

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

January 8, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Wendy Chiado, Katie Friedel, John Gartin, 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, Bill Bair-Transportation Director and John Keane-Executive Director of School Leadership

Wendy Chiado opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The minutes from the last meeting were approved by the committee with one correction. Wendy indicated that there was nothing to report from the DAAC at this time.

Bill Bair, Transportation Director, was introduced to the committee. Bill spoke to the committee first about his handouts. The handouts helped to give the group more detail in explaining the base budget justification form as well as some future budgetary needs for Transportation. Bill also indicated that the department was trying to cut down on the total number of vehicles in the transportation fleet. He explained about the current bus replacement plan. The goal of the plan had been to be about 10 new vehicles per year replacing the oldest or most troublesome vehicles first. However, due to the rising cost of new buses, less than 10 a year have been purchased recently. When asked how to determine how many buses are needed, Bill indicated that the number of routes more than the number of students that determines the number of buses needed.

Other topics mentioned were bus mechanics servicing buses from other schools districts and contracting-out some of the District's maintenance work to other school districts, Mr. Bair told the committee that the District no longer contracts out its services. Also discussed was the use of any capital reserve money, which is not being used for transportation expenses. A discussion of ownership vs. leasing took place. Bill indicated that it is less expensive for the District to own than lease, even with respect to the Security vehicles.

Another discussion took place regarding housing buses in different places around town to conserve fuel rather in the single location out east. Bill told the committee that a study had been done about ten years ago addressing this idea. Acceptable and affordable locations could not be found. With fuel prices continuing to rise, John L suggested that perhaps this idea should be looked into again. Bill made a note of it.

John G asked if any pressure was being brought about in regards to seat belts on the buses. Bill stated that while no specific pressure was being put on the District with respect to seat belts, if needed to comply, the height of the buses would have to increase and a 3-point system installed. Bus capacity would drop as well. In Bill's opinion, mandatory belts on the buses are still a few years away.

Katie asked if the extended day and year schools were having a fiscal impact on the department. Bill stated that an analysis had been performed and that indeed they are costing his department more. He said the schools under construction with the special hours are also costing the department more, and that a new look at these issues will be undertaken. Katie also asked if a re-draw of some schools' boundaries would help and Bill said no.

The next agenda item undertaken was a continued review of the District's two night school programs located in Palmer and Doherty High Schools. Ken Wieck pointed out that Doherty's night school is known as Success First. Ken reviewed the budget sheet from the packet with the committee noting that the FY06/07 figures are actuals. It was asked if any other local school district had a night school program. Jamie Cushenberry indicated that District 49 has one. Becky Kluck reviewed the night schools' demographics pages with the committee. There was much discussion about these pages of the handout.

John L asked about increasing the capacity to make room for more night school students. He would like to see a push for promotion of the District's night school programs to students outside the District. John G asked if students from outside the District would then bring in more revenue and Becky Kluck said yes. Becky also reminded the committee that its charge regarding the night school programs is to be looking at duplication of services and fiscal impact. Wendy asked if the high school counselors were pushing the night school as an alternative to at risk or potential drop-outs. John Keane told the committee that there has been improvement in giving the night schools a positive push.

John Keane addressed the committee about a group of school leaders who are studying the District's night school offerings as well as other educational offerings. He said the group is especially interested in dual enrollment, expanding Tesla's schedule to include night classes and technical education. Palmer should already have the capacity to expand and support itself if the interest is there. The Digital School is already full at night. This group wants to open as many doors as possible to keep kids in school and get them to graduate. Another goal of the group studying the night schools is to work toward providing night school students with as much of the same types of experiences and opportunities as the day students.

Bob asked if the 3 week block (Doherty) or 9 week block (Palmer) was most successful. It appears that both programs are equally successful. These different blocks appeal to students' individual needs and styles.

Jim M wanted to know why the night schools were not working closely with PPCC and tech schools. He feels that the night schools should have as rich a relationship with tech schools and PPCC as the traditional schools and that there should be a sense of urgency to expand the District's agreements to include them. Again, John Keane told the committee that his study group was looking at this.

Katie asked if the focus of the night schools would move from credit recovery only to a more future-based philosophy. At this time there is no concrete answer.

John G remarked that the group that is being led by John Keane should re-examine the vocational programs we had 20+ years ago, when the District was very successful with its vocational programs. The leadership group should analyze what worked and what didn't work.

It was noted that interest in many vocational education areas has been waning in recent years in favor computer-tech areas.

The committee decided to ask John Keane to return later in the spring to update them on what his leadership group has found, what sort of plans they are formulating and how school configuration must change.

The By-laws subcommittee then reported on what they were working on after their initial meeting. A handout with a flow chart was distributed. The DAAC Executive seemed happy with their work so far. John L wanted to clarify each DAAC subcommittee's role, especially the Budget Committee. Also being reviewed and worked is the approval process. Wendy wants to have a meeting and invite Ed Plute, the DAAC Accreditation Committee Chair and the DAAC Chair Shannon Jones.

The IBRs were tabled and Becky Kluck gave an educational presentation on categorical revenues. Jamie gave the group some insight into Special Education laws and how alternative education fits in.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with plusses and deltas.

Next meeting is January 22, 2008 in the administration boardroom at 6:00 p.m.