

Colorado Springs School District 11
Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Thomas
Division of Business Services
Deputy Superintendent/CFO Glenn E. Gustafson, CPA
Director of Financial Services Laura Hronik, MBA

DAC Budget Subcommittee

Web page: [District Accountability Committee \(DAC\)](#)
Chairman Jan Rennie

Meeting Notes

September 24, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Administration Building Board Room

Members present: Kim Polomka, Jan Rennie, Michael Reyes, Clara Hoellerbauer, Sandra Park, Colleen Pearl, Logan Laszczyk, Ken Pfeil, Amanda Huber, Jenny Courtier, Trish Nixon

Members absent: Pete Lee, Robert Grossman, Donna Ecks, Bruce Cole, Bob Null, Carl Schueler, Jason Rockwood

Ex-officio members present: Glenn Gustafson, Laura Hronik and Anna Monroe

Guests: Dr. Parth Melpakam, Board of Education Director Ms. Julie Ott, Board of Education Director Ms. Nora Brown

Chairman Rennie brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Rennie asked for approval of the agenda. Mr. Reyes made the motion to move forward with the agenda, seconded by Mr. Polomka.

Chairman Rennie then addressed the recommendation to change the membership status of long time member, Colorado Legislator Pete Lee, from community member status to ex-officio legislative status. At the end of the meeting, Chairman Rennie asked the subcommittee to vote, and six members voted to pass the motion.

Chairman Rennie also addressed the topic of whether or not ESP volunteers on the committee should be compensated for their hours served. Glenn Gustafson proceeded to state that discussions with the district's superintendent are under way, and that they are leaning towards paying members. The DAC budget subcommittee currently does not have any ESP members, so once it is confirmed whether or not they will be paid, approximately two ESP staff will be recruited.

The subcommittee then proceeded to discuss charges and membership. Prior to this meeting, it was decided that the third charge would be "consider the effectiveness of programs and recommend cuts if programs are not shown to be effective". The wording was later revised and approved by the committee to be "consider the cost, structure, usage, effectiveness, success, and equity of programs". This received eight committee member approval votes.

Because the third charge is to evaluate programs, the committee discussed several programs to consider. Mr. Gustafson stated that the executive cabinet recommended that the committee look into three programs; IB (International Baccalaureate), GT & GMP (Gifted and Talented and Gifted Magnet Program), and ST Math.

The discussion began with IB. The DACBC began review of this program last fiscal year, however, time did not permit for the completion of the review. Since the financial data has already been pulled last year, Mr. Gustafson stated that he would simply need to update the financials. This data will allow the committee to analyze the cost, equity, and results of the program to determine the effectiveness of it if time permits.

The second program discussed was ST Math. This is an elementary only program, and there was much discussion about it. Multiple committee members spoke about how their schools utilize the program and talked about their own experience with it, such as stating which grade levels participate, how students and staff actually use it, student requirements, and how effective they thought it was for students. From the discussion, it was realized that every classroom in every school uses the program in a different way. The program is more of a tool than actual curriculum for students, and each student's use of the program varies based on their needs.

Summer Enrichment is another program that was discussed. It was stated that research on this program is currently being conducted. Ms. Rennie stated that, from her experience, it seemed like some students who would most benefit

from the program may not have access to it. She also stated that it was revamped this past summer to include changes in the grade levels that participate.

The AVID programs was also briefly discussed. Last fiscal year, the DACBC did extensive research on this program, which includes a large report on the program. The committee would like to make a recommendation on this program to the Board of Education, so the report will be reviewed during one of the upcoming meetings.

The last programs that were discussed were GT and GMP, or Gifted and Talented, Gifted Magnet Program. There are currently four schools that participate in GMP; those include Fremont ES, Sabin MS, Stratton ES, and West MS. One of the issues brought up was the equity of this program. Parents must provide transportation to this program if they want their child to participate, which could inhibit some students from attending if they do not have access to transportation. As for GT, every school is assigned a GT staff member. The FTE of the staff member varies based on enrollment at each school, ranging between 0.2 FTE and 1.0 FTE (1 day per week to 5 days per week). Committee members stated that the program tends to be positive and beneficial to students, but it varies based on the school. The identification process for determining which students qualify for the program was discussed in depth. All second grade students take the COGAT test. If they fall within a certain percentile or above, then they qualify (the group stated that they believed it was the 95 percentile). This test is retaken in sixth grade if the student has not already qualified before. The committee asked that Kristen Balsick, the Facilitator, Gift-Talent K-12, speak at the next meeting about this program. There are some potential issues with the program, such as the lack of consistency in the identification process, the talent pool, the effectiveness of the individual student GT plan, and the equity of the program depending on the school. The committee plans to ask questions to Ms. Balsick when she speaks to get more information about this program.

Mr. Gustafson, after the discussion of the programs ended, was asked to discuss the budget development calendar dates. He proceeded to discuss the current happenings in Fiscal Services, and then discussed the mid-year modification process, timelines, and explained how it works. He also explained the committee's involvement in the process and their role in making recommendations about which requests to pass and which to reject based on available funding and needs.

The motion was made by Mr. Reyes to make the third charge of the committee state, "consider the cost, structure, usage, effectiveness, success, and equity of programs". As stated previously, this received eight committee member approval votes. It was also noted by members that each of these terms that are being considered be defined since some of them could have a variety of definitions based on what is being researched. For example, effectiveness of a program could be measured using a variety of data, and there is not just one measure to determine effectiveness.

Mr. Reyes moved to accept the meeting notes from September 10, 2019. Six confirmed members seconded the motion and the notes were approved. They will be posted to the DAC web page on the District 11 website as well as on the subcommittee's Office 365 page.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building boardroom.