

## EQUITY COMMITTEE

### Summary Minutes – November 19, 2009

In attendance: Dawn Anderson Rascher, John Border, Ann Dolan-Bishop, Nora Dvorak, Tom Green, Linda Heiden, Laura Lortz, Ellen Reilly, Carmen Rivera-Jackson, Deb Stevenson, Susan Strodbeck, Phyllis Thede

#### Welcome and Introductions

- Dawn shared with the group the *Framework for Student Achievement* and the purpose of the framework. This framework shows how the CSIP (Comprehensive School Improvement Plan) is the driving force for all district initiatives. This plan has community-based goals and state/federal accountability goals with two action plans: (1) *rigorous and relevant curriculum* and (2) *safe and connected to school*. Dawn emphasized that every employee in the district should be able to describe how their position links to the two action plans. For examples, bus drivers would be part of the *safe and connected to school* action plan, teachers and paras would be part of both action plans, food service workers would be part of the *rigorous and relevant curriculum* plan as they help students' ability to learn by providing them with nutritious meals and snacks.

#### Building Level Report Cards

- Dawn shared with the group the concerns of several parents about the building level report cards, particularly the wording "Students of Color." There was discussion about how as educators our reaction to this type of concern is to want to "fix it" so there is no offensive wording to any culture or race. However, one of the members of the committee, who is African American, stated the interpretation of this descriptor in itself is a cultural issue, because she did not take offense to it. Furthermore, there was commentary on how individuals have to own their reactions when faced with something of this nature. The committee sees this as an opportunity to review the building level report cards and come up with a better formant, including the removal of the statement "students of color" and use the Iowa Department of Education identified ethnic/race sub-groups.
- The group reviewed other building level report cards from local districts and across the state. Other report cards highlight positive attributes of their schools. Of the report cards reviewed, it was evident that DCSD report cards are different in format and content than other districts. Most of the other report cards are similar to newsletters, information in our student handbook, or information communicated through our annual district report. The committee felt positive that the DCSD report card is a true performance indicator of each building and requested that this information remain in that new format.
- The group reviewed state requirements for building level reporting and were surprised how little is required: (1) achievement comparison for the building, district, and state and (2) SINA statement (if applicable.)
- The group reviewed our current building level report card and created a list of things we like about it and things to reconsider. See attached.

#### Committee Assignment

Laura and Dawn will put together some samples to review at the next meeting based on our list. If anyone has any ideas, please contact Dawn at 336-3805 or [andersonrascherd@davenportschools.org](mailto:andersonrascherd@davenportschools.org).

**Next Meeting Dates: January 28, 2010 (5:00 – 7:00 pm) ASC Board Room**  
**April 22, 2010 (5:00 – 7:00 pm) ASC Board Room**