

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

Minutes
April 21, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Wendy Chiado, Jamie Cushenberry, John Gartin, Tina Koenig, Javan Ridge, and Gerald Roebke

Ex Officio Members Present: Ken Wieck and Becky Moore

Guest: Kandy Claybaugh, Executive Director of Grants

Wendy opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The committee took a few minutes to review the minutes from the last meeting and was asked for any corrections. John moved to accept the minutes, Tina seconded and the motion carried with a typo to be corrected

Wendy reviewed a discussion she had with Ed Plute, chairman of the DAAC Accreditation Committee about the budget cuts. Wendy requested a packet be sent to Ed from the March 10 meeting.

Wendy also addressed the committee about stepping down as chairman of this committee. She feels that the increase in travel with her job is interfering with her ability to serve the committee efficiently and effectively. She is also disappointed with the board of education's treatment of guest presenters and feels that the board does not take the DAAC Budget Committee seriously. Wendy feels there is mismanagement and unaccountability within District budgets and the board of education seems unwilling to look into these matters. John agreed that there is a trend of sloppy spending with no consequences for mishandling taxpayers' money. Wendy outlined the job duties of the committee chairman. She expressed an interest in joining the DAAC Accountability Committee and may submit a letter of resignation in the near future.

Kandy Claybaugh once again attended the meeting to continue the grants office review. Kandy had received three questions via email from committee members and she addressed them as follows:

1. *I would like to know what contingency plan is being proposed for her department if the stimulus package is not accepted by District 11.*

It is unlikely that the District would not accept the stimulus plan. There are already other plans in place to continue with current funding. Additional plans are in place that may go above the regular plan. She noted that the extended day model proposed to principals has met a cool reception. Title IV would remain the same. The district may be able to backfill some General Fund losses, not supplant. District 11 is not qualified to backfill its General Fund (only two districts are qualified state-wide) but there is lobbying going on to relax the rules.

Wendy asked if grant dollars could be used for Rtl. Kandy stated that generally, in the past, the discrepancy model for SPED was used. Since this model is being eliminated, the Rtl model is being utilized in its place. Grants is making the effort to keep SPED and Rtl separate remembering that SPED is a program and Rtl is not. Kandy told the committee that Title VI gets 30% of its funding from grants and the rest is from the General Fund. SPED pupils cost more than Rtl due to their respective problems.

2. *If the stimulus package is approved, what obligations/mandates will be imposed upon the District and where does her department fit into this process/obligation? Committee Person's statement of interest: I would hope that before accepting the stimulus package that it would be reviewed carefully for potential mandates which could create not only short term commitments, but long term obligations, resulting in undo-able financial conditions and taxpayer reassessments.*

Additional obligations would include reporting, which would occur quarterly instead of annually. Kandy suspects that additional levels of scrutiny from the federal government would also take place. The evaluation process would most likely take place up front with a project manager to make sure the District meets the goals. The grants office would have additional expenses and audits. Potential mandates that may create long-term sustainable requirements could occur.

3. *How much is spent on travel within the Grants Fund?*

Example of travel within this budget – the magnet assistance grant for Galileo required the district to send people to training three times per year, back east, in a nice hotel, etc. for a week each time. This was required to obtain the grant and the funding came out of the grant. The 21st Century Learning grant had a requirement of two persons to train in New Orleans to get the grant. Several grants require a lot of travel, which is always paid for from the grant, this expense can take a chunk out of the grant total dollars. Kandy can always pull up grants on –line to find out what these types of requirements are to see if the grant is going to be viable or not to apply for.

Kandy also described money (\$142,000) which is returned to the General Fund to pay for indirects. Her office uses consultants, no purple packets. (Purple packets are usually D11 retirees who are skilled in a particular area and are rehired on a contract basis as a consultant). Kandy told the committee that she and Becky Kluck differ on the definition of this \$142,000.

Jamie had a question regarding the Purchased Services line item from the handout of the Grants Office base budget. Kandy described how the grants are managed among the grant administrators in her office. She noted that she cannot always give the management of an entire grant to just one person and she tries to overlap her staff so that things don't come to a standstill if one person is gone for an extended period of time.

The temporary salaries are usually used in the fall and at the end of the fiscal year. John G asked if there was an internal auditor in the grants office. Kandy indicated that they perform monthly reconciliations and spend down reports district-wide.

Kandy continued to review her program, 23240, Grants Administration. She explained they have carryover amounts because a grant's fiscal year may not match the District's fiscal year and some grants are 18 months long instead of 12 months long. Carryover is normally less than 15%.

Tina asked what the schools get and Kandy indicated additional interventions for students in the form of materials, training or both. Jay described a survey regarding implementing extended year.

Kandy stated that the grants office can provide a number of avenues to bring in revenue. Flexibility with the department budget is necessary and a contingency or reserve might be beneficial for this department.

The committee discussed their final report to the board. Wendy thought that much of the preliminary report should be incorporated into the final report as well as the process and results of the budget cuts. The grants office review would be included and she called for the committee to email her all ideas for the final report. A May meeting was set for May 12 with the upcoming DAAC meetings being on May 7 and May 21. The final report should go to the Board of Education on June 3, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30p.m. with plusses and deltas.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the FOTC Oak Room