

Colorado Springs School District 11
Superintendent 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 25, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Members present: Bruce Cole, Donna Ecks, Clara Hoellerbauer Trish Nixon, Bob Null, Sandra Park, Kim Polomka, Jan Rennie, Michael Reyes, Carl Schueler, Toni Seberger, and Elisa Villarruel

Members absent: Lara Crowell, Tom Hunt, AJ LaFrancis, Pete Lee, and John Shewfelt

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

Guests: DAC Chairman Dr. Parth Melpakam and Board of Education Director Ms. Julie Ott

Chairman Rennie brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Rennie announced deviation from the agenda in order to let Mr. Gustafson present first and then proceed with the rest of the agenda.

Mr. Gustafson addressed the subcommittee regarding issues facing the District for the coming year. These included:

- Student enrollment is down further than projection
- Cost of living has risen significantly within the District and the city which is driving people out
- Budget request documentation will be a priority
- Fewer budget modification requests are expected due to the drop in enrollment
- Changes coming with our new superintendent, including a new district strategic plan

Ms. Hronik's budget update included noting that the fund balance appears to be coming in close to projections, adjustments are being made to capital projects, and reinforced Mr. Gustafson's issue that enrollment numbers are down which could result in little new money coming in.

The group also reviewed the budget process in light of how this subcommittee's work fits into the process. Different areas of the year are task-specific and these were reviewed in brief.

Introductions were made around the room as there are several new members this year and allowed the group to get reacquainted. Dr. Melpakam gave a review of recent DAC activity as there have been two meetings of this committee already. He noted the Mr. Thomas addressed the committee and that FY17-18 test results, and school performance frameworks have been discussed. The strategic plan and early warning system are also DAC topics.

The subcommittee moved on to crafting a proposed charge for this year. The two standing charges were briefly reviewed, these involving final budget development for the current year and developing next year's budget. The evenings handout included suggested charges for the subcommittee to consider and Ms. Rennie asked for any other suggestions to bring forth. Ideas brought forth included:

- AVID, IB AP, CU Succeed and CU Gold programs review
 - What are these programs and are they implemented per program requirements?
 - What is the expected results from implementing these programs?
 - Are the expectations being met?
 - These programs are expensive, what is the District's return?
 - Did we gain enough return from each program to continue them?
 - Is paying for testing up front a good idea? Do we need an alternative incentive?

- School staffing equity
 - How are these formulas developed?
 - What format is used?
 - Is there a committee for this?
 - Are the schools following staffing formulas?
 - What happens when schools are over- or under-staffed?
 - How and why are there deviations to the staffing formulas?
 - Where do TOSAs fit in to the formula?
 - Why are there some positions missing? How/where do they fit into the formula?
- Study of the general fund contingency account
 - Are these budget transfer requests for true emergencies?
 - Is the money spent as intended?
 - What happens if funding is not fully spent or not spent as intended?

After some debate, the committee voted unanimously each for the following charges:

1. Review effectiveness of special programs AVID, IB, AP, CU Succeed, and CU Gold
2. Review the District's staffing formulas development and implementation

The subcommittee also discussed questions to use while studying each charge:

- How might this charge help capture and retain students?
- How might this charge affect marketing the District?
- How might this charge keep the District competitive with surrounding school districts?
- What do we expect to gain?
- What did we gain?
- Did we gain enough to continue as usual?
- What do parents expect?
- Marketing – must we up our game?

Other topics of discussion included:

- The subcommittee would like to see the results of demographic study of the District
- District's past unfavorable rumors, reputation, and community perceptions are still in place
- Strides in special education need to be marketed – potential to bring in students
- District's compensation packages competitiveness
- MLO Oversight Committee and its role

Mr. Reyes moved to accept the meeting notes from May 8, 2018. Mr. Polomka 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 subcommittee was unsure of agenda topics for October 9 and whether or not to have a meeting. Confirmation for October 9, 2018 meeting will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building boardroom.