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**TO: Members, Board of Education  
Dr. Constance Collins, Superintendent**

**FROM: Chris Jasculca**

**RE: Committee for Collaborative Communication**

**DATE: April 13, 2010**

During its meeting on January 12, 2010, the Board of Education charged members Jennifer Reddy and Jim Gates, as well as Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, with the task of studying the need for the creation of a committee to evaluate and improve two-way communication between the district and the community.

Reddy, Gates and Jasculca held two meetings to examine this issue. On February 4, 2010, they discussed the potential impact creating a committee would have on two-way communication. They determined there is value in forming a communication committee that would begin meeting in fall 2010, and be comprised of community members, Board members and representatives of the district's administration. They also decided to collaborate on the creation of a charge for the committee that they would review at their next meeting, and present to the Board for discussion on March 23, 2010.

On March 10, 2010, Reddy, Gates and Jasculca met for a second time to review and revise the draft of the committee's charge. This charge included the following:

- Proposed committee name – Committee for Collaborative Communication (C.C.C.)
- An overview outlining the need for the committee
- The purpose of the committee
- The charge of the committee
- The authority and composition of the committee
- An acknowledgement that the committee is subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act

During the Strategic Plan quarterly review on December 15, 2009, the Board reemphasized its interest in the establishment of an Office of Parent Ombudsman, which is Specific End Result (SER) Nine in Strategy One of the Strategic Plan. The creation of this position, which Reddy, Gates and Jasculca recommend renaming Parent Liaison, was discussed during the meeting on March 10. Reddy, Gates and Jasculca believe there is value in having the C.C.C. further study this SER to determine the need and function of the Parent Liaison position within the District community. Since the priorities for the coming year require that communication activities be focused more on finances and student achievement, and since time is required to form and organize the C.C.C., Reddy, Gates and Jasculca propose postponing work related to the creation of this position until 2011-2012.

Reddy, Gates and Jасulca are also seeking input from the Board regarding what relationship the C.C.C. will have with the proposed Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC) and Inquiry Network for Factual Outreach (INFO). Will the C.C.C act as an umbrella committee for LAC and INFO with the later two serving as subcommittees for the former? Will the LAC and INFO be separate, stand alone Board committees with no direct connection to the C.C.C.? Or, will the Board choose not to pursue the creation of LAC and INFO as either standing Board committees or subcommittees of the C.C.C.?

The recommendation that the Committee for Collaborative Communication be established as a standing committee of the District 97 Board of Education, and the proposed charge for this committee, are being presented to the Board this evening for discussion.

Attachments:

- Draft charge for the Committee for Collaborative Communication