

DRAFT----- PSCC NOVEMBER 18th MEETING AGENDA 7:00-9:00pm ----
DRAFT

I. Introductions/Goals -Lisa/Gaby 5 minutes

- A. Convene parents, teachers, school, and district admin to discuss whether the ALA model at Colfax is meeting each child's need to strive for excellence.
- B. Answer the question as to whether the ALA model and curriculum (including the longer day and longer year) the best for each student at Colfax?
- C. Build parents' consensus on future direction for Colfax:
 - a. Continue with ALA model; or
 - b. Pursue efforts to change curricular focus of Colfax away from ALA

II. Background-Dr. Otuwa-10 minutes

- A. Rationale of how Colfax became an ALA
- B. Differentiate the ALA schools from Non-ALA schools in the district
 - a. Length of day/year
 - b. Subjects taught
- C. Differentiate between ALA and America's Choice Curriculum
- D. Describe educational goals for ALA schools, with particular attention to Colfax
 - a. What are the district's short-term and long-term goals for ALA schools?
 - b. What standards and benchmarks of excellence does the district use to make the decisions to transition schools in or out of an ALA or to continue the ALA model?

III. Colfax progress and meeting benchmarks described in IID.- DMS/District person -15 min

- A. Compare PSCC scores at Colfax pre-ALA to the last 2 years by the following:
 - a. Overall
 - b. By student's race/ethnicity
 - c. By family's socio-economic status
- B. Compare PSCC scores at Colfax to other ALA schools by above subgroups
- C. Compare PSCC scores at Colfax to other schools within district of similar racial/SES background as Colfax

IV. Parent questions-45 min

ALA Curriculum and Length of School Day/School Year

- Describe the objective benefits of a longer day. How do we balance any benefit from the student fatigue of the day?

- What are the required number of minutes for the core subjects or reading, math, science, social studies? Does the number of required minutes vary depending on grade level? (e.g. Are K-3 students mandated more reading time than other grade levels?) Does the time requirement differ between ALA and non-ALA schools?
- If Colfax were to no longer follow the ALA model, what would happen to the school's curriculum?
- If length of school day were to shorten, how would it affect the number of specials (music, art, gym, Spanish)? Would we be required to have the same number of core subject minutes?
- Why do the ALAs have an additional day or two of classes after the non-ALA schools are done in June? Describe the benefits of having extra school days at the end of the school year, and what is the data to support it? How do we balance any benefits with the potential strain on teachers and families on the extended school year and school day? (The extra days might be better used as professional development days or extra time for the teachers to organize, pack and plan for next year. A more trained teaching staff may have better impact on students than merely extra days, if no impactful instruction is occurring in those extra days.

Costs of ALA

- How much extra does an ALA cost? Discuss the cost/benefit of ALA

ALA coaches

- ALA schools have math and reading coaches. How are the coaches coaching teachers? Do they spend any time in the classroom? Where is the accountability for the coaches? What does their rubric look like? Are the coaches making a difference-do teachers and administrative staff feel better equipped to teach because of the coaches? Are students learning more because of the coaches?

Other

- Why do we start ramp up in 6th grade if 3rd grade is the critical year for mastering reading? As Roosevelt often says, kids that can't read by 3rd grade are much more likely to end up in prison. So, isn't 6th grade too late to start ramping up?
- Nationally, America's Choice schools have been in low income schools that didn't make AYP before program adoption. How can we apply this program to a school with a very different profile than those other schools?
- What are the results of the ALA parent survey?

- What are the results of the Teacher Vote?
- What is the current time frame for decision making at the District? (By what date can parents have input on whether Colfax continues as an ALA in 2008-09?)

V. OPEN Q and A -45 min

VI. Closing/ Procedural Next Steps