

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

January 22, 2009

6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Wendy Chiado, Jamie Cushenbery, John Gartin, Suzy Gingrich, Tina Koenig, John Leary, Pete Lee, Jim Mason, Bob Miner, Javan Ridge, and Gerald Roebke

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

Guests: John Keane, Executive Director of Achievement and Accountability

Wendy opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes were called for and none were given. John G motioned to accept the minutes as written, Tina seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Changes to the committee's calendar were briefly discussed, especially in regards to the date of the preliminary report presentation to the Board of Education.

Because there have been no DAAC meetings since the last DAAC Budget Committee meeting, there was nothing to report.

John Keane was introduced and handed out printed copies of a PowerPoint presentation. He used the handout to update the committee on the District's current alternative schools. Pete asked about Career and Tech education. John indicated that the District is trying to enrich this program but that there is not much budget and therefore, no plans for expansion at this time. Also described and discussed were diplomas of distinction. John also talked to the committee about the slowing of initiatives due to the unsettled financial nature of the current times. He indicated that the Board of Education wants results from current programs, not just a large number of options to choose from. They want to focus on quality, successful options and will evaluate all alternate programs K-12.

Enrollment numbers, number of students served and number of graduates were discussed in relationship to each alternative school. John pointed out successes and unique qualities of each program and discussed with the committee what impacts budget cuts would have on each school. Also discussed was location of some of the alternate schools and what role moving a school to another location may have on a program. The digital school's program and role were examined. Also discussed was the lack of marketing of the digital school and of all the D-11 choices in alternative high schools..

The night schools in particular were discussed this evening. John reviewed the differences between the two programs and then discussed a scenario of what the night schools may look like if they were consolidated into one night school instead of the current two schools. This idea has been discussed with high school principals and their input as to how the program would be supported was examined. Becky K asked John Keane if the handout was a "wish" list and not a real look at what the schools would embrace for staff and he agreed at this time it was. John G asked if anyone has polled the students for their opinion of having one, centrally located night school. John Keane indicated that this has not yet taken place.

After John Keane finished his presentation, the committee discussed the information. John L pointed out that the presentations should bring in more comparative budget information. It was noted that the night schools currently operate at a plus. John G noted that the night schools (and others) should be marketed more aggressively to bring in students rather than closing schools.

Jim asked about the lack of marketing District 11 outside the District. He noted that there is not much out there to compare District 11 with District 12 (Cheyenne Mountain) or District 20 (Academy). His points were kids go to school where the parents want them to go to school. He feels the District should market both externally and internally, and that the Colorado Springs community does not really know about the alternative services District 11 offers. He noted that D12 and D20 advertise much more than D11. Wendy pointed out to Jim that the committee has regularly recommended more advertising to the Board in its final year-end reports.

Due to the late hour, the chairman decided to table the budget portion of the night school review to the next meeting asking the committee to look over the spreadsheets. Wendy adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. with plusses and deltas.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.