



Fiscal Oversight Committee (FOC)
Thursday, October 9, 2025
Meeting Minutes
Regular Monthly Meeting – Board Room | Wilcox Building

Voting Members (x indicates in attendance * indicates absent)

X	Jerrod Taylor, Chair	X	Dave Usecheck
X	Dan Smith, Vice Chair	*	Kevin Metzger
X	Robert Smithson, Recorder	*	Keith Langford
*	Aaron Cowan	X	Maya Rosochacova
X	Alex Frum	*	Mike Barrows
*	Cynthia Fisher	X	Shawn Daughenbaugh

Non-Voting Members

*	Kaylee Winegar, Board of Education Director	X	Jana Schleusner, Chief Financial Officer
X	Valerie Thompson, Board of Education Director	X	Drew Phelps, Director of Budget
		*	Eric Varner, Director of Finance
		*	Jenny Frueh, Administrative Assistant-CFO
		X	Cheryl DeCristino, Accounting Manager

Guests

Call to Order

- Chair Jerrod Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Public Participation Protocol Statement

- Chair Jerrod Taylor stated that the public would have an opportunity at the end of the meeting to provide public comment.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting

- Motion to adopt September 11, 2025, Minutes of Meeting by Mr. Daughenbaugh, seconded by Mr. Usecheck. Motion passed unanimously.

Icebreaker

- Chair Mr. Taylor initiated an icebreaker for the FOC members.

Membership Update

- Departing Member: Mike Barrows
- New Members: Cynthia Fisher and Keith Langford (DAC Liaison)

Discuss Liaisons (EAC, MBOC, DAC, LRPC, SAG) on FOC

- Various FOC members may serve as representatives to Mill Bond Oversight Committee (MBOC), District Accountability Committee (DAC), and Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)

Board of Education Update | BOE Directors Kaylee Winegar and Valerie Thompson

- Ms. Thompson
 - Contractor agreements for multiple projects across district
 - Approved newest FOC member
 - Received unified improvement plan update
 - <https://www.youtube.com/live/5DeZFSmjvFs?si=OnpFV8cH8wFS6nBc&t=4613>
 - Presentation on growth and decline of the district
 - Presentation can be found on website in addition to more information
 - <https://www.dcsdk12.org/about/growth-and-decline>
 - Presentation on AI
 - <https://www.youtube.com/live/5DeZFSmjvFs?si=CqarRKAElB90A3Fo&t=9540>
 - Guard rails
 - Student privacy is main concern
 - Current contract with Gemini doesn't use district data for training
 - Students should not be putting their own data nor data of their peers in AI tools
 - Conversations around academic integrity related to AI
 - Research on impact to students is fairly minimal currently
 - Changes in AI are so rapid that the district is looking into updating policy from a year ago

Carryover Follow Up | CFO Jana Schleusner and Director of Budget Drew Phelps

- Recap from previous meeting
- FOC representative to DAC explained carryover to DAC members
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO) drafted a memo to Superintendent explaining FOC's concerns about carryover
 - Current policy is a recommendation that carryover should not exceed 3% of school's site based budget (SSB)
 - Principals are now required to submit carryover to School Advisory Committees (SAC)
 - Policy was enacted last year
- Discussion topic for FOC was what is the FOC's role in this space?
 - DAC/SAC role in this space?
 - The primary committees that have oversight in this space
 - Should this be added to a Principal's performance review criteria?
 - Spending plans are approved by area directors, why should Principals be held accountable?
 - Growth is easier to handle, decline is harder to predict and has a greater impact on budgets
 - Much harder for elementary schools to predict enrollment than middle and high schools
 - Area directors should brief FOC on how they approve spending plans
 - Are demographics of schools a factor on which ones have higher carryover than others?
 - FOC Requested presentation from district demographer

Hiring / Staff Turnover Update | CFO Jana Schleusner

- Received presentation that was presented to BOE on 9 September
 - <https://www.youtube.com/live/bHWb5qzZ2FE?si=F33xH7MB5AfIIGDJ&t=9838>
- Colorado Department of Education (CDE) metrics are used as the standard for comparing metrics across school districts
 - Despite some issues with how CDE tracks turnover it is the only tool for doing apple to apple comparisons
- Turnover is down year-over-year and better compared to Denver Metro area peers

General School Finance Training & Property Taxes | CFO Jana Schleusner

- Most of the district receives its funding from three sources
 - Local property tax set by the School Finance Act
 - Currently \$11k per student (set by state)
 - Required to tax property owners by 27 mils (set by state)
 - State fills in what is not met by property taxes
 - Mill Levy Overrides
 - Approved by local voters
 - Only for operational expenses (salaries etc...)
 - Bond Mills
 - Approved by local voters
 - For capital expenses (buildings etc...)
- Douglas County has the lowest Mills compared to neighboring counties
- As property values go up that doesn't mean property taxes increase at the same rate
 - I.e. If a home increased in value by 50%, taxes didn't go up by 50% as well
- Starting this year, property owners should see two separate assessment rates on property tax bills
 - 6.25% for local government (Fire, Police, etc...)
 - 7.05% for schools
- If residential values increase by more than 5% statewide, the assessment rates will fall from 7.05% to 6.95%
 - Excludes new construction, mining oil/gas, and others

New Business/Ideas | Chair Jerrod Taylor

- N/A

Member Roundtable | Chair Jerrod Taylor

- Audit subcommittee
 - US Federal Government shut down will delay auditing efforts
 - May result in two reports
 - One for what can be reported without Federal Government input
 - One for data that requires Federal Government input
 - A charter school's auditor failed peer review
 - DCSD will now have to audit the charter school
 - The charter school will have to reimburse DCSD for its services

Public Participation

- N/A

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Usecheck, seconded by Mr. Smith. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Next FOC Meeting

- The next FOC Meeting is November 13, 2025.