



Mill Levy Override Oversight Committee

MEETING NOTES

February 21, 2023

Admin Building Boardroom

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Members present: Nicole Uebel, Lyman Kaiser, Jan Rennie, Christine Roehler

Members absent: Dierdre Aden-Smith, Cynthia Bernard, Ayla Bertetto, Jerry Carney, Erin Hobson, Chip MacEnulty, AJ Mangum, Joseph Shelton, Jay Smith, Vickie Tonkins, Dan Yaciuk (No Virtual Attendees tonight)

Guests attending: Sarah Carlson, Director of Early Childhood

Ex-Officio members present: Kris Odom, Kim Gilstrap

*Note: (V) = Virtual Attendee

Preliminary Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions:
Chairman Uebel called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.
2. Approval of the Agenda:
Tonight's agenda was unanimously approved.
3. Approval of the Meeting Notes (11/15/22):
The meeting notes from January 17, 2023, were unanimously approved.

Action Item:

There are no action items at this time.

Non-Action Items:

4. Guest, Sarah Carlson, Director of Early Childhood, to discuss Universal Pre-K:
Ms. Carlson provided a brief history of the growth in the district Preschool Program, with 480 additional seats and 48 staff in the last 5 years. Currently, the program offering is a half-day class that runs Monday through Thursday. Students, ages 3 to 5 years, attend either a morning or afternoon class, with a maximum of 16 students per classroom. Each classroom is led by a licensed educator and two para-professionals, which accommodates those students with IEP's and still adequately and equally supportive of all students in the classroom. Ms. Carlson stated that the D11 Preschool Program operates on the high standards, as set by CDE.

The upcoming federal funding changes will potentially bring some challenges, with classroom sizes and may create a problem for the 3-year-old students having a guaranteed seat, as they do now. The new standards will qualify fewer students, in this age group, and the goal is to gain enough funding to place those students, who may fall outside the qualifying parameters, in a seat and not on a waiting list, and to provide that seat at no cost to the families. The challenge in planning for next year's preschool classes is not knowing what enrollment will look like, the uncertainty of the state funding full-day or half-day classes, and how to plan for staffing with such instability. (21:05 to 1:05 – 40min)

5. Discuss Amendment Proposals:
Mrs. Odom introduced four plan amendments, currently being processed. They will be introduced to the committee, for voting, at the March 21st meeting. They are:

- a. 2017 MLO PIP 1: Comprehensive Student Support Model; the PIP owner has expressed, on several occasions, that there is not enough funding in their supplies allocation. Year after year, the items covered under this portion of that budget, such as Professional Development, surveys and student assessments, besides normal supplies to support the FTE under that PIP. With a current allocation of \$80,000, it was estimated that another approximately \$20,000 would be sufficient.
- b. Universal Pre-K (if approved will add a new PIP/Program to the 2017 MLO): The amendment proposes that \$600,000 is funded by the MLO, to support the 3-year-old students that do not qualify for a 'state-funded seat'. Rather than being told "No, you fall outside the qualifying parameters, making you ineligible for a (fully funded) seat" they are given the option to work with our enrollment specialists, to be enrolled, under district and MLO funding.
- c. The Mitchell Promise will provide college tuition for a 2-year associate degree, for qualifying Mitchell High School graduates, enrolled in a 2-year post-graduate college program, at Pikes Peak State College (PPSC). D11 has partnered with PPSC, an agreement under which each, D11 and PPSC will cover 50% of tuition (up to \$200,000). Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) does not allow for K12 general fund to be used to pay for higher education scholarships. In response to this law, CRS was amended to allow mill levy funds to be used for this use.
- d. The contingency fund, PIP 2017-11, would be reassigned to accommodate recurring funds, based on the inflationary adjustment, board-approved in December and effective in January, which resulted in a 3.5% raise, realizing a recurring \$1.6M additional MLO funding, less the funds to be utilized on the previous 3 items (\$20K to PIP 2017-1, \$600,000 for UPK and \$200,000 for Mitchell Promise).

6. Follow-up to Previous Topics of Discussion:

- a. Mrs. Odom explained that, based on the financial audit, the MLO currently holds \$3.9M in funds, to be allocated as one-time funding, as mentioned in the last meeting. The Curriculum & Instruction Department has presented the greatest need for additional funding. To define that need, they are to submit to Mrs. Odom, a replacement plan. To keep those funds from rolling back into the contingency account, they will go to the district's general fund account, but with a special project code, to allow for tracking as MLO funds. The Superintendent supports this proposed idea, and that same support is being sought from the MLOOC. The hope is to commit \$500K to Curriculum & Instruction on a recurring basis, if the budget allows for it, going forward. (1:35)

*** Jan Rennie kindly broke in to suggest that the meetings revert to the same schedule, as from years ago, when she first joined, which would be a 2-hour meeting time (6:00 to 8:00), rather than the 1.5 hours, now. This would allow extra time to cover all topics of discussion at hand, as well as question and answer time. If all is sufficiently covered in less time than 2 hours, agree to call it early. Everyone seemed to be in support of the idea. The next agenda will reflect the updated meeting time. ***

- b. There are currently 2 open Charter School transfer applications, one of which is from James Irwin Charter and has been approved by the Board. That application is currently under review with the contract attorney and will go back to the Board, in March, ideally. The second transfer application is from CILA (Colorado International Language Academy), primarily a language arts program school, with approximately 300 students. This application is currently under evaluation, with Scott Mendelsberg, Area Superintendent and Charter Schools PIP owner.

- c. To make the committee aware, Kris advised that ESCO (an energy performance contract) will be starting their 1st phase of surveying district trends with electricity, gas, water, etc. In approximately 10 months, they will present their findings and present a plan that should save the district a decent amount of money on utilities alone.
- d. Previously, the committee talked about “Bright Spot” and a location rotation schedule. Chairwoman Uebel spoke up and wanted to suggest that next month’s meeting be held at one of the high schools, asking for input. All agreed that we should possibly start with RJWAC and 2nd choice would be Palmer, to tour the most recently completed projects of the Capital Projects program. Kris will check on that and let Kim know and advised that if anyone has suggestions for different meeting locations, to let Kim know, as well.

7. Chief Operations Officer – District Update:

Mrs. Odom announced she had no District updates for this evening.

8. Review Phase-In & Income Statements (November, December, January):

Mrs. Odom indicated that she has reached out to the PIP owners, requesting that they submit a spending plan to identify needs and explain any unspent funds. The Phase-In reflects no changes and the \$3.9 million has already been discussed.

9. Status – Annual Summary:

This was not discussed at tonight’s meeting due to time constraints.

10. PIP Review Inventory:

This was not addressed, as there were no changes.

11. Update on KPIs/Process:

Chairwoman Uebel stated that Ken Davis had created a good workable format, for gathering useful information from the PIP owners. She is in hopes that he will attend next time to assist with the presentation and explanation of that form.

12. Suggested Guests and Topics for Next Meeting Agenda:

Chair Uebel suggested that it would be helpful to have the committee members return next month, ready to report on tonight’s topics, with final thoughts, decisions, or questions. The discussion then turned back to the different meeting locations and how to get the community more involved. Nicole said she will make a reminder note for herself, to attend the March 8th Board meeting and announce where we will be meeting and invite any interested parties. She then touched on the Governance Plan changes, regarding attendance, which just need to be written and submitted to the Board. We would also like to invite Ken Davis to join us at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting ended at 7:59 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

6:00 pm

D11 Admin. Building Boardroom/Webex