

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 10, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Administration Building Board Room

Members present: Bruce Cole, Bob Null, Kim Polomka, Jan Rennie, Michael Reyes, Carl Schueler, Clara Hoellerbauer, Sandra Park, Jason Rockwood, Colleen Pearl, Logan Laszczyk, Ken Pfeil, Amanda Huber, Jenny Courtier

Members absent: Wendy Chiado, Pete Lee, Trish Nixon, Robert Grossman, Donna Ecks

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

Guests: Dr. Parth Melpakam, DAC Chair Velvet Stepanek, Board of Education Director Ms. Julie Ott,

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

Chairman Rennie then addressed the DAC attendance policy for subcommittees, and the group discussed the enforcement of attendance. The subcommittee has a couple of members from prior years that have sporadic attendance, and the group discussed what action to take relating to members with poor attendance rates to ensure that their seats are properly filled by active, punctual individuals.

Introductions were made around the room as there are several new members this year. This allowed the group to get reacquainted. Once introductions were concluded, DAC Chair Velvet Stepanek gave a review of recent DAC activity and discussed the DAC and SAC roles within District 11 and how they pertain to the DAC budget subcommittee. Mr. Gustafson added to this conversation by enlightening the subcommittee about their specific function, goals, and responsibilities. It was mentioned that the subcommittee reports their findings and proposals directly to the Board of Education, however, Mr. Null brought up the DAC policy that states that the subcommittees report to the DAC, and then to the Board of Education.

Mr. Gustafson provided a budget review to the subcommittee which addressed the basics of how District 11 receives its funding, as well as the breakout of what percent of total budget each fund makes up. He spoke about pupil count in relation to the budget, and addressed how the majority of the General Fund is based on the pupil count of the district. It was also brought up that student enrollment is down, but the count is down much less than the projection. Mr. Rockwood asked about the reasons why pupil count is decreasing, which Mr. Gustafson and Chairman Rennie addressed.

There was discussion about the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR). The subcommittee was reminded that District 11 is not "de-TABOR-ed". Mr. Gustafson mentioned that the Board of Education was propositioned to "de-TABOR", however, the motion did not pass. As the District is awarded state and local grants, D11 moves closer to the cap. He noted specific grants that have been received or that the district will be receiving that may affect TABOR due to the potential for these grants to bring funding very close to the TABOR limit.

The subcommittee moved on to crafting proposed charges for this year, and many topics were discussed. Chairman Rennie led the discussion, and the two standing charges were briefly reviewed, these involving final budget development for the current year and developing next year's budget. After this review, Ms. Rennie asked for any other suggestions to bring forth. Ideas brought forth included:

- Consider all fees charged for activities and classes
- What school supplies are being provided for K-8 students
- Consider incentive for hard to fill positions. Some needs expressed were for SPED EAs and Special Providers at the schools.
- Consider adequate funding to meet safety concerns at all schools
- Inform committee of how stipends are determined
- Provide funds for better recruiting of staff
- Provide more funds to address Achievement
- Consider the effectiveness of all programs and cut if not shown to be effective
- Evaluate salary structure of all ESP
- Providing funds for breakfast items for schools that do not have a breakfast program. Even in schools with low FRL students are coming to school hungry and in some cases the teachers are providing the food.

The subcommittee was not able to determine which of the charges to address during the meeting due to the plethora of topics, however, a vote will occur soon to make the determination of which charges to focus on this fiscal year.

Mr. Reyes moved to accept the meeting notes from May 14, 2019. Five 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 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building boardroom.