

DCSD School Board Meeting
8-17-10
CHS Auditorium

Present: John Carson, Douglas Benevento, Justin Williams, Dan Gerken, Cliff Stahl, Craig Richardson

5:15 p.m.: Call to Order; Roll Call

- Motion made and seconded to go into a closed executive session

6:35 p.m.: (back in open session)

- Motion made and seconded to accept the agenda
- Carson: anyone who wants to speak during public comment please fill out a speaker's card.

6:37 p.m.: Board decision on Amendment 61, presentation by Diane Doney, Dee Wisor and Terry Casey

- Letter of Credit and Ramification of Amendment 61: Presentation on impacts of Amendment 61 (refer to the ppt. titled Amendment 61 for full details on discussion points, posted on our website: www.dcf.net or visit the DCSD website under agenda and minutes)
- Diane Doney: we have two options, 205 Election or a letter of credit. There is a decision for the Board to make, do nothing, prepare a letter of credit or adopt a resolution authorizing the certification of the election question to issue debt in the amount of \$70 million for the purpose of financing the district's annual cash flow deficit only if it passes. Gerken: both forms of debt would be tax-free. Doney: they would be taxable. Gerken: if you go to the ballot...Casey: would still be a taxable rate, but a difference of 10-15 basis points...approximately \$70,000.00. Gerken: if you go with the 205 you have the ability to get an early call provision? Casey: in the event it passed, you wouldn't want to have a long term debt so you would want to craft a solution with provisions in them that would allow...Gerken: normally it would be 20 year. Casey: yes. In the event if you decide not to proceed with an election the staff needs to be ready to execute a solution. As you think about the numbers...until we are authorized by the board to proceed...it is conceivable for the district to find a letter of credit. It is one of the items for you to consider, for you to review. Gerken: we are looking for...we can get more up to the minute information when we get closer to the election. Doney: what we need to decide tonight is if you want to go for an election, we will come back in October when we have a better idea of rates and what is happening. You need to decide if you want to go for an election and give us a nod to go forward with a COP or ... Carson: we will see if any members want to speak or offer a motion. Our option is to put something on the ballot. That is decision one, if we decide not to do that we decide to direct our staff to lay the ground work of Certificates of Participation (COP). I agree with Dan to eliminate the option of doing nothing... Gerken: I would recommend we go for a COP, I don't think we have a high probability of winning...I don't want to give the voter an option of liking the idea (of the Amendments/Proposition) and if I vote for it I can not harm the schools. I am not going to make a motion now because everyone should jump in. Carson: actually you can make the motion and we can discuss that. Gerken: I would like to make a motion for the staff...\$73 mill COP in the event that

61 wins. Seconded. Carson: I think you have an extraordinary education curve and we should instead put our resources in educating voters on the devastating impacts of 61. Williams: by the way, in Parker...if they need to put the Parker Water and Sanitation on a 10 year note, the water bills would skyrocket. Richardson: I was intrigued by your (Dan) line of questioning about terms. There is a risk of interest rates...I am wondering if there is a way to have a mix...Gerken: I don't advocate going with a variable rate, I am looking at an early call option. Richardson: is there a way to have staggered terms? Gerken: with a call we don't have to exercise it. Casey: the one caveat I add to it is that there will undoubtedly be court cases around this...you must reduce your taxes if you don't have a level structure you might find yourself when you get to those benchmark years...would the Amendment require you, say in year six, to drop? Richardson: we are giving you macro direction and you will come back with more detail. I support the motion. Carson: unless anyone else has a comment I am going to ask that we vote on (Gerken's motion). Anyone else want to speak? Stahl: shockingly, no. Vote: unanimous vote in favor of motion.

7:03 p.m.: Adoption of Consent Agenda

- Seconded and approved
- Carson: we will come back to the "Jobs Bill" that was passed and if some of that will flow down.

7:04 p.m.: Adoption of Joint Motion Agenda

7:05 p.m.: Student and Staff Recognitions

- 5A Swim Champions: Boys Swim Team (MVHS, RCHS, TRHS, HRHS)
- Highlands Ranch High School Teacher: Gayle Heckman
- Mountain View Elementary Teacher: Adrienne Rabiuis
- Copper Mesa Elementary Principal: Luan Ezra

7:13 p.m.: Community Engagement

- (Please see .ppt titled [Community Engagement](#) for more information, posted on our website: www.dcf.net or visit the DCS website under agenda and minutes)
- Carson: do we have anyone that would like to address the board?
- Public Speaker (name was not announced by BoE): I would like to know how to engage the community on Amendment 60, 61, 101. How do we get the information to teachers and our community? Williams: we are unable to communicate legally... we cannot send out anything to let people know that their livelihoods are at stake? Gerken: Dick (Bump), maybe you can answer? Bump: the fair campaign acts...allow us to direct to information. Benevento: information could be put on the website? Speaker: for parents and staff members or just staff members? Bump: the board can ask staff to prepare...disseminate information like all meetings. Gerken: we can send out an email? Bump: we can provide information...Williams: what is at risk? If we get sued, at 10,000 fine? What would be the damage? Carson: I don't think we need to be concerned with that. We are elected officials and we are free to speak with the public, we are not district employees. Benevento: we need to educate the board on what might happen if it would pass...that could not possibly be seen as advocacy. I would like to make a motion that Liz direct staff to do that...so that we can prepare if they pass. These are responsible steps we should take. I don't want to advocate...just know what they (ballot measures) would do. Carson: I second

that...some factual presentation of staff's best thinking. Stahl: they have been doing that for weeks or even months already, that is what they have been presenting.

Benevento: we need more detail. Williams: 61 would threaten our ability to stay on a normal calendar year. Speaker: what do you mean by that? Williams: we would not be able to operate until tax revenue comes in...March to December...we could maybe stay open this first year, but after we would need to close. Stahl: it seems the root of the discussion is what we do after staff prepares the information. Bump: the board can ask the staff to provide the information; your position is if you want to tell your constituents. Carson: we are in public comment and a motion is not in order...Gerken: if the staff were directed to provide a two page summary...could we disseminate that to our website and to our constituents? Bump: there is specific action around this. Richardson: I would like to make a comment that you (the speaker) have sparked some great discussion, thank you.

- Kevin Larson: there a couple of groups (working on 60, 61, 101)...I am working with Great Education Douglas County. I have also learned as members of the public we can make requests of the staff and ask for information...that the district will provide us facts...we can present to the public. We, as a citizen group, can advocate as a group. The board did in June pass a resolution opposing these resolutions. We would like to find places to have you in front of the public. We need to not only defeat these, but by 75 plus percent. Williams: you can put me down. Larson: with back to school nights coming up, we need to take advantage of times when an audience is coming to the school. We can rent the buildings. Williams: if it is only a 60/40 (vote against) they (these ballot measures) will keep coming back. Carson: it is part of our job to educate the public on the impact of these to the school district.
- Public comment, Judy Reynolds: I have been asked by my PTO to report back to them to let them know what is going on (around these ballot measures). I don't know if we can somehow get the word out. As I see people at school, I see them and talk to them... Carson: that is an important distinction, members of staff cannot advocate, but BoE members can.
- Ron Peterson (principal, CHS): I could not be more proud of the academic success of our students, and I could not be more proud of our faculty and staff during these difficult times, and that sentiment is from all of my administration.
- **Addition to the Agenda:** Benevento: we are going to be negligent if we don't ask the staff to present the "what ifs" if they pass, we need to know what steps to take to make sure we are compliant to that law. I would seek a motion and a second. Carson: we can add that to the agenda, and if there is no further discussion we will vote. Vote: unanimous.

7:44 p.m.: Study/ Action Items II

- **STEM update:** on contract conditions 1-6 (please refer to the ppt. titled STEM Middle and High School Contract Conditions Update posted on our website: www.dcf.net or visit the DCSD website under agenda and minutes; there are other attachments available on the DCSD Website under agenda items). STEM Curriculum (please refer to the posted pdf. titled STEM Curriculum). Extension discussion: request for extension to Oct. 1st. Stahl: relative to...you have a little bit of competition in Highlands Ranch now. Talk to us about how this will impact you and how you will compete. Did this factor into your student enrollment? Jason Lundberg

(STEM): it didn't, we had a significant number enrolled last year. Stahl: I am still relatively concerned about the amount of dollars you have allocated and how you arrived at that number? I think it is important for our Board to offer our assistance and help to you. Lundberg: as for grants, it makes it difficult to apply for those until it is approved. Stahl: I would encourage you to speak with Sean McGraw....I hear he raises money. Gerken: how long of a lease? Lundberg: a five to ten year lease. Gerken: you would build your own building in five or ten years? Jason: long-term goal. Landlords have committed to paying 75% or more. Gerken: where would the other 25% come from? Lundberg: donations. Gerken: how many students are required? Lundberg: 368 by January 15th. Stahl: I would be interested in a budget update. You will need to fundraise for...\$140,000? Lundberg: yes ([please refer to posted .pdf titled STEM Budget](#)). Gerken: when are you looking to occupy the space? Lundberg: July 1st. Gerken: you will need to have your fundraising completed... Stahl: in terms of fundraising for your school...typical for a charter startup? (Mr. Stahl directed this question to someone in the audience from North Star) Answer: we received grants, CDE startup funds, etc...about ½ million in the first four-five years. Stahl: would you have started up the school without those funds? Answer: no. Carson: I suggest we will be getting regular updates, Pat (McGraw) can you highlight what you would like to be changed? McGraw: extension to Oct. 1st for performance standards, etc. Motion made and seconded. Vote: unanimous.

- **SkyView Academy Expansion Request:** ([please refer to posted SkyView Academy High School Expansion Proposal .pdf and .ppt](#)) Carson: did you say you are going to teach History? I don't think we are teaching enough American History, World History and Civics. Virtually all of the charter schools find a healthy market and emphasize more than we do... Williams: tell me how you are going to find teachers well versed enough to teach two, three subjects? They will teach multiple subjects? Merlin Holmes: (combinations of subjects that are fairly easy to find). Stahl: talk to me about approval without conditions; explain that to me. McGraw: generally when contracts are going through we look at lease, etc., but all of those things are in place already...principal in place, a building, etc. Stahl: so it is not necessarily a waiver from anything. Holmes: (in reference to a waive from first priority of Douglas County students) request leaves open the opportunity for the parents who have done the leg work (who may live outside of Douglas County)...it leaves it open to a chance. Jennifer Larson: K-8 first priority is given to Douglas County students. High school would be more open to outside the district. Stahl: I don't think there is a charter school in Douglas County that doesn't give priority to Douglas County students. Larson: not common in Douglas County (but there are not any charter high schools yet), so more common statewide. Stahl: I can see, with how well you do your programming, I can see people who want to be a part of your program...and they are residents. McGraw: we have had all of these discussions, where it is...located along the boundaries of three districts. Bump: if you are going to approve...approve a waiver of the in-district residency requirement. Benevento: motion to approve and include a waiver of the in-district residency requirement. Motion seconded. Vote: unanimous.

- **Solar Power Purchase Agreement:** (please refer to the posted .pdf titled DCSD Solar Power; additional information is available under agenda item information on the DCSD Website) motion made to approve contract, seconded. Vote: unanimous.
- **Policy Governance Update** lengthy discussion between board and Dr. Fagen around Policy Governance. Motion made to accept report for Board members to review. Seconded and voted on, Stahl only no vote. Stahl: we have a RFP (Request for Proposal) ready to go, Ron are you ready to go? Ron McCulley: it is actually a RFI (Request for Information). Professional service, I can really put this on the street tomorrow and can expect some back in a few weeks (this discussion was around Policy Governance or other forms of Board “governance”). Carson: how much are you expecting to spend? Benevento: ballpark? Stahl: can I just say we got a reduced rate in the past because of membership in CASB (laughter). Benevento: we should be a member then (laughter). Stahl: should we go out and spend money on this when the Board hasn’t even decided they want to use policy governance? Carson: that is not how it is written; it is to bring all options forward (not just Policy Governance).
- **Jobs Bill Passage:** Fagen: Jason Hopfer (district lobbyist) to provide update. Possible mid-year rescission because of this money. Hopfer: 159 million for Colorado. Governor’s office looking at how to distribute. Carson: this money can’t be used to back fill, can it? Benevento: usually these have a “non substitution” clause. Hopfer: I will have to go back to look at what strings are attached. Gerken: the money needs to be spent by when? Doney: Sept 2012. Our problem is we can go out and spend it, but if the state rescinds...Gerken: do we need to show we are hiring people? Doney: Jason will have to look at that. Gerken: what would we do, with the school year already started? Fagen: we will do an analysis of class size and address that...if it is one time money that poses a problem. Gerken: are there strings attached? Doney: we have not gotten that information yet. Carson: I don’t want to belabor the point, as we don’t have enough information yet. I just wanted to present it to the board. Carson: when we read and are told this is for 2,700 new teachers...this is why people get frustrated with the federal government and the state for that matter. We should go public as a board to the taxpayers, “you may think you got 2,700 new teachers but...” Gerken: any new information on Race to the Top? Hopfer: not much yet. Carson: we have your contract lobby contract...we are going to vote on that at another meeting. This is my view, and others can speak, we want you to spend a lot of time on making sure Douglas County...we need to get more aggressive and raise some heck and make some trouble down there (at the capitol). It is just not fair how money is allocated. Stahl: Jason has two contracts coming due, one a traditional lobby contract and the other a community engagement contract. Relative to the community engagement piece, I will speak with Jason on going forward...

Board Reports

- **School Choice Task Force:** Carson: next meeting Thursday, 7:00 p.m. (Wilcox Board Room). Will break out in sub committees.
- **Rocky Mountain Expeditionary School of Learning:** Benevento: if they can move the meeting I can go on Friday. Carson: if anyone else can go let Nona know, it is at 9:00 tomorrow. If not, do they want to postpone the meeting?

- Carson: DC Partnership of Governments is tomorrow at the Ridge.
Carson: if you ever wonder if you are having an impact, we talk about school choice, transparency, etc. I did feel good when this flier for Boy Scouts showed up in my Thursday folder. Williams: we have heard that there are six new troops after we opened up the schools. They also need some scout projects.
- Carson: any update on the information for 60, 61, 101? Williams: representatives from all governments were there and all oppose it. I presented to the Parker Town Council, I read a statement and went over each measure and how it impacts us. Everyone feels the same way; it will do the same thing to them as it will do to us.
- **Adjournment: 9:55 p.m.**

- *Notes taken by Courtney Smith, DCF Office. If you have any questions on the content of the notes, feel free to contact me at Courtney.smith@dcsdk12.org or 303-688-3381.