

COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEVEN

Dr. Terry Bishop, Superintendent

Operations/Instruction

Dr. Mary Thurman, Deputy Superintendent

DAAC-
Focused on Student Achievement

DAAC Meeting
March 15, 2006

The regular meeting of full DAAC was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Patrick Carter, chairperson of DAAC. Twenty-one DAAC representatives were present. Also attending the meeting were Dr. Terry Bishop, Superintendent, Dr. Mary Thurman, Deputy Superintendent, John Gudvangen, President of the Board of Education, and Directors Charlie Bobbit and Tom Strand. Other administrators in attendance were Kandy Claybaugh, Executive Director of Grants and Special Programs, and Shirley Stevens, Executive Director of School Leadership and DAAC liaison.

Consolidated Grants – Kandy Claybaugh

Kandy Claybaugh gave a brief overview of the Consolidated Grants program that provides federal funds to fulfill District 11 strategic objectives. The Consolidated Grants include funds for Title I (disadvantaged students); Title II (professional development of staff); Title III (English language learners); Title VI (safe and drug-free schools); and Title V (innovative programs).

As a part of the Consolidated Grants application process, feedback from stakeholder groups is required. A needs assessment form has been provided via email to DAAC representatives for feedback from their BAAC Committees. Ms. Claybaugh also provided a hard copy to each representative attending DAAC. Please return the needs assessment forms to Cathy Herzberg, Operations/Instruction.

Some feedback already returned to Ms. Claybaugh includes resources for teacher quality; aligned curriculum; lower class sizes; understanding data; nutritional well-being; parent involvement; higher level thinking skills; full day kindergarten; and extended learning opportunities (day and year).

Mill Levy Override Amendments – Ed Plute

Ed Plute, member of the Mill Levy Oversight Committee, presented the three amendments to mill levy spending that will go before the Board of Education for approval March 21, 2007. He explained that the amendment process allows the district to request the redirection of funds approved by the voters at the time of the mill levy ballot initiative. Three amendments are proposed and it is requested that DAAC provide a recommendation to the Board of Education.

Included in the discussion about full day kindergarten, Shirley Stevens reported that all schools will have one full-day kindergarten that is tuition free as a result of the requested funding amendment and supported by MLO funds.

The following recommendations will be submitted to the Board and administration:

- 1) DAAC approves the three proposed Mill Levy Override amendments
 - Transfer \$1 million of recurring funds from the “school start times” program to the full day kindergarten program
 - Authorize the one-time “school start times” funds of \$700,000 be utilized to refurbish the existing bus fleet instead of purchasing new buses
 - Authorize the flexibility in staffing Literacy Resource Teachers and Library Technology Teachers for up to five pilot schools participating in the Empowerment for Excellence (site-based, decision-making) program.

Accreditation – Ed Plute

Ed Plute reported that the state of Colorado has delayed the requirement of changes to the district accreditation contract. The Accreditation Subcommittee will watch upcoming legislation for the remainder of the school year; analyze district assessment data; and prepare for the update to the accreditation contract in 2008.

Study Committee Report – Shirley Stevens

Shirley Stevens reported that members of the Study Committee are completing their analysis of research on DAAC governance and parent involvement. They will submit their findings to the Superintendent and Executive DAAC April 5 and to full DAAC on April 19. Study Committee members are asked to send their research findings to Ms. Stevens by April 2, 2007.

Nominating Committee

Georgia Matteson, Catherine Carter, and Kathleen O'Brien have agreed to serve as the Nominating Committee. DAAC representatives approved them.

Wendy Chiado, DAAC Budget Committee chairperson, urged DAAC representatives to recommend membership of various DAAC committees to their BAAC Committee members.

East Middle School – Patrick Carter

Patrick Carter gave an overview of the decisions facing the administration and Board of Education about East Middle School. He reported that because of the loss in enrollment and lack of student achievement, recommendations to close or reconstitute East are being considered. DAAC is asked to make a recommendation after discussion and informed consideration.

The following recommendation will be submitted to the Board and administration:

- Close East Middle School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year and establish a citizens' committee, on which DAAC would have representation, to study in-depth available options for the long-term utilization of the East Middle School building in order to make an informed recommendation to the Board of Education.

Other Business

The Neighborhood Justice Center will present information at the April DAAC meeting. Included in the agenda will also be a presentation by the District 11 Security Department on safe school environment and gangs. This information will be helpful to schools as they begin writing their school improvement plans and goals.

After submitting the resolution to the administration and Board of Education on lack of communication with DAAC, new lines of communication have been established.

Dr. Bishop reported that the administration is looking at the results of adding 30 minutes to the school day in January to make up instructional time lost due to snow days. At the end of the school year if the 30 minutes remains in the instructional day at all levels, there will be approximately 2 extra school days of instructional time have been gained. Many stakeholder groups have been consulted regarding their preference to keep the time schedule, and all but ESP desire to keep the days within the school calendar. Because ESP employees are hourly wage earners, careful consideration of work time has become complex. The purpose of reporting this information is to gain input from DAAC as the administration studies the situation and to ensure proper decision-making according to district policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.