

District Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date	February 2, 2010	Time	6:00 – 8:57
Facilitator	Teegan Sheanin	Scribe	Carie Anderson
Key Points Discussed			
No.	Topic	Representative	Highlights
1	Subcommittee Meetings 6:00-7:30		
2	Welcome & Introductions 7:35	Teegan Sheanin	Teegan welcomes everyone. Thanks everyone for attending. New People – Kevin (Mountain Schools) Kathy Ellis – filling in for Bear Creek.
3	Approval of Minutes	Teegan Sheanin	Minutes approved for 1/5/10 meeting, pending changes from Bill Sutter. Please use the following link to view previous meeting minutes: http://bvsd.org/dac/dacmembers/Pages/Minutes
4	Board Report	Jim Reed	<p>Jim Reed – 3 meetings since last DAC meeting. Board discussed what to work on for the next 6-12 months. What came out of that was Budget and Goals. Speak to goals first. The question is what to do with the growth data. We are not yet half way through our 5 year goals, do we add a growth goal? What do we want to do with the growth model as a district. As a board we will start with the TIES process, look at what data we have, what is it showing and what data can we get if we were to use the growth model. Next 2 meetings will look at data from Jonathan. 3rd meeting discussion about what changes might be indicated.</p> <p>Budget – Board audit committee looked at ways to free up the capital reserves required by Tabor. State law changed last year that enables us to get a line of credit or to use buildings to meet constitutionally mandated 3% Tabor Reserves. The audit committee and staff looked at and the line of credit and it is cost prohibitive and on an ongoing basis it cost money to have, so is basically a dead end. Continuing to look at what other buildings can be used because the state law has changed but the state constitution has not changed so there is some interplay there that limits what the district can or can't do to free up the reserves in this fiscal emergency.</p> <p>These are the two major items that will be on the board agenda going forward.</p>
5	Survey Communications Subcommittee	Teegan Sheanin	Want to find out the makeup of the SIT or SAC (School Accountability Committees) – get a picture of how SIT's are operating and how parents are involved in the TIES process. Will follow up with any DAC members that are not present.
6	Apologies from the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent	Jonathan Dings	Apologies from the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent for their absence. They are both at a forum for the hiring of the principal for Lafayette Elementary.

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7	Legislative Update	Briggs Gamblin Tanya Kelly Bowry	<p>Briggs - Sent out a Legislative Weekly Update to DAC members, if you did not receive it, email him briggs.gamblin@bvsd.org and he will add you to the list. Also, there will be a monthly meeting with Briggs, the Board Legislative Liaisons, Laurie Albright and Leslie Smith along with Tanya and Ernestine from TK Consulting to determine oppose/supports on a lot of legislation. Next weekly update will have topical articles as well as key pieces of legislation that are moving through and BVSD's position on them, as well as how you can find them and the week's hearings. If you wanted to go down to the hearings as a private citizen to testify we would appreciate you letting us know first so that we can notify the legislators for BVSD area.</p> <p>Tanya - For the last few years accountability has been the name of the game at the capital. What the legislators are really looking for is that accountability to take place so this committee (DAC) is really critical and the district really relies on you for your expertise. The other piece to this that is changing is that parents, stakeholders and students sometimes have a much stronger voice now in weighing in on the legislature. If you have opportunities to attend town hall meetings or focus groups, please attend those meetings. They really want to hear from you and because your understand the intricacies of what is happening in BVSD, your voice really matters and helps me to do my job.</p> <p>When we have people down to the capital, our Boulder legislators want to recognize you. Even if you are not speaking on behalf of BVSD, I will clarify if it is not our position but I would make sure to sign you in, that you meet the chair, that you meet the members, so that you feel comfortable in your testimony because it can be an intimidating process, this one of the services that we provide to you, educating you about the process and making sure that we are there to serve your needs.</p> <p>I worked as a staff person in the state senate for 8 years, I have been a lobbyist now for 10 years and in my almost 20 years at the capital I have not seen budget times such as I have for the last 2 years. We have been through 8 rounds of budget cuts, typically there is only 1 figure setting time of year per legislative session, in the last 2 years they have had 8 different processes to make additional cuts, these are predicated by revenue forecasts done quarterly. One in December, one in March, one in June with the last one in September. With each forecast the numbers have come back lower causing the additional cuts because our constitution requires that Colorado have a balanced budget.</p>
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7 Cont.			<p>Amendment 23 has thus far protected K-12 education. However, because of amendment 23 there is a misconception that K-12 education is over funded, when in reality we are still at 1986 funding levels. Compared to other states we are 49th in the country for K-12 funding, but K-12 education takes up 60% of the overall general fund budget, all of the other departments are having to fight for the rest of the appropriation. Along with that there are mandated costs that have to be paid for such as Medicaid which are mandatory benefits that have to be paid and also corrections costs, leaving a small portion of the budget that is discretionary. There is a requirement in amendment 23 that says that in times of fiscal emergency if personal income drops below 5% they can look at cutting K-12, we have dropped below 5% and the 10-11 budget is the first year that they can cut K-12 education. Because the budget situation is so terrible, this budget cycle, K-12 is facing 260 million in cuts. BVSD's portion of that is 6.2 million for the 10-11 budget, which comes on top of cuts that have already been made due to a 110 million rescission to all school districts of which BVSD's portion was 3.8 million. I think that the 6.2 million for 10-11 will go up because as of today heard from Jack Palmer, chair of the budget committee that they swept the state ed fund by 13 million dollars to balance the 09-10 budget. They are doing one time fixes and trying as much as possible to avoid the difficult cuts and hoping that the economy will rebound. They are concerned that once you make the difficult cuts they are hard to rebuild. The problem is that the constitution also mandates that the state ed fund be solvent. Next year it becomes insolvent and they will have to do more general fund cuts to keep the state ed fund solvent. The budget that we have right now in the state is not sustainable, we have to look at an overall tax increase to get new revenues into Colorado or we will not be able to keep going.</p> <p>The 13 million that they took today from the state ed fund to balance the 09-10 budget also impacts the 10-11 budget because that is more money that will have to be found for next year. They are trying to balance the short falls for 09-10 and create a balanced budget for 10-11 simultaneously and every 10 million for the state means \$340,000 to BVSD. Critical decisions have to be made about class size, programs and especially salaries and negotiations because most of K-12 budget is people.</p> <p>Another thing that is really important that has come into play is the tax exemption fight. In the last 2 years we have cut 2.4 billion from the budget, our entire general fund is only 7 billion so we have already cut almost 1/3 of the budget. For this year we need another 1 billion in cuts. The governor has proposed 10% (132 million) come from the business community by removing tax exemptions. Other areas have already been cut. In addition to K-12 and higher ed, 60 million has come from health and human services. If the bills don't pass, cutting the money from business there will be more cuts to K-12 and higher ed.</p> <p>Briggs – CASE Leadership Conference – State Treasurer – Cary Kennedy one of the authors of amendment 23 before she was state treasurer, looks at it this way, we will start the 2011</p>
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7 cont.			<p>fiscal year with same dollars as we had in 2001 with 80,000 more students and the inflationary factors, all of the 7 states that touch us spend \$1000 more per student than Colorado.</p> <p>Dates to know: February 15 – OSPB (Office of State Planning & Budget) presents to the Joint Budget Committee an additional \$175 million in cuts for 10-11. Number may be large now due to the 13 million that was swept from the state ed fund today. March 20 – Revenue Forecast – if commercial real estate has gone down or unemployment has gone down could mean more cuts. Late Spring - Race to the Top - Colorado is pretty well positioned to compete for these funds. Up to \$5 million – there are strings for this money – have to be committed to specific education reform measures.</p> <p>Question: Fixing the bigger problem, what is the timeline for this process? 2011 due to the election year, but that may be too late. We have to get voters to pass it. People do not want to pass a tax increase. There will have to be a real grass roots education effort so that people will understand the real detriment we would face. Do we not bus students? Do we decrease to a 4 day school week, leaving parents to find care for 1 day per week? OR pass a tax increase. Jim – Half of the people think a 1/3 or more of their taxes are wasted. Long odds to pass a tax increase. State wide education effort as Tanya said. As an example - Colorado Springs shut off 1/3 of their street lamps and closed some of their parks.</p> <p>Initiatives 60, 61 & Proposition 101 – Oppose these. Combined these 3 bills cut 1.8 billion in state revenues. Will get further information on these in Briggs email – Legislative Update. (Reduction of the vehicle registration fees and ratcheting down of state income tax)</p> <p>Question: How are these cut backs affected by Tabor? Because the economy is so bad right now, even if Tabor wasn't there it wouldn't matter because there are no revenues to access. There would have to be a tax increase to delivery your revenues to the system.</p> <p>Question: For those people who think that their taxes are wasted, what is the perceived waste? Jim – without guessing at what a individuals perceptions are, an example might be that my mother has never checked a book out from a public library, so she may think those funds are wasted, or for people that do not have children in the public school system, they may think those funds are wasted.</p>
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8	Budget Update	Bill Sutter	<p>Found out today we will not have increases in Health coverage.</p> <p>6.0 - Revenue Cut 1.5 - PERA Increases 2.0 - Health Increases 4.4 - Steps/Lanes (Lanes not reported last month.) (2.0) - Attrition 11.9 9.9 Million</p>
9	Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee	Teegan Sheanin	<p>Teegan – has attended 2 meetings, will meet twice a month, will bring back information to DAC. Not a decision making body, it is an advisory committee. There is still a lot of collecting of information and voicing of ideas at this point. One thing to share is that the information has gone out to schools that gives them guideline of what is in their “bucket” and the 3 levels of cuts need to be made. They have their spreadsheets and can now start working with how they are going to come up with numbers. SAC's should have input into this process, check in to see how that process is working at your school.</p> <p>Budget subcommittee will provide us with dates and such with their update.</p> <p>Jennifer Rocke – Principal, Louisville Elementary - wanted to caution DAC members about what their principals might be sharing. They have only gotten one spreadsheet, they are getting another with regard to FTE allocations. So they don't have the whole picture yet. Be very thoughtful about what is said because you are talking about peoples jobs. Especially in a small setting such as an elementary school, cuts can mean one persons job. Even when you are talking numbers or programs, it can mean one person.</p> <p>Teegan - Still have the conversation about how people will be involved in the process. What is the plan? Even if you are not hashing numbers yet.</p>
10	Sub Committee Reports		<p>Budget Subcommittee Update – Chuck - The principals will be submitting to Budget (Bill) the spreadsheets with their cuts. The spreadsheets will be analyzed by Budget and a summary will be provided to the Budget Subcommittee. The subcommittee will create a report based on this to submit to the board. Report has to go to the board by their April meeting.</p> <p>Bill - Historically, the process has been to bring something to the meeting that has a DRAFT status applied to it and in order to get something to the board by their April budget work session the group would have to approve the DRAFT document to be submitted and would then have until the May meeting to make any changes and approve the FINAL that would then be submitted to the board.</p> <p>Question: What are SITS doing? Teegan – One thing we decided was to seek additional input from other parent groups such as PTA. Chuck – what we are looking for is what is important to you for your school. It may not be the same for each school.</p> <p>Question: What is off the table for cuts? Refer to the spreadsheets that were given to the principals.</p>

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10 cont.	Sub Committee Reports		<p>Question: What can fund raising dollars be used for? Current board policy states that it can be used to fund non-licensed staff such as paras.</p> <p>Question: Can that change in the current economic climate? Direct to Jim – is a suggestion that he has not heard yet.</p> <p>Question: For schools that fund raise money that is used for staff 10% goes into a pool for schools with 30% or more free and reduced lunch.</p> <p>Communications – Teegan - Continuing reading of SB163 and SB90 by next meeting plan to have a list of must do's for SAC's to be looking toward next year. Compiling information from survey.</p> <p>Accountable Programs (Open Enrollment) – David - Mike gave a detailed tour of the new Online Open Enrollment process for this year and now that the OE process is part of Infinite Campus the student data base system we will have better data integrity going forward. Discussed preferences and how they are implemented. Mike will get more data after the initial OE process calms down. Mulling over what they have seen so far.</p> <p>SIPR – Jeff Anderson – By next meeting have a draft plan for modifications to the way the review is done by DAC, instead of the interview, have a DAC member other than the one for that school attend a SAC meeting before the plan is finalized and then later in the process when it is being review, sometime around the progress reports.</p> <p>Bylaws Review – DAC Exec asking to committee to present recommendations to move forward on suggestions that we are able to implement now.</p>
11	Site Review Participation	Jonathan Dings	<p>We are still in need of DAC reps for site reviews.</p> <p>Please consider participating in a site review. Look at the calendar and let Carie carie.anderson@bvsd.org know what dates work for you.</p>
12	Preliminary Results - Communications Survey	Carin Chow	<p>24 Total responses 23 have SITS, 1 has a School Council Number of people attending meetings: 12 (5-9 attending), 7 (10-14 attending), 1 (more than 14) Who is on your SIT? 23 have parents, 19 have teachers, ALL have administrators, 1 has a community member, 5 have other staff How are members chosen? 3 by appointment, 16 volunteer, 3 by election, 1 PTA How often do you meet? 19 monthly, 2 every 6-8 weeks SIT chair persons: 17 have them, 4 don't Who is your chair person? 13 are parents, 3 are administrators</p>
13	Meeting Adjourned	Teegan Sheanin	8:57