



Minutes

Board of Directors Education Committee Meeting
Friday, November 21, 2014 from 9:00-10:00am
7808 Cherry Creek S. Dr. 3-300 Denver, CO 80231

Committee Members present: Pamela Harris (BOD), Amy Anderson* (BOD), Jen Heller (School Leader)

Others present: James Cryan (CEO), Jenni Reese (Dir. Curriculum & Instruction), Rebecca Kisner

* = by phone

Proceedings: Meeting called to order at 9:11am. Becca reviewed the agenda and provided context on the last education committee meeting for Pamela and Jenni who were not present.

Jen gave an overview of the **Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)**, a document required by the state. Since our school has a green SPF rating, we will likely not receive formal feedback on this document from DPS. RMP does an internal planning process in the summer to identify key, mission-aligned instructional practices and a plan for executing them. Our two main drivers this year are:

- **Reading** - we discussed our most recent reading data in depth at the board meeting.
- **Data-driven instruction** - we are teaching teachers how to analyze their data at a higher level and utilize that in action planning each week, with a progress monitoring tool and weekly re-assessment.

Pamela asked if our assumption is reading skills supports learning in other areas we're not as focused on. Jen replied that reading definitely improves your writing abilities, and that having a very scripted program, as we do with math instruction, really helps. Reading is a place where teachers have reflected on needing growth. James added that we still expect our teachers to do a great job with writing and math, but we focus our professional development on reading.

The next step will be to submit the UIP in December and share the data with families, which we did at the Co-Captains parent meeting a few weeks ago.

The discussion turned to the PEAK values rubric we hope will measure the joy aspect of our school model, to supplement the many assessments we have in place to evaluate rigor. Amy asked the group to consider how we can collect evidence and capture what's happening to support our scholars in developing the values they'll need to be successful on their path to adulthood.

James asked if PEAK values are currently represented on report cards or in conversations with families during conferences. Jen answered that teachers are mostly speaking to PEAK violations. Pamela asked if a rubric already exists for PEAK values demonstration. Becca said a rubric exists for staff but not scholars, although Jenni added some work has been done in Pre-K this year and on the social skills in years past.

Everyone felt it would be important for scholars to show agency over their own development and be invested in progress towards their goal, to frame values as a strength and not a deficit. The group agreed that what's measured matters, or is at least paid attention to, and the report card is a logical place to start.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51am.