



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

December 13, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Members present: Deborah Boisselle, Jamie Cushenbery, Marilyn Eggleston, Gwen Giddens, Parth Melpakam, Trish Nixon, Kim Polomka, Jan Rennie, John Roebke, Carl Schueler, and Jared Welch

Members absent: Lara Crowell, Pete Lee, Bob Miner, Enid Ruiz-Mattei, and Toni Seberger

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

The meeting came to order at 6:05 p.m. Chairman Ruiz-Mattei was unable to attend this evening so co-chairman John Roebke welcomed all and thanked everyone for coming this evening. Ms. Boisselle made a motion to accept the meeting notes, which was seconded by Mr. Polomka. The meeting notes were unanimously approved and will be posted to the DAC web page.

Mr. Schueler and Mr. Melpakam told the subcommittee that there was no update for the DAC as they have not met since the last meeting of this subcommittee and will not meet in December. Mr. Schueler reminded the group that there are upcoming trainings in February.

Ken Wieck discussed the current status of budget development stating there is no change in status since the November 29 meeting. He stated that the final numbers are still not in from the state but that he is moving forward with what he has estimated for now. Mr. Wieck reminded the subcommittee that the mid-year budget modifications will go before the Board of Education as non-action on January 11, 2017. The subcommittee must have their report as part of the agenda item on that date. The report needs to be complete and turned in to Budget and Planning no later than noon on January 6, 2017.

Mr. Roebke moved on to discussion of the three budget modification requests and the responses to the subcommittee's questions to the administration regarding the requests. Discussion included:

PSS-2 Increase in school-based teacher substitute budget to allow all substitutes working in long-term positions to receive the long-term sub rate.

- Is there a trend over the years as to the number of long-term substitutes needed?
- Most common and hard to fill long-term substitutes are for math and science.

PSS-3 Increase funding due to the new minimum wage law, which will be in effect January 1, 2017.

- An operating transfer to Food Services will cover most of the employees affected.
- Compression will need to be addressed, discussion is planned in the near future to address this issue.

IT-1 Twenty-year lease for dark fiber optics with Colorado Springs Utilities for the second half of the contract.

- The subcommittee still questions as to whether or not the District could get a better deal with someone else as provider – current contract under re-negotiation.
- The subcommittee still questions why Technology Services has not foreseen this funding need before now and planned for it before the first half of the lease was set to expire.
- The subcommittee still questions why this is a mid-year budget modification instead of a budget modification request for the 2017-18 budget since the lease expires in August 2017. Is this a premature request?

The subcommittee conducted a yes, no, or neutral vote on each request. The results of the votes for, neutral, or against recommendation will be included in their report to the Board of Education regarding the 2016-17 mid-year budget modifications. The vote tally follows:

Budget Modification Request	Yes	No	Neutral
PSS-1 Increase substitute teacher pay	11	0	0
PSS-3 Fund minimum wage increase	11	0	0
IT-1 Fund dark fiber lease with Colorado Springs Utilities for another 10 years	1	6	4

Discussion turned to the list general fund contingency transfers. The group recognized some of these funded requests as being former budget modification requests or issues that had come before the subcommittee in the past. At a future meeting, the subcommittee asked for Glenn Gustafson to come in and give a little more background about the requests.

Finally, Mr. Polomka asked Ms. Brown about the analysis of the bond/mill levy override election failure and any future election questions. Ms. Brown indicated that the Board of Education will be meeting for next steps. The Board is still reviewing the analysis from the election. Several points were made as follows:

- It may be best to run next year while the District has momentum going, the questions did not fail by many votes.
- The percentages of how each group and precinct voted could not be broken out.
- Campaign weaknesses included
 - Short time to get the information out due to mail-in ballots.
 - Ballot language was not clear enough.
 - Decision to put the questions on the ballot should have been made sooner.
 - Fund raising efforts were weak.
 - Signage was poor and too little.
 - Target audiences may not have been the best choices, better target messaging.
 - Target number of residences to contact was 15,000 and only 7,000 were contacted.
 - Not enough television advertising.
 - Too much reliance on social media for advertising – did not reach much of the retired population.
- Public relations companies have come forward to offer free help if the District runs again.
- Hire canvassers or offer free lunch for volunteer canvassers.
- Other districts had their word out much sooner than District 11.
- People should have been made aware that the state budget and other revenue sources were not going to improve.
- Subcommittee members stated that they heard from voters that
 - They did not know about it.
 - They did not fully understand what they would be getting with the bond, not specific – you can see a new gymnasium but you can't see plumbing and wiring.
- Ms. Cushenbery suggested the following from her experience and observations of other successful school districts:
 - Public relations should inform the public of district performance indicators. For example:
 - Drop out and graduation rates.
 - Successful special programs and offerings.
 - Give the taxpayers a reason to support the tax increases, give them a real outcome, letting them know what the District is doing as an educational agency.

Finally, the topics for the January 10, 2017 meeting will be report presentation preparation for the Board, a background presentation of the general fund contingency requests and possible follow up on the AP/IB exams and summer enrichment budget modifications from last year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the District 11 board room.