



Partnership for Fiscal

Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 3rd 2026 – 5:00-6:30 pm

Ed Center, Board Room

Partnership for Fiscal Sustainability

Members include staff, parents, business leaders, educators, students, residents - voices who care deeply about the future of Jeffco schools.

Attendees:

- Allison Halprin
- Amanda Pierorazio
- Brooke Schubert
- Bryan Martin
- Cheryl Sekorski
- Cindy Anderson
- Courtney Jensen
- David Wilson
- Devin Mills
- Don Hargis
- Emily Park
- Emily Richardson
- Eric Romero
- Frances McGarey
- Haley Lucero
- Jeff Gatlin
- Josh McIlwain
- Julie Niblock
- Karen Gordey-McFarland
- Kim Halligan
- Kiya Krier
- Kiyana Allen
- Krista Spurgin
- Kyle Martinez
- Leah Saieg
- Leigh Pytlinski
- Lindsay Ellis
- Lisa Yoakum
- Mallory Hamilton
- Matt Cormier
- Matt Palaoro
- Megan Lee-Malkemus

Staff & Consultants:

Tracy Dorland, Superintendent
Brenna Copeland, CFO
Tara Pena, Chief of Family and Community Partnerships
Matt Palaoro, Chief Student Success Officer
Jeff Gatlin, Chief Operating Officer
Renee Nicothodes, Chief Academic Officer
Kimberly Mahugh, Flourish Communications
Justin Silverstein - Colorado School Finance Project
Craig Hughes & Lindsey Rasmussen - Hilltop Public Solutions

- Meghan Teegarden
- Michele DeAndrea Austin
- Monica Wood
- Nancy Murray
- Nick Schneckenburger
- Philip Brewer
- Randy England
- Rebecca Faverty
- Rick Rush
- Sara Kuntzler
- Tracy Dorland
- Zander Kaschub
- Kari Simmons
- Mike Villanueva
- Tina Moenien
- Justin Silverstein
- Richard Sanchez
- Tracy Macdermott
- Aziza Jabara
- Ted Hagan
- Amy Woods
- Andrea Faust
- Michael Frank
- Ryan Self
- Karina Omana
- April Bell
- Kiara Haynes
- Michelle Moelis
- Kendal Widtfeldt
- Lindsey Rasmussen
- Laura Ray
- Noah Hyde
- Jessica Post
- Angie Wagner
- Julia Johns
- katie Winner
- Ari Kaiser
- Renee Nicothodes
- Melia Ortiz
- Tara Pena
- Bev Armour
- Audra Wargo
- Josh Kekkonen
- Emily Skala
- Rebecca Faverty
- Heather Goeddel
- Zebulon Swearingen

Board Liaisons:

Tina Moenian, Board of Education

Peter Gibbons, Board of Education

Pre-Read Materials

- Update on Jeffco's Property Disposition Process [slide deck](#) and information on [Jeffco's website](#) that is continuously updated.
- [Ballot Initiatives in Recent History](#) – Nearby & Comparable Districts to Jeffco.
- Information on the 2023–2025 school ballot measure elections, provided by Tracie Rainey of the Colorado School Finance Project. Tracie will join our February 3 meeting for a Q&A on recent school district ballot measures. Please review the materials below to prepare for our discussion.
 - [2023 Elections](#)
 - [2024 Elections](#)
 - [2025 Elections](#)
- Video recording of [Jeffco's January 20 State of the District](#) presentation

February 3 Agenda Items

- Reground: Partnership Purpose and Role
- Complete election timeline review
- Committee timeline for May recommendation to Board
- Justin Silverstein - Data on school ballot elections outcomes
- Craig Hughes - Jefferson County electorate makeup
- Investment Priorities Exercise
- Executive Planning Subcommittee update on Values statement
- Closing

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm. Standing introductions of who is in the room - Board, Cabinet, Staff, Parents, Students, and Community Members.

Review of committee purpose and 2026 timeline. The Partnership will make a presentation to the Board of Education on May 11th. Recommendation would include a guiding values statement, ballot measure options reviewed, assessment of each option, and key variables that influence the recommendation.

School Ballot Measure Landscape: Review of 2022-25 Election Outcomes

Presenter - Justin Silverstein from the Colorado School Finance Project

Review of historical election results for bond and mill levy proposals with consideration to years of school board and presidential elections. Group questions centered around the history of voting makeup, patterns, and what else was being considered at the time.

Key takeaways presented:

- Year over year varies, the best indicator of success comes from community support and advocacy
- Consistency is key in messaging
- Gaining support in the areas of investment being considered
- Consider oversight committees as a way to build trust and transparency around the control of funds

Overview of the Jefferson County Electorate

Presenter - Craig Hughes and Lindsey Rasmussen from Hilltop Public Solutions

Review of historical context and recent political shifts in the last 10 years including ballot measures that were successful and unsuccessful.

Key takeaways presented:

- Communities best support measures where no new taxes are introduced and uses of funds are clearly defined
- Clear, easily understood language impacts the outcome of the measure.
- Purpose must meet the need of the community
- The political makeup of the district does matter and does shift year after year based on state and national climates
- Jeffco is trending towards a more democratic, liberal makeup
- Voter turnout is greater during presidential elections
- The bond or mill amount typically does not impact the outcome, as long as its justified and the need meets the ask
- Voters typically support local measures in education over state wide education measures
- 2026 predictions:
 - Larger margins in voter outcomes based on current political favorability
 - Potentially crowded ballot with other local and state-wide measures (Ex. Tabor, income tax proposals, social measures, transportation infrastructure, etc)
 - Expecting a higher turnout with both younger (18-30) and older voters (65+) being more balanced than in prior elections

Areas of Investment: What Matters to You?

Partnership reviewed previous investment priority recommendations and discussed what is missing, what should change, and what is most important. The committee members did a gallery walk and each placed dots (three each) next to the investment categories they felt were most important.

[View a summary of the exercise.](#)

Executive Committee Update

Fiscal Partnership Executive Committee shared a project values update which included a vision, mission, and values.

Vision: Ensure every Jefferson County student has the resources to learn, grown, and succeed

Mission: Develop a sustainable revenue plan for the Jeffco Board of Education that prioritizes high student impact.

Values: students first, accountable, adaptable, balanced collaboration, community trust

Action Plan:

- 1) Internal: Define Student Success (student KPI's, transparent reporting) → High Student Impact (TBD) → Revenue Needs (TBD, tax increase tolerance) → Revenue Method (MLO, Special MLO, Bond) → Board of Education (May proposal, board approval)

2) External: Go to Ballot → GTM Campaign → Voter Approval → Implementation

Wrap Up and March Meeting Preview

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 5:00pm on March 3rd in the Ed Center Board room. Meeting resources and website links will be sent out via email.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm