

**DCSD School Board Meeting
1-18-11
Wilcox Board Room**

Present: Dan Gerken, Meghann Silverthorn, John Carson, Cliff Stahl, Craig Richardson, Doug Benevento, and Justin Williams

5:17 p.m., motion made to move into closed executive session

- Returned from closed session at 7:32 p.m.

7:35 p.m., Student and Staff Recognitions

8:00 p.m. Public Comment

Glenda –

In support of choice for all students.

Susan- Castle Pines North Resident

Every communication is touting this as a moneymaker because students would receive the full per pupil funding, and 25% of that money would stay with the district without having to service the students or be held accountable. That is voodoo math and voodoo economics. If you were successful to fight off a lawsuit, the result would lead to a decrease in per pupil revenue. The end result would create a new program in Douglas County - "Every Child Left Behind"

Benevento: Who on the board has claimed this system to be a moneymaker for the district? Susan: John Carson and Dan Gerken

Benevento: Who at the state is going to sue us? How do you know that there will be a lawsuit? What organizations would be suing us?

Have you talked with those organizations? Susan: No

Benevento: Who has talked to those organizations? Susan: ...Do you want their names (individuals)? Benevento: Yes. Susan: Those people are not here tonight so I will not be giving their names. I don't believe that this can be the first you have heard about the possibility of a lawsuit.

Cindy Barnard –

The number one issue right now should be budget and revenue. Yet choice task force has taken up so much of everybody's time. Employees of DCSD have not seen an increase in two years and this just shows that the budget and the cuts are not an issue.

John Dunn –

I just wanted to commend the board for taking steps to provide more choice here in Douglas County. It is a historic initiative and shows a pioneering spirit.

Charcie Russell – Choice Task Force and Great Choice Douglas County

Thanks for what you are doing. We have created an online petition and hundreds and hundreds of people have signed it and they are getting a lot of great support.

Superintendent Reports

Diane Doney, Bill Moffitt, Randy Weldon

Capital Improvement Needs

Capacity Findings -

- North – Sufficient w/possibility of 4 track schools.
- East – Additional Elementary needed in the LHS area, but we currently do not have any land.
- West – Additional Elementary School needed, but not sure where, there is some development activity in the Plum Creek area. Also, a wing for Castle View High School

Facility Capacity Needs

- Douglas County High School's mechanical system is still original from 1961. TRHS and CHS also have chilled water systems nearing the end of their life cycle.

Technology Capital Needs

- Been (10 years) – Oracle, financial, payroll systems, IC
- Today – Economic efficiencies. Centralized servers which cut the number down to 15 or 20 and has saved a million to a million and a half dollars each cycle. Also, online check-in systems and currently looking at CITE, and pay for performance systems.

Motion approved to post public notice for School Board Meetings on the front door of the Wilcox building the required 24 hours prior to the meeting to better inform people as well as keep a notice in the same place (outside the Board Room).

Motion approved to reduce the required 5-year budget forecasting to 3 years. The request, made by CFO Bonnie Betz, was discussed and the Board felt that 5 years was too far to really get an accurate financial forecast and it is more of a guess. The 3-year financial forecast was as far as the CFO went last year in a previous request. This motion solidified that 3 years out was substantial for budgeting purposes.

Lobato vs. Colorado Case:

The Board had made a Resolution in November and Rob Ross, along with Board Member Craig Richardson felt it needed to be revised with stronger language. Ross and Richardson drafted this new Resolution.

Richardson: This is a more clear resolution – we are choosing sides. There are ominous implications. Judges would be replacing school boards. We have been forced to be assertive, because the other side has... (The other side has attempted to make it seem that Boards would/are on their sides).

Gerken: This is a no-brainer for us.

Richardson: Moved a copy of the resolution be sent to all parties.

Carson: Agree. Funding should stay in legislative branch, not the judicial. Any scenario if the plaintiff wins will not help district. I doubt Douglas County would come out ahead.

Motion made and approved.

Long Range Planning Committee:

Todd Warnke was introduced as the new member who will be filling the second of 2 spots for Charter School Parents. Cliff Stahl was on the committee and was impressed with Warnke.

DAC News:

Jennifer Miner quit – appointed a new member who had interviewed prior.

Revised Financial Plan and Budget: Shelly Becker and Bonnie Betz discussed the changes from the budget in regards to student count in charters and neighborhood students.

Charter schools will be given more PPR to make up for the increase in student count from the predicted number. That money is being taken from neighborhood schools. See Power Point for the increase in both neighborhood and charter school enrollments for this school year.

Community Engagement: Susan Meek presented on the new website and how DCSD is taking an active role to build alliances with groups throughout the county, including government entities like the School Board does.

Silverthorn asked for one change in communication after presentation – wants a broader job – find a way to shoot message out to different media (example Dr. Fagen’s letter to more media outlets than just the community paper). She discussed getting the same questions over and over again which is difficult, especially as we get more controversial kinds of things thinking ahead.

Williams discussed his displeasure with LaRue’s column in the paper and how his facts and figures are inaccurate. It is wrong according to Williams

National School Choice Week: John Carson was asked to be a part of a live Pod Cast next week for this event. No date or time was given, however Carson said each day a different school district from around the country will participate.

Choice Task Force Focus Groups: DAC/SAC’s will be asked to join in for conversation on February 8th and 9th. Meghann Silverthorn asked that each Board member make an attempt to attend one of those meetings.

DAC has asked for more clarity on the Board's asking them to examine the achievement gap in certain places. They would like better direction.

Kevin Larson, DAC Chair, and Silverthorn discussed the desire for the Board to engage in a round table discussion with the DAC instead of the DAC presenting at Board meetings as it has done in the past. Larson stressed the meaningful interaction that could come from that type of dialogue.

*If you have any questions on the content of these notes feel free to contact the DCF, at 303-688-3381.