



CENTENNIAL ELEMENTARY: PARENT & COMMUNITY MEETING

March 11, 2013

Schedule

Time	Activity/Description
5:30pm – 6:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative School Committee (CSC) constituency meeting <p>Prior to the design kick-off meeting, the CSC will host an open meeting where all students, parents, staff, and community members are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. Childcare, snacks, and Spanish interpretation will be provided.</p>
6:30pm – 7:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative school design kick-off meeting <p>Session one of four public sessions to discuss and shape the new school design.</p>

Meeting Objectives

- Introduce DPS team who will be helping with this work
- Share information about the process to build out the design for the school
- Provide a high-level overview of the curricular focus
- Opportunity to raise questions
- Discuss timeline for next steps

DPS Team

- Four groups within DPS are collaborating on the success of Centennial and are actively engaged as supports:
 1. New school design
 - Laura Munro, Sharon Jones, and Jenny Arzberger
 2. Oversee aspects of plan development and new school start up/implementation
 - Office of School Reform and Innovation (Brenna Copeland and Bill Kottenstette)
 3. Manage/support Centennial leadership both before and after transition
 - Patti Paredes and entire elementary education support team
 4. Ensure that parent/guardians and community stakeholders are fully engaged in the transition process
 - Communications office as lead

School Design Process



Past:

- Assessment identifies low academic performance and defines need for change
- December 2012 – Board approves redesign plan for Centennial. Identifies principal as leader for improvement
- Principal sets vision and begins community engagement process

Future:

- Design work to write out proposed structure for school including school culture, education program, teaching model, leadership structure, budget, and governance
- Community input on design process
- Formal feedback over four community meetings
- School opens in August, 2013 under new model

School Overview and Curricular Focus

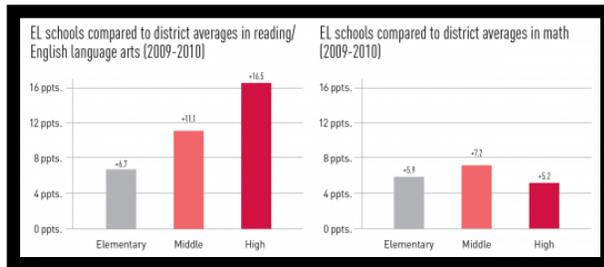
Expeditionary Learning (also called “EL”)

- In Expeditionary Learning schools, learning is...
 - Active, challenging, and meaningful
 - Public and collaborative
- When implemented according to its design, Expeditionary Learning creates a school environment that promotes deep engagement in learning and supports students to achieve at high levels.
- Expeditionary Learning students gain skills critical to college readiness and lifelong success – as well as mastery of subject-area knowledge.

Promoting Academic Success

Expeditionary Learning is a strong fit for Common Core

- Emphasizes project-based learning, better preparing students for assessments based on “performance tasks”
- Teaches students to “read for learning”
 - Focuses on non-fiction
 - Emphasis on reading for evidence
 - Emphasis on expertise through study
- National model aligned to the Common Core. Student work can be benchmarked nationally



School Overview and Curricular Focus

Expeditionary Learning **is...**

- Student-centered
- Engaging and meaningful
- Focused on delivery of high-quality work
- Differentiated
- Rigorous

Expeditionary Learning **is not...**

- Unstructured
- Worksheet driven
- Focused on completing tasks
- One-size-fits-all instruction
- Learning subjects in isolation

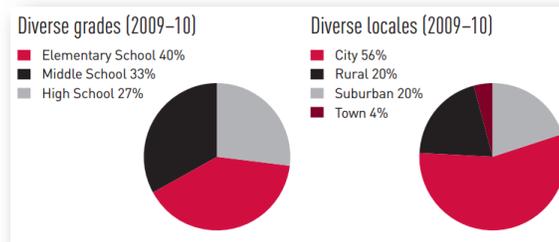
Expeditionary Learning Schools

Denver

- Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning
- Downtown Denver Expeditionary School
- The Odyssey School

National

- 165 schools
- 30 states and DC
- 45,000 students
- 4,000 teachers



Questions?

- What questions or concerns do participants have about Expeditionary Learning?
- What other questions or concerns do participants have about the proposed school design?

Next Steps

- Next session:
 - Deep dive into Expeditionary Learning including a sample expedition and evidence of student work
 - Review plan for a day in the life of a student. How the schedule of a typical day will be the same/different
- Plan for Upcoming sessions:
 - Mission/vision/goal setting for Centennial
 - Professional development for school staff to implement Expeditionary Learning
- Extended opportunities to learn more about EL
 - Access to materials
 - Opportunities to connect with other EL schools
 - Opportunities to meet with parents of students who have attended EL schools