



**Colorado Springs School District 11**  
Superintendent Michael Gaal  
**Division of Business Services**  
Chief Resource Officer, Brandan Comfort  
Director of Financial Services Laura Hronik, MBA

**DAC Budget Subcommittee**

Web page: [District Accountability Committee \(DAC\)](#)

Chair Amanda Huber  
Vice Chair LuAnn Long

**Meeting Notes**

November 14, 2023

6:00 p.m.  
In Person

**Members present:** LuAnn Long, Mary Raymond, Ken Pfeil, Scott Sanders, Sheryl Sayler, Bruce Cole, Velvet Stepanek, Marion Clawson, Rhonda Heschel, Carl Schueler, Lyman Kaiser, Clara Hoellerbauer.  
**Members absent:** Amanda Huber, Jan Rennie, Colleen Pearl, Amber Hickman, Robert Grossman, Kevin Cook.  
**Ex-officio members present:** Laura Hronik, Brandan Comfort, Danyalla Cade.

1. Welcome & Introductions Long
  
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda Long  
The agenda was approved with no changes.
  
3. Approval of Meeting Notes – Long  
The meeting notes were approved with no changes.
  
4. Mid-Year Budget Modification Dr. Comfort
  - a. Superintendent Gaal provided a briefing on achievements and enrollment.
  - b. CRO Comfort explained the new process and how the electronic form highlights a one-page request and identified each specific need.
  - c. Each Chief gave a brief description of their requests and then the committee had the opportunity for a Q&A.
  - d. Chief Ashby highlighted the success of the mailers and campaign material. The focus was on the East side and now they would like to do the same for the west side using this Pro Research Company.
  - e. Chief Bailey explained that the requests are to backfill the need do to over budget monies this year only. She also addressed the timelines of the hiring bonuses and insured that no one was missed.
  - f. Kevin Willis explained that the true-up in dollars for the Guest Staff accounts will clear the deficit for this FY.
  - g. Area Sup requests were addressed by Brian Relich, CRO Comfort and Superintendent Gaal. The University of Virginia and Instructional Empowerment groups training is beneficial for Principals, Area Sups and Teachers. Unforeseen travel expenses were not covered by the EASY Grant. It was requested by the DACBC to have a lists of where the federal funds went. Sherry Kalback and Chief Acevedo will provide a follow up. Spoke of some positive outcome with the Vape detectors and how the notifications are for THC also. Some tech issues at first, but a positive increase with security.

Athletics requests for helmets are much needed to provide concussion proof protection. The goal is to have every Varsity team equipped with them. It was explained that the video boards will be installed in the gym and will not only be used by Athletics.

- h. Mike Willis & CRO Comfort explained that the Capital Programs team needs to focus on the big five-year investment plans vs the smaller projects that can be picked up by the Operations and Maintenance team.
- i. CJ McCampbell explained that the Transportations Departments goal is to do what they can to get students to school. The driver shortage is county wide and not just a D11 problem.
- j. Liz Tencate and Claudette Murtha spoke of the successful year with the study abroad program and how they would like to have a repeat year. The Superintendent said this will move to a primary budget line next year and that they would like to expand to far east travel in the future.
- k. Laurilea McDaniel and Doherty High School Band Director Angelo Spienza, showed a broken sousaphone (marching tuba) to explain the funding request. It became obvious that the district's musical instruments are very old, causing large recurring repair costs that exceed normal wear and tear. A replacement schedule needs to be established to update the entire inventory in the district. Those costs will exceed what can be funded in a regular budget for performing arts. A plan will be developed and presented in the future. They are working with a specific tracking tool (Destiny Tracker), to help put these replacement costs into next year's budget for district-wide replacements.
- l. Superintendent Gaal discussed the vision for future local graduation locations. The Roberson Areana at CC is an option, but most likely FY24 will be the last year at The World Arena.
- m. Liz Tencate spoke of the turnovers and how the TLC's have been moved in classrooms. Superintendent Gaal said the plan is to train up and not use contractors as a long-term fix.

5. The Committee voted to stop after Acevedo-08c and continue with Comfort-01 at the 12/5/23 meeting.

6. Adjourn

Long