

Colorado Springs School District 11
Superintendent Dr. Nicholas M. Gledich
Division of Business Services
Deputy Superintendent/CFO Glenn E. Gustafson, CPA
Director of Budget and Planning Kenneth L. Wieck, CPA

DAC Budget Subcommittee

Web page: [District Accountability Committee \(DAC\)](#)
Chairman John Roebke

Meeting Notes

March 6, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Members present: Deborah Boisselle, Bruce Cole, Lara Crowell, Jamie Cushenbery, Dan Fox, AJ LaFrancis, Bob Miner, Trish Nixon, Ken Pfeil, Jan Rennie, Michael Reyes, John Roebke, Carl Schueler, and Elisa Villarruel

Members absent: Andrew Hug, Tom Hunt, Pete Lee, Bob Null, Kim Polomka, and Toni Seberger

Ex-officio members present: Ken Wieck, Glenn Gustafson, Laura Hronik, and Becky Moore

Guests: DAC chairman Dr. Parth Melpakam, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Information Officer John McCarron, and Board of Education Directors Nora Brown and Julie Ott

Chairman Roebke brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members were welcomed and Mr. McCarron was introduced to the group. Mr. Roebke called for approval of the meeting notes from February 27, 2018. Mr. Miner made a motion to approve the meeting notes and Ms. Rennie seconded the motion. The notes will be posted to the DAC web page and the subcommittee's Office 365 page.

Mr. McCarron was invited to address the subcommittee regarding budget modification request TS-8 High School Student and Teacher Laptop Purchase. Mr. McCarron addressed each question that had been provided to him prior to the subcommittee's meeting. He listened and answered each question posed at the meeting as well as addressing concerns or comments from the group. Mr. McCarron also passed around a "sample laptop" that the District would consider purchasing if the request is approved by the Board. Concerns, comments or questions addressed included:

- Tablets vs. laptops – school choice
- Software loaded by District staff – faster, cheaper, customized for D11 – outside of the basic Microsoft Office suite
- Student laptop distribution would require a plan, which would include a parent and student orientation and training
- Devices should be more engaging for students and reduce or eliminate textbooks
- Students would not need to have internet access at home – exploring the many options available to engage students who do not have internet/Wi-Fi at home
- No cost to students or parents (optional insurance may be purchased)
- Reserve of laptops at each school for loan – device repair, device stolen or broken, etc.
- Repair and replacement plans
- Exploring option for parents of students outside the program to purchase same laptop at the District price
- The five-year plan gives assurance that the District is "all in" for the future
- The plan is to make the yearly purchase of devices after the initial five-year request a recurring funding source
- Student and teacher input as to what type of laptop is ultimately purchased
- During the first year when the teachers have the devices, have student group test the product and plan, could help work out kinks in the program before full implementation
- Continuity in the purchase of the devices so that there is full collaboration between teachers, teachers with students, and students with students
- Teacher support for this plan and uniformity
- Student recruiting could be a positive result of plan
- Similar pilot plan at middle schools has had some push-back from parents regarding using D11 devices if already have their own at home – loses the continuity and collaboration
- Reduces technology equipment disposal costs because students own and keep the devices

- A big concern was not providing for both freshmen and sophomores at the same time – perhaps look at class requirements rather than grade level (ninth graders and tenth graders in the same Spanish I class, for example, ninth graders and teacher have the laptops but the tenth graders do not).
- Another big concern was the workload on a school’s library technology technicians and educators. These positions are currently very busy and the added responsibility of these devices could prove too much. Mr. McCarron indicated that Learning Resource Services is already addressing this concern. Also investigating the use of a “student-led help desk” where students would get elective credit as a “technology technician.”
- The most pressing concern centered on professional development for teachers in not only use of the devices but the programs on them and teaching with them. The budget request does not outline any professional development plan or funding. It was noted that at this time that a plan is being developed but would use existing professional development days granted with no additional days. Concern was expressed that further professional development for teachers should not come from a school’s budget but be provided by the District. The amount of teacher training that is anticipated by review of this request would be extensive, not only for device familiarity but for new teaching methods.
- All schools will be technologically upgraded to handle this program
- A similar plan at Harrison School District 2 was discussed as well as how a similar plan is fairing at two District 11 middle schools
- Mr. McCarron was invited to address the DAC and he was willing to do so

After Mr. McCarron’s discussion with the group, the subcommittee turned to reviewing and voting on all remaining budget modification requests.

Catalog #	Description	\$ Amount	R/N	Voting Results				Comment or Concern
				Yea	Nay	Neutral	Abstain	
SUP-1	Website accessibility software	27,000	R	11			3	None
SUP-2	Enrollment incentive	150,000	N	3	8	3		Would like to see a more equitable incentive to all schools to attract students.
EXEC-1	Renew <i>Naviance</i> platform	104,374	R	13			1	None
EXEC-2	Career fair and public collaboration support	40,000	N	9		2	3	None
EXEC-3	School supplies	149,000	N	12	1		1	Good marketing tool.
EXEC-4	International Baccalaureate testing fee support	65,000	R	13		1		Glad to see this item is recurring.
BS-1	Charter liaison hours increase	28,000	R	12		1	1	None
BS-2	2017 mill levy override administrative support	58,000	R	8		4	2	None
BS-3	Additional work order funding	150,000	N	14				None
BS-4	General William Mitchell High School roof replacement	370,000	N	14				Overdue
PSS-1	Electronic time sheet maintenance	34,000	R	13		1		None
PSS-2	Additional ESP Council funding	25,000	R	14				None

PSS-3	Induction Coach Coordinator	66,880	R	4	5	4	1	Unsure of necessity
PSS-5	Affirmative Action compliance	52,300	R	7	1	5	1	Understand necessity
PSS-6	Increase guest staff compensation	551,435	R	13		1		None
PSS-7	Guest staff training and orientation	42,500	R	14				None
TS-1	Analog security camera replacement	200,000	N	14				None
TS-2	School Resource Officer salary increase through city	31,000	R	14				None
TS-3	PeopleSoft maintenance contract	13,000	R	14				None
TS-5	National School Board Association renewal increase	5,520	R	9		5		Not sure of the value
TS-6	Microsoft and Power BI annual agreement	23,707	R	14				None
TS-7	E-rate funding-40 percent of the cost of upgrades to classroom network switches and wireless access points with 60 percent paid for from E-rate funds	786,000	N	13			1	None
TS-8	Five-year laptop roll out to high school teachers / students	3,714,900	N	14				To approve this request, the subcommittee recommends funding teacher training as a high priority. Lingering concerns regarding the full amount funded right away for a five-year roll out.

The group was reminded that there is a board of education work session scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2018 to discuss the preliminary budget development assumptions. The budget subcommittee is expected attend with its recommendations to present to the Board. The schedule for the preliminary budget development assumptions with the Board is non-action on March 14, work session on March 21, and action on April 11. The written report must be submitted to the Board agenda by noon on Friday, March 16, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building boardroom.