



Mill Levy Override Oversight Committee

MEETING NOTES

November 16, 2021 6:00-7:30 p.m. @ WebEx & Admin Boardroom (Hybrid)

Members present: Dierdre Aden-Smith, Kenneth Davis, Jacqueline Dowds-Bennett (V), Erin Hobson, Lyman Kaiser, AJ Mangum (V), Jan Rennie (V), Jay Smith (V), Nicole Uebel (V), Daniel Yaciuk (V)

Members absent: Cynthia Bernard, Ayla Bertetto, Jerry Carney, Chip MacEnulty, Karen Petersilie, Elaina Richardson, Joseph Shelton, Vickie Tonkins

Guests attending: Parth Melpakam – BOE and MLOOC Treasurer
Julie Ott (V) – Vice President of BOE

Ex-Officio members present: Brian Cortez and Kim Gilstrap *Note: (V) = Virtual Attendee

Preliminary Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions:
Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. He recognized the newest committee member, Nicole Uebel. Chairman Davis introduced himself and cued the other members, in attendance, to do the same. Ms. Uebel then introduced herself as a 7-year Colorado Springs resident, with 2 children having graduated from 2 different high schools, here, and stated that she has never been a member of a committee.
2. Approval of the Agenda:
Chairman Davis called for a motion to approve tonight's agenda. With a motion from Ms. Dowds-Bennett and a second by Ms. Hobson, the committee unanimously approved tonight's agenda, with no voiced changes or exceptions.
3. Approval of the Meeting Notes (10/19/21):
Chairman Davis called for a motion to approve the meeting notes from October 19, 2021. With a motion and a second, the committee approved those notes, with the correction to the number of attendees, as noted on the first page.

Action Items:

Approval of Charter Schools Amendment - PIPs 2000-21A and 2000-21B:

Mr. Cortez briefly recaptured the most recent history of findings, involving the 2000 MLO Charter Schools' PIPs 21A & 21B. He explained that PIP 2000-21B has historically been reported separately, to reflect funds available for growth in charter school enrollment, inadvertently creating the appearance of being over-budgeted. PIP 2000-21A has reflected the budgeted share to charter schools, based on enrollment, therein. Mr. Cortez is proposing an amendment to PIP 2000-21A and 2000-21B, combining them back into one, as PIP 2000-21. He reviewed the allocated dollar amounts and what that would look like, going forward. Mr. Kaiser asked for clarification, to which Mr. Cortez provided more detail. This detail, summarizing the proposed amendment, is that D11 will relinquish the funds (\$500K) allotted to it, due to its loss of student enrollment, as created by charter school student enrollment. Those funds will be included in the single MLO funding, budgeted amount, as reflected under PIP 2000-21. This proposed amendment will better allow for the funding/support of growth in charter schools' student enrollment, within School District 11.

As that discussion continued and led to additional questions of the specific dollar amounts, Chairman Davis intervened and reminded the committee that if there were ever any questions of funding and expenditures, they could request a detailed report from the acting CFO of D11, which would then be addressed in a future meeting. Without a Point of Order, Chairman Davis exercised his authority to end the discussion and requested the committee to entertain motions for or against the plan amendment, as submitted. One motion of objection (primarily to the amendment verbiage) was expressed and no second motion was heard. Therefore, the motion of objection was dismissed. An official vote count was taken from those gesturing a raised hand, which resulted in 2 objections and 6 approvals, promptly ending the discussion.

Non-Action Items:

4. Monthly Financial Statement Update – September 2021:

Mr. Cortez stated that the property tax payments are trickling in and will pick up as the school year progresses. He made special recognition of PIP 2000-5A, for an increase in spending, as compared to prior months. Although spending is still under budget, for this PIP, it is improving. Mr. Cortez went on to explain that the lack of expenditures, currently, may be a result of “one-time expenses” and/or encumbered expenses, circumstantial to each respective PIP. He assured the committee that each PIP is being monitored.

Mr. Cortez informed the committee that he has requested Board of Education approval, to have a vote re-count performed on the latest bond election, which was not passed, failing by only 9 votes. El Paso County was unable to provide a cost estimate when asked. D11 has budgeted \$150,000 for this expense, ensuring that every vote has been included, on behalf of our community and D11 employees, who dedicated their time and hard work toward the success of the bond election.

5. Review of the MLO Allocation Phase-in Report:

Mr. Cortez expressed no changes to the Phase-In report and no questions were posed, by the committee.

6. PIP Inventory Review:

Ms. Gilstrap reported that she had updated the PIP Inventory review, to be current as of last month, with Dr. Khaliqi’s visit and presentation on PIP 2000-20. She stated no changes made to the (similar) spreadsheet, which she and Chairman Davis had worked on (presented in October), other than the potential update to PIPs 2000-21A & 21B, pending the proposed amendment.

7. Public Feedback Form Submissions/Approval of MLOOC Application Form/List of D11 Links to MLO References & Resources/List of Common District 11 Acronyms:

Ms. Gilstrap reported that there have been no communications, through the Public Feedback Form. She included an image of the “Public Feedback Form”, taken from the website, enabling the committee to have a visual understanding of its simplicity and easy process. Ms. Gilstrap then referenced the next attachment, the MLO Committee Application, which currently reflects only one change to question #2, as previously discussed. No questions from the committee were posed, thus far. Ms. Gilstrap went on to the next page, of the agenda, which provides links to access MLO resources and references, as found on the District website (www.d11.org). She expressed, specifically, the MLO Annual Summary book could be found there, as well. Lastly, Ms. Gilstrap spoke to the most current list of D11 acronyms, also provided in tonight’s meeting packet.

Chairman Davis announced the resignation of MLOOC member, Stacy Fisher, who recently moved to Wyoming.

8. Discussion: Build a Specific List of Questions/Concerns for Guests:
Chairman Davis clarified that this is a Non-Action item, for tonight's meeting, and becoming an action item on the January agenda. He explained that he wishes for a collaborative effort in making a list of common questions and even some that are more specific to the subject matter, within each PIP, to provide to future meeting guests. This provision will allow the guests ample time to prepare a presentation, in advance, ensuring a most productive meeting. This matter will be listed as an Action item, on the January 18, 2022 meeting agenda. Further committee discussion presented some good questions, supporting a more organized line of questioning, in relation to SROs, Security and funding a backup surveillance system, which led into the Chairman's final item on the agenda.

9. CARES Act Grants Funding Presentation; Discussion:
Chairman Davis began his presentation, recalling discussions from previous meetings. Substantial federal and state grants funding, provided to the district, has and continues to impact the same operating costs to programs (PIPs) that are also funded by the 2000 and 2017 MLOs, raising questions of sufficient disbursement of MLO funds between each PIP. Chairman's presentation displays a portrait of impact from the ESSER Funds II & III grants, established and awarded under the CARES Act of 2020. He estimated the awarded funds to be approximately 59.4% of the budget, per PIP. As it is the responsibility of the Mill Levy Override Oversight Committee to monitor the disbursement and subsequent impact of MLO funds, it seems prudent to ask for clarification of the district's overall funding and budget, as it relates to MLO items. Going forward the goal is to have verifiable proof of impact, from MLO funding; budgeting, allocations and disbursement, spending and monitoring the effect and overall impact, to each PIP, provisioned to the success of every D11 student.

Chairman Davis expressed the expectation that the upcoming triannual MLO assessment will provide valuable feedback toward the concerns stated herein. Therefore, allowing the MLOOC and D11 to provide a collaborated, informative public tool to our taxpayers, by the end of this school year.

10. Future Agenda Items:
In closing, Chairman Davis expressed his appreciation for a lively meeting, where all members can express opinions, agree, disagree and discuss a common goal of resolution. As always, any further questions or concerns may be emailed to Chairman Davis, Mr. Cortez or Ms. Gilstrap.

Adjournment:

Chairman Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:00 pm D11 Admin. Building Boardroom/Webex