

Highlights of School District 9-R October Board Meetings

October 6, 2010

The results of the CSAP tests, although not as timely as could be desired, at least give an amazing amount of information for teachers and schools. Teachers can check on specific areas of weakness and strength for each of their students. Each school principal can see individual results for each class. The only problem is that the data is last year's by the time it is available for use so each child's new teacher has access to the data when it is six months old – still useful but not as useful as current data would be. On the other hand, the North Western Education Association (NWEA) tests are given three times a year, are useable right away for diagnostic purposes and are therefore much more valuable to teachers and principals in their efforts to help their students. The question of why both are needed wasn't raised at the board meeting but, of course, the CSAP is required by the "No Child Left Behind" law – too bad.

October 19, 2010

The Board voted to make a recommitment to Policy Governance, recognizing that is an on-going process that is always developing and never complete. They also voted to make a recommitment to the 9-R Mission Statement, which was developed with much discussion by the Board and the strategic planning committee and adopted in June 2009. The Mission Statement is as follows:

The Mission of Durango School District 9-R, an innovative educational system committed to excellence, is to ensure each student develops the skills and attributes for lifelong learning and has the ability to compete and contribute in the global community, by guaranteeing equitable educational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment.

Victor Figueroa, assistant superintendent of student achievement, reported that Durango High School 11th grade students exceeded state standards in all content areas on the ACT test administered in April, but did not quite reach the 'stretch' targets set by the district. Obviously, the district is setting higher standards for its students than the state does – something our community should be pleased about.

Ann Flatten, LWV Observer
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