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Board of Education
Littleton Public Schools
5776 South Crocker Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120

Dear Board Members:

As you know, I was quite impressed a year ago with events at last September's Board meetings with regard to academic achievement of Littleton Public Schools students:

- September 14 "Improving Student Achievement" presentation, which included candid summaries of baseline data for 2006.
- September 14 Board review of District Achievement Goal (DAG):
 - 90% of all students will be on or above grade level in reading, math, writing, and science by 2011.
 - The achievement gap in student performance will be cut in half by 2009.
- September 28 Board final approval of LPS Strategic Plan 2006-2011.
- Those events promised substantial improvements in LPS student academic achievement.

During the next three months, however, I expressed some concerns about the LPS 2006-2009 School Improvement Plans (SIPs):

- "Student Learning" SIPs goals have only a portion of one of four content areas of DAG.
- The literal sum of all School Improvement Plan goals is far below the District Achievement Goal. Accomplishment of just the current SIP goals will not accomplish the District Achievement Goal.
- The November reviews by the Learning Support Team, District Accountability Committee, and Board of Education members apparently had little, if any, subsequent changes to the November 1 SIPs that were submitted by each school's principal using the August, 2006 revised SIP template with three Cornerstone Goal charts.
- I stated that effects of the Board-approved strategic plan (core beliefs and focus areas) upon the buildings-implemented school improvement plans (using the districtwide SIP template) are uncertain. A lot depends upon the levels of understanding of, agreement with, and commitment to the SIPs in each of the buildings.
- My critique included concern about the "less is more" concept used for the SIPs.

The CSAP results for 2007 were not encouraging. The attached 8/4/07 tabulation of "LPS CSAP District and Schools Proficiency Indexes" shows only a small increase (from 87.0 in 2006 to 88.0 in 2007) for the total LPS district:

- Proficiency Index is the weighted sum ($1.5*A + 1.0*P + 0.5*PP - 0.5*U$) of the CSAP percentages for each proficiency category.
- Proficiency Index changes were -0.3 Reading, +0.6 Writing, +2.4 Math, and +2.0 Science.

The attached 9/6/07 tabulation of “LPS CSAP District and Schools Proficiency (% P + A) and Changes” shows only a small increase (from 69.9% Proficient plus Advanced in 2006 to 70.8% in 2007) for the total LPS district for the 27 CSAP tests in each year.

- Proficiency (% P + A) changes for the total LPS district were only +0.6% Reading, +0.8% Writing, +0.9% Math, and +2.0% Science (stagnation continues?).
- There were no significant total LPS gains in school-selected SIP subjects, as indicated by the asterisks for the subject category results (institutional inertia?).
- The only significant total school gains were for Ames Elementary School (+13.5%), Goddard Middle School (+7.8%), and Littleton Preparatory Charter School (+8.2%).
- On the other hand, there were significant total school losses for Whitman Elementary School (-10.9%) and Centennial Elementary School (-5.2%).
- There were no significant total changes for any other school.

I believe that improvements are needed with regard to these “understanding of, agreement with, and commitment to” (UAC) concerns:

- Board and superintendent public commitment to DAG results.
- Central administration management of SIP preparation and evaluation.
- Building principals and teachers UAC to DAG, SIPs, and PLCs.
 - Very few schools even mention the DAG on their school websites.
 - Very few schools have posted the SIPs on their school websites.
 - Most schools have been using some PLC concepts for years with little or no effect.
- Use of inaccurate statements and avoidance of “bad news” disclosures.
- Prompt transparency of DAG detailed results for credible public accountability.

When will there be Board of Education public discussion and candid critique of the 2006-07 school year progress with regard to LPS student academic achievement?

Sincerely,



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Attachments

cc: Scott Murphy

Littleton Public Schools
Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP)
District and Schools Proficiency Indexes

	Rank		Total		Reading		Writing		Math		Science	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Total LPS Grades 3-5 (10 tests)			93.7	93.6	90.5	91.2	89.2	89.5	107.2	105.2	76.5	78.0
Ames ES	10	15	92.7	78.5	92.8	78.5	92.0	75.8	102.0	88.3	66.5	57.0
Centennial ES	13	12	79.1	81.0	78.0	78.0	75.5	80.3	91.3	92.3	56.5	58.0
East ES	12	14	79.3	79.5	71.2	66.3	82.2	79.3	100.8	102.0	30.0	52.0
Field ES	16	16	68.7	72.9	66.7	72.7	67.3	69.0	82.5	86.2	37.0	45.5
Franklin ES	4	5	102.1	99.5	96.2	96.2	92.0	88.5	118.5	113.5	100.5	100.5
Highland ES	8	9	95.1	92.2	93.2	91.8	89.2	86.8	106.3	105.2	84.5	70.0
Hopkins ES	17	17	66.5	72.8	61.7	73.2	63.7	67.8	82.7	84.0	40.5	53.0
Lenski ES	3	1	111.6	112.5	106.5	106.0	109.8	111.2	122.8	123.2	98.5	103.5
Littleton Academy CS	1	2	113.2	111.6	107.7	108.0	109.0	104.3	124.2	126.0	109.5	100.5
Littleton Preparatory CS	9	11	94.3	84.4	92.8	84.5	91.0	82.0	102.0	91.0	85.5	71.0
Moody ES	14	13	78.2	79.9	81.8	74.7	75.7	79.3	85.5	88.3	52.5	72.0
Peabody ES	5	4	101.9	102.1	95.0	98.2	96.3	94.0	119.8	121.5	85.5	79.5
Runyon ES	6	6	97.7	95.9	98.0	96.5	90.2	89.7	110.5	106.8	81.0	80.0
Sandburg ES	7	8	97.0	94.0	96.3	89.2	89.3	91.0	112.5	107.7	75.5	76.5
Twain ES	11	7	92.7	94.5	88.5	94.5	87.0	90.2	107.5	106.5	77.5	71.5
Whitman ES	15	10	76.0	90.9	72.2	87.7	69.7	85.7	94.3	103.2	51.5	79.0
Wilder ES	2	3	112.4	111.1	107.8	106.5	107.8	112.3	125.3	118.3	100.5	99.5
Total LPS Grades 6-8 (10 tests)			89.5	85.0	91.3	89.5	92.2	88.2	88.0	81.2	80.0	73.5
Euclid MS	5	5	84.0	80.1	89.8	85.8	87.7	84.3	78.5	73.5	72.0	69.5
Goddard MS	6	6	81.5	71.2	83.2	74.8	85.3	75.7	79.3	67.0	71.5	59.5
Littleton Academy CS	1	1	120.3	118.7	112.2	114.5	119.8	118.8	130.3	127.7	115.5	104.0
Littleton Preparatory CS	2	3	96.4	90.1	93.0	95.5	106.7	103.5	94.3	77.7	82.0	70.5
Newton MS	4	4	90.5	87.1	91.2	90.3	89.3	87.5	92.2	84.5	86.5	84.0
Powell MS	3	2	95.7	96.3	98.7	100.8	96.3	97.5	96.0	95.3	84.0	82.0
Total LPS Grades 9-10 (7 tests)			77.9	81.0	91.0	93.8	85.5	88.5	60.5	64.3	71.0	74.0
Arapahoe HS	1	1	87.6	87.8	99.0	99.5	93.8	94.3	73.5	73.3	80.5	80.5
Heritage HS	2	2	77.1	84.1	90.8	98.5	84.0	90.8	59.5	66.8	71.0	77.0
Littleton HS	3	3	66.2	68.9	81.8	81.3	76.0	78.3	43.8	52.3	60.5	59.0
Total LPS District (27 tests)			88.0	87.0	90.9	91.2	89.4	88.8	88.3	85.9	75.8	73.8
Total Littleton Academy CS (20 tests)			116.7	115.1	109.9	111.3	114.4	111.6	127.3	126.8	112.5	102.3
Total Littleton Preparatory CS (20 tests)			95.4	87.2	92.9	90.0	98.8	92.8	98.2	84.3	83.8	70.8

**Littleton Public Schools
Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP)
District and Schools Proficiency (% P + A) and Changes**

	Rank 2007	Rank 2006	Total		Reading		Writing		Math		Science						
			Chg	2007	2006	Chg	2007	2006	Chg	2007	2006	Chg	2007	2006			
Total LPS Grades 3-5 (10 tests)			0.6	74.5	73.9	0.3	81	80	1.0	68	67	0.3	81	80	1.0	56	55
Ames ES	10	14	13.5	74.5	61.0	11.0	84	73	19.0	70	51 *	9.3	79	69	17.0	47	30
Centennial ES	14	11	-5.2	60.5	65.7	-3.3	69	72	-11.3	50	61 *	-3.3	70	73	2.0	41	39
East ES	13	15	1.8	61.1	59.3	8.0	67	59 *	3.3	58	54	2.7	74	71	-24.0	16	40
Field ES	17	17	-3.2	52.8	56.0	-4.7	59	64	-4.0	47	51 *	-2.0	60	62	0.0	29	29
Franklin ES	5	5	2.0	81.3	79.3	0.7	87	86	5.0	72	67 *	0.3	88	88	2.0	71	69
Highland ES	9	9	4.7	76.7	72.0	1.3	85	84	10.0	69	59 *	0.7	81	80	11.0	62	51
Hopkins ES	16	16	-3.5	54.1	57.6	-9.7	58	68	-1.0	47	48 *	0.0	65	65	-3.0	30	33
Lenski ES	3	2	-2.2	88.2	90.4	-1.3	93	94 *	-1.0	86	87	-3.0	90	93	-6.0	73	79
Littleton Academy CS	1	1	0.2	90.9	90.7	-2.0	94	96	2.0	88	86	-1.3	94	95	6.0	81	75 *
Littleton Preparatory CS	8	12	11.6	76.8	65.2	11.3	84	72	17.3	75	58 *	8.3	77	69	5.0	59	54
Moody ES	12	13	0.0	62.8	62.8	4.7	72	67 *	-3.3	56	59	-0.3	68	68	-3.0	42	45
Peabody ES	4	4	0.5	81.7	81.2	-4.3	84	88	4.7	77	73 *	-0.3	90	91	5.0	63	58
Runyon ES	7	6	-0.3	77.2	77.5	1.7	89	87	-0.3	70	70 *	-4.0	80	84	5.0	57	52
Sandburg ES	6	7	4.0	77.5	73.5	6.0	85	79	0.7	68	67 *	6.0	86	80	2.0	60	58
Twain ES	11	7	-1.3	72.2	73.5	-2.0	80	82	-6.0	63	69 *	0.7	79	79	9.0	55	46
Whitman ES	15	10	-10.9	58.9	69.8	-10.0	64	74	-15.3	47	62 *	-7.0	74	81	-12.0	35	47
Wilder ES	2	3	0.5	90.6	90.1	0.7	94	94	1.0	89	88 *	0.3	94	93	-1.0	74	75
Total LPS Grades 6-8 (10 tests)			3.1	71.5	68.4	1.7	80	79	3.3	71	68	3.3	64	61	6.0	67	61
Euclid MS	5	5	3.6	66.9	63.3	4.0	78	74	3.3	68	64 *	3.0	57	54	5.0	59	54
Goddard MS	6	6	7.8	64.4	56.6	8.3	74	66	7.7	64	56	7.0	57	50 *	9.0	60	51
Littleton Academy CS	1	1	2.1	95.5	93.4	1.0	98	97	2.0	95	93	-0.3	93	93	13.0	98	85 *
Littleton Preparatory CS	2	3	4.8	76.7	71.9	-2.0	80	82	4.0	85	81	10.0	68	58 *	12.0	69	57
Newton MS	4	4	1.3	72.3	71.0	-2.3	79	81 *	2.3	70	68	3.7	67	64	2.0	74	72
Powell MS	2	2	-1.2	76.7	77.9	-2.7	87	89	-1.0	76	77 *	-1.0	70	71	2.0	69	67
Total LPS Grades 9-10 (7 tests)			-1.9	64.4	66.3	-0.5	81	81	-3.5	65	69	-2.0	48	50	-1.0	65	66
Arapahoe HS	1	1	-0.6	71.9	72.4	0.0	88	88	-2.0	74	76	0.5	56	55 *	-1.0	70	71
Heritage HS	2	2	-3.0	65.0	68.0	-2.5	82	85 *	-4.5	66	70 *	-2.5	47	50	-2.0	66	68
Littleton HS	3	3	-1.9	54.6	56.4	2.0	72	70 *	-3.0	55	58	-5.5	37	42	0.0	57	57
Total LPS District (27 tests)			0.9	70.8	69.9	0.6	81	80	0.8	69	68	0.9	66	65	2.0	63	61
Total Littleton Academy CS (20 tests)			1.2	93.2	92.1	-0.5	96	96	2.0	92	90	-0.8	94	94	9.5	90	80
Total Littleton Preparatory CS (20 tests)			8.2	76.8	68.6	4.7	82	77	10.7	80	70	9.2	73	63	8.5	64	56
Total State (27 tests)			0.3	57.0	56.6	-0.5	67	68	0.3	54	54	0.5	53	53	2.7	47	45

Note: Asterisks indicate subject category results (in bold) that include school-selected Student Learning Cornerstone Goal for 2006-2009 School Improvement Plan.