencies

Our plan is to meet with groups for 30 to 60 minutes during phrase one. The

meeting outline includes:

- brief overview of meeting goals
- report card and outcomes of VISTA 2010
- policy governance and feedback from BOE guiding questions
- Is there anything missing on a strategic level in the VISTA 2015 draft?
- Is there anything that is not clear in the VISTA 2015 draft?
- close

One item that was noted from the communication audit and preliminary drafts of phase one from APS community stakeholders, is that we listen and not just talk about what we are doing. After phase one, March 31, 2009, the leadership team will review data that will be assessed through meeting summaries and written information by the Division of Accountability and Research. The leadership team will revise the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan to reflect feedback from the listening tour.

The Board will host another town hall meeting during phase two of the listening tour to kickoff the revised VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan on April 20. Questions that we will pose during the town hall to gather input from APS community stakeholders include:

- Is there anything in the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan that you cannot support?
- Is there anything missing on a strategic level in the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan?
- Is there anything that is not clear in the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan?

In addition to the town hall meeting, we plan to have two open meetings, April 26, 2010, and May 6, 2010, to gather additional feedback. We will review written feedback and provide an online survey to gather additional feedback.

Meeting with groups in phase two will be held in-house at various district locations. The outline for meetings in phase two is as follows:

- 60 minute sessions
- overview
- listening session (50-55 minutes)
- Is there anything in the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan that you cannot support?
- Is there anything missing on a strategic level in the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan?
- Is there anything that is not clear in the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan?
- close
- online survey

Once the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan has been finalized, the promotion plan, October 1, 2009, to August 4, 2010, is as follows:

- communication updates
- Connect-ED
- newsletter articles
- Superintendent's Bulletin
- Infinite Campus Portal
- Community Connection
- E-News

- Aurora Youth Matters
- news releases/pitches
- Aurora Sentinel back page ad
- personal calls and e-mails

Next steps include:

- Board feedback
- VISTA Forum (Aurora Education Association, Classified Employee Council, School Executive Association and Leadership Team) feedback
- revise
- send to the Board
- organize listening tour sessions
- kick-off
- meeting with groups
- revise VISTA 2015
- phase II
- complete VISTA 2015

We are hoping to secure Board approval and launch the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan on the first day of school in fall 2010.

Cook noted that Duran had asked some questions that were brought forward from the September 1 Board meeting in regard to community engagement groups. The purpose of the initial round of community engagement groups that the Board proposed to meet with under policy governance was to help define our end statement. We will define our end statement when leadership team is redefining the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan in the second phase of the listening tour. This would be a good opportunity for the Board to gather feedback from APS community stakeholders as to what they believe our end statement should be, so it is not necessary to have separate listening tours for VISTA 2015 and Board community engagement. The Board will follow this closely until we reach the second phase of the listening tour. The Board will define its end statement and update policies next year.

Lewis added that as long as the Board commits to having members at as many meetings with groups as possible, we will gather needed feedback. Cook commented that it would be incumbent on the Board to gather feedback and report back in order to have a good sense of what was heard. This is an ambitious plan and will require a lot of work before the end of the year. There are not a lot of groups that are putting these kinds of resources into talking to groups and gathering feedback.

Lewis asked how handouts would look in phase one of the listening tour. Duran shared that we would include points of pride and accomplishments in the handout. Barry added that we want to be transparent and include a report card of how we did on VISTA 2010. It is also important to have proposed ideas in advance for groups to review and to use as conversation points. Duran noted that the draft outline of VISTA 2015 would only include core ideas in order to gather good feedback. The finalized version of the plan would be completed during phase two. This might be a good community relations proposal to submit for a presentation at the annual Colorado Association of School Boards convention next year.

Lewis asked when district staff would be surveyed. Duran shared that we would request staff input via an online survey during phase two of the listening tour.

Prince mentioned that the Board had discussed having a Board workshop in order to share how we did with the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan. Cook shared that a review of the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan would be listed as an agenda item on October 6.

Cook contacted the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and noted that they were very interested in having the APS Board sit in with their board. The 30 minute format would work well and time is available in October or January. Lewis added that the Board could have 45 minutes to an hour on the Key Community Response Team agenda after January.

Lewis noted concerns about district staff and wants to make sure that they are aware of opportunities for feedback via an online survey. Barry added that another staff Webinar would be held in January and it would be a good time to provide an update on the VISTA 2015 Listening Tour as well as opportunities for feedback on the online survey. We will also keep staff informed via the Superintendent Bulletin.

Carmany noted that another way to reach staff is to request 30 minutes at the beginning of one of the AEA meetings. Duran shared that during the last listening tour, we met with all district staff groups by requesting time on their meeting agendas. Staff members are also welcome to attend the October 20 town hall kickoff. Our plan does not include an online staff survey during phase one. The online survey is part of phase two and will include all APS community stakeholders.

Duran asked the Board to provide a list of questions that they plan to pose to groups during presentations by October 1. We plan to provide a speakers' packet for both the Board and the leadership team that includes the VISTA 2015 Strategic Plan outline, prepared questions, note cards for feedback and handouts. Cook asked the Board to select a few questions from the list provided by Jim Weigel, policy governance consultant, Colorado Association of School Boards.

Barry reminded the Board that Norman is the center contact point for scheduling efforts. As we get presentation dates from groups, please forward information to Norman.

## **VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK**

### **BOARD REPORTS**

#### Concerns or Issues

Barber requested that a Board member attend the Colorado Association of School Boards Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly on October 16 and 17 in her place. Carmany agreed to attend.

Lewis asked if the district had received any information in regard to proposals submissions for presentations at the annual Colorado Association of School Boards convention. Van Gytenbeek shared that one presentation proposal was accepted in regard to the Rebound and Futures Academy. Carmany and Stuart will present information at the convention.

Lewis asked if student leaders were attending the convention as part of the

student leadership track. Stuart replied yes. Cook asked the Board if they would be interested in having dinner with student leaders on one of the evenings. All Board members were in favor.

#### Conference Updates

Lewis attended an all day conference on substance exposed newborns through her work with the Governor's Council on Child Welfare. One of the conference presenters mentioned the Aurora LIGHTS Program as part of their presentation and talk with students. It is important that we educate everyone in regard to the effects of alcohol on newborns.

#### **BOARD SELF-MONITORING**

Cook shared that this is the third Board meeting under the new policy governance model.

Carmany noted that at the September 1 Board meeting, she suggested that money saved from the canceled Board election, \$80,000, should go toward FTE and proceeded to call for a vote. My mistake, under the new policy governance model, was calling for a vote prior to requesting additional information about class sizes, bubbles, and additional FTE that was set aside. I would like to request information on class sizes, bubbles and teacher caseloads at this time.

Cook noted that it should not be classified as a mistake, but we did get slightly off track. The Board has the power, but has agreed to policies and procedures in place as well as how to bring issues forward. The suggestion was valid and we plan to have future conversations about class sizes and formulas. The underlying issue for the Board is trust and teamwork, and the Board trusts decisions made by leadership team. The Board would like to include FTE and formulas on a future workshop agenda.

Carmany asked if the Board could include a statement in Board policies that if funds become available, the Board could have a public discussion as to how to best utilize funds. Cook noted that in current Board policy; we requested involvement in any district purchase over \$700,000. We would have to discuss this as a Board to determine if we want to include a statement in policy. Having a conversation around FTE is good place to start so we feel confident resources are being allocated correctly.

Prince noted that having a conversation is a good place to start. Lewis concurred that we start with a conversation and if we determine that we want a policy statement related to FTE in policy it could be included.

Cook noted that it is important that what we do as a Board does not hamper staff who do a really good job managing day-to-day operations. We could have a conversation in regard to putting a policy in place regarding our commitment to class size.

The Board did a really good job on policy governance at tonight's meeting. All of the questions from Board members were good and valid, and I appreciate leadership team having the answers at their fingertips. This process is not comfortable, but it is important to bring questions and concerns forward.

Cook reminded the Board that we will meet at 6 p.m. on October 6. The VISTA 2015 Listening Tour Kickoff will be held on October 20, 6:30 p.m., at Gateway

September 15, 2009

High School.

**VI. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

***Opportunity for Audience***

***Correspondence***

***Next meeting date***

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held October 6, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Mrs. Patricia Lord Boardroom.

***Adjournment***

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President**

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**