



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 Enid Ruiz-Mattei

Meeting Notes

September 27, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Members present: Deborah Boisselle, Jamie Cushenbery, Marilyn Eggleston, Gwen Giddens, Parth Melpakam, Bob Miner, Kim Polomka, Jan Rennie, John Roebke, Enid Ruiz-Mattei, Carl Schueler, Toni Seberger and Jared Welch

Members absent: Lara Crowell, Pete Lee, and Trish Nixon

Ex-officio members present: Nora Brown, Laura Hronik, Ken Wieck and Becky Moore

Member candidates present: Parent Andrew Hug and community member Bob Null

The meeting came to order at 6:05 p.m. Chairman Ruiz-Mattei welcomed all and thanked everyone for coming this evening. A motion was made by Ms. Eggleston and seconded by Mr. Miner to approve the meeting notes from May 10, 2016. The meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Melpakam was called upon to present an update of the latest DAC matters. The DAC restructure went before the Board of Education last spring and was approved. The restructuring plan created 27 seats open on the "new" DAC. Because of the enthusiastic interest in the restructured committee, more than 27 members are currently serving on the DAC as the committee begins this year. Membership approval will go to the Board of Education as non-action on October 12, 2016. Also noted was there are two new subcommittees of the DAC, a membership subcommittee, and a School Accountability Committee (SAC) training and support subcommittee as well as the current standing subcommittees. A SAC training is scheduled for October 13 at Tesla. Finally, Glenn Gustafson made a presentation to the DAC regarding the District's bond and mill levy override ballot questions for the upcoming election.

Ms. Brown offered some detail regarding the restructured DAC:

- Functions more closely aligned with state statute
- SACs will meet quarterly but focus will be better communication between the schools and central administration
- SACs will have more extensive training
- Anticipate better timing with subcommittees of the DAC for reports, presentations, etc.

Mr. Wieck addressed the group about the current status of this year's budget and anything anticipated with the 2017-18 budget. The subcommittee was told that enrollment numbers have the District up at about 280 students. This is almost 600 students above projection. The projection indicated the District would be down by 303 students this year. The charter schools are still struggling with their enrollments.

Good news for the District is that the fund balance seems to be coming in higher than projected but no solid numbers will be available until the audit is complete. The District's independent financial audit is currently underway. Mr. Wieck also discussed special ownership taxes are looking to be up and the assessed values, which were projected conservatively, may also be up. The state budget is brighter than last year but there is no guarantee that the state will release any new funding to the school districts. The state did not do so last year.

Mr. Wieck also talked about the current mill rates, which are certified in December of each year. Should this mill levy override be approved by the voters in November, the money would be phased in with no sunset. An inflation factor is also built in after the first year. Should the bond pass the election, it will be put into place in two phases to ease any impact on tax payers.

The group discussed what campaign methods are being used as well as Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) rules for district staff. The District 11 Foundation has taken on the role of “campaign manager” and they are employing signs, canvassing, and a phone bank at this time. For more on what they may be doing, the subcommittee was directed to the Foundation’s web page on the District web site. Ms. Brown noted that 66 school districts across Colorado are going to their voters this November for bond or mill levy dollars to help with school funding.

Ms. Ruiz-Mattei reviewed the proposed calendar for this year’s meetings and how to arrange the topics to be reviewed, especially with respect to the possible passage of bond and mill levy override ballot questions. Ms. Cushenbery suggested that before the end of the first semester it would be good to review available items of charge number three, “Receive reports on optimization of utilization and capital replacement plans as well as budgetary impact of programs related to concurrent enrollment, career pathways, Early College High School, subsidization of International Baccalaureate and advanced placement fees, and summer enrichment.” The subcommittee decided that summer enrichment might be the topic to begin with, looking for attendance rates and attendee numbers for each session, compare data to last summer’s first year of summer enrichment.

Also suggested by Ms. Cushenbery was to have the principals meet again this year with the subcommittee and present their views on questions regarding the “state of the schools” in the District. This would relate to charge #1 (b) “We would like to invite input from principals, and generally increase DAC and school based input (including from SACs).” This review process has been set aside the past few years and the group decided they would like to hear from the principals again. Questions will be developed at the next meeting after the subcommittee receives the last questions that were posed to the principals for reference via email.

The members also asked for an update on the Adams/Hunt project for such topics as the remodeling and moving budget, capacity and enrollment at the school improvements. Mr. Wieck indicated that at this time the project’s budget is below projection and that the enrollment is up by about 61 students.

The subcommittee may want to address TABOR at a later date as well as the topic of after school activities.

A final discussion took place regarding board policy for the DAC. A link to the policy and regulations will be sent to the members. Ms. Brown also has a link to share with the committee from Greater Colorado Education and the Colorado Association of School Boards that includes a calculator for the state budget.

Agenda items for the next meeting on October 11 will be development of questions for the principals to discuss at the November 29 meeting and review of 2016 summer enrichment data, if available.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the District 11 board room.