

COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 11
Dr. Terry N. Bishop, Superintendent
Division of Business Services
Glenn E. Gustafson, CPA, Deputy Superintendent/CFO

DAAC Budget Committee
Wendy Chiado, Chairman
John Gartin, Vice-Chairman

Minutes

February 12, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Wendy Chiado, Katie Friedel, John Gartin, Suzy Gingrich, John Leary, Pete Lee, Jim Mason, and Bob Miner

Ex Officio Members Present: Becky Kluck, Ken Wieck and Becky Moore

Guests: Jamie Cushenberry-Mitchell High School Faculty, Mike Maloney-Director of Facilities, and Kris Garnhart-Maintenance Manager

Wendy opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The minutes were briefly reviewed and Bob made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by John G and unanimously approved.

Wendy indicated that there was nothing new to report from the DAAC and that she would be offering the preliminary report to the Executive DAAC for their input at their next meeting on March 6, 2008.

Mike Maloney and Kris Garnhart were introduced to the committee. Mike had a handout to accompany his PowerPoint presentation to the committee. He began with an overview of the components of the Facilities Department and some basic facts about District 11. He also reviewed the mission of the department and its organization chart.

Each organization within the department was described in detail as to its staff and responsibilities. Mike then reviewed the programs and accounts in the department. He noted that the buying power has significantly decreased over the past three years.

Mike discussed the payroll benchmarks and total Maintenance and Operations spending benchmarks with the committee. He noted that the district both pays and operates below market standards according to a survey conducted annually by American School and University.

Mike and Kris talked about the department's proactive approach to maintenance of the district's buildings instead of using a reactive. They reviewed the benefits of this process. Also studied was the department's continuous improvement in the number of work orders quickly filled and the satisfaction of their customers. Capital renewal was then discussed as was the difference between renewal, replacement and maintenance.

Kris defined the difference between a work order for a building improvement and a work order for maintenance. Mike explained that he and Kris have to hold a firm line with the schools. Safety and maintenance are done in a fashion. Improvements are done on an as funds and as time allows basis.

Mike also discussed his role on the Advisory Committee for Public School Capital Construction (reports to the Colorado Department of Education) and how we compare to other school districts. He indicated, in response to a question from Katie, that there is current legislation regarding school building in Colorado and the lack of capital funding to do so. This legislation is coming up to address raising capital funds to build schools.

Before questions, Mike went over the department's successes and concerns. He emphasized throughout his presentation the fact that the district's declining enrollment combined with our aging buildings are the worst detriments to his department's budget.

Katie asked about xeriscaping school grounds. Kris indicated that the costs associated to tear out current landscaping and the expense of putting it in and the upkeep did not warrant it as a viable alternative to turf. He also talked about the need for turf for play areas. Some schools do have a limited amount of xeriscaping on their grounds.

Jamie asked about the responsibility for litter pickup. Mike explained that litter pick up is the responsibility of the school and not his maintenance staff.

Jim M asked if square footage in the school district was reduced, would this be a possible help in reducing costs. Mike replied yes. With declining enrollment, the budget is less but the square footage is the same whether the building is full or not. Mike stated that no matter what the population is in a building, some buildings are just more costly to maintain than others.

John G stated that district neighborhoods still need to be preserved. Jim M stated that change is painful but that it can be positive.

John L had questions regarding bond money and the replacement plan. Mike indicated that if the district were to pass a bond election every eight years, Facilities would be able to maintain the buildings adequately. The bonds thus far have allowed the district to "catch-up" but regular building maintenance requires 2% of the current replacement value which is not what the district is operating with.

The committee thanked Mike and Kris for their presentation.

The committee moved on to discussion of their preliminary report to the board of education, due to be given the board on March 12, 2008. John L wanted to be clear about the committee's role in this recommendation stating he believed the committee should state its findings and make recommendations but that how these recommendations might be carried out are not a part of the duties of this committee.

Some of the topics that may be included in the preliminary report are review of and recommendations on the 26000 series programs and the issues surrounding the night schools. The report may emphasize the well-prepared and informative presentations given by the guest budget managers and may commend each guest presenter's staff for their efforts. Wendy stated that only issues that the committee has a consensus on would be included in the preliminary report.

At this point, the district ex-officio members left the meeting so that the committee could conduct their review for drafting the preliminary report to the board of education.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with plusses and deltas.

The next meeting is February 26, 2008 in the administration boardroom at 6:00 p.m.