

DCSD School Board Meeting
9-7-10
Wilcox Board Room

Present: Dan Gerken, Cliff Stahl, Meghann Silverthorn, Craig Richardson, John Carson, Doug Benevento, (Justin Williams was present for the Closed Executive Session)

5:20 p.m.

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

6:34 p.m.: (back in open session)

- Pledge of Allegiance

6:37 p.m.: Amendments 60, 61, Proposition 101 (presentation by Diane Doney)

- (Please refer to the ppt. titled 60, 61, 101 for full details on discussion points, posted on our website: www.dcf.net or visit the DCSD website under agenda and minutes)
- Diane Doney: Prop 101's effect would be 16 million we would lose if it goes into effect (between 2011-2021)...Amendment 60, repeals current voter-approved elections...repeals any property tax increases, extension or abatement rate increase that occurred after 1992 without voter approval. Requires public owned enterprises to pay property tax, example CU would have to pay property taxes to Boulder County, and would then need to increase tuition to cover the property taxes. Estimated impact of Amendment 60 to DCSD, 8 million a year. State would have to backfill that, state doesn't have the money...full implementation (of all three measures) 1.5 billion of state budget would go for K-12 funding. Gerken: we don't want the state paying more...the more they pay the less local control we have over our district. Doney: this is on all non-debt related mills...our voters have approved so much for an override, this would give it back to them even though they have approved it (in past elections). Another issue is if (Amendment 60) cuts in ½ our money from override, is the state going to be forced to backfill? Richardson: have you computed if it is actually possible, mathematically possible, to rely on the state? Is there enough revenue? Doney: what I have seen is that when these are all enacted K-12 would be 99% of the state budget. Amendment 61 prohibits all new state borrowing, interest-free loans, reduces debt limit to 10% from 25% (we are at 14 to 15%). No COPs (Certificates of Participation), our charter schools are heavily dependent on COPs. No state borrowing...universities borrow and pay back with student fees. All debt must be voted on including bond refunding...(currently) for this we look at the market, three times, the fact that we would need to go to the voters in November...we would never be refunding bonds. We saved the taxpayers 4 million last October...this will not happen if this passes. When we refund bonds it goes strait back to the taxpayers and we do it only to save the taxpayers money (money saved through refunding is not put back into the district's budget). When we retire COPs we would need to reduce by that principal amount. All debt must be repaid in 10 years under this Amendment. Richardson: the last two reduce our ability to respond to the market place. You limit yourself to a slice of the market...to a 10-year limit. It means we are going to be paying a higher cost of capitol. Gerken: if the same thing were to happen in the private market place we would have a country with so much less wealth. If you were forced to (10 year limit) when buying a house or mortgage.... At the end of the day it will mean we will not be able to build any

new schools...our class sizes would grow even more. Doney: municipalities are in the same situation...they will be unable to build treatment plants, etc. and cash flow borrowing is considered debt. Eliminates the state interest-free loan. No borrowing until 2014. No issuing of COP for charters or district. 5.6 million/year is only the actual true cost of 61. The all in cost in 11/12 would be 17.6 million on top of 23 million dollars in predicted cuts from the state. 17.6 million the next year and the next year, etc. 152 million dollars cut by 2020/2021 (these numbers are for DCSD alone). Benevento: one of the obligations for the board is to live up to the law. If we come in the second meeting in November and all three passed...we have 2 million in (immediate cuts)...do we start having conversations. Doney: we have been hanging onto .2%, we told the departments and schools...we have 1 million of 2 held back. We have 5 million in contingency...or we can go to the schools and tell them we need another mid-year cut like last year. Benevento: we would go through a process similar to last year. In my mind there is a question of how will we comply with this and when do we need to work on the contingency plan. Doney: we would be working immediately and have a plan to you by January. Benevento: the slide that requires a new election. Is that for elections that have already passed? The district would need to pay for that election. We are going to have an election already for next year so we have money set aside. For the interest-free loans that throws off the school year. Doney: if we didn't have the COP we would have to do that. Benevento: do we do that every year? Doney: (yes) we issue it to ourselves and pay it back. Benevento: if we have to potentially cut 152 million...is the process we would go through to identify cuts, is that really a viable process? If those are the cuts that have to come...it concerns me that we not think about what compliance will look like, we can't do what we are doing now over the next 10 years. We would have to find a way to prioritize. Doney: I think site-based budgeting works with smaller cuts. We would not be able to deliver what we deliver now with these types of cuts. You will need to look at total programs... Stahl: we have talked about these in elections past, what is the end result...if this happens this is what is going to occur, large dollars make a statement...but until it is laid out what is going to occur. Benevento: we need to engage in a lot of discussions with the public, what they value. Doney: I can give you some information on what things are worth...without determining what the cuts would be...for talking points. When looking at different dollar amounts, we have really cut back on non-school departments already. If you said no more busing except IEPs that is only 10 million. Benevento: what are the federal and state requirements that we have to meet in order to be in compliance with the state statute, law and constitution. We don't want to be in violation of law. Doney: we will need to go through the list of all non-mandated programs. We offer a lot...if we also require employees to share in the cost of the individual (medical coverage), pay to play fees for athletics...all very small relative amounts. We reduced FTE teachers and all employees last year for this year... Questions? Gerken: what is the ratio of the dismissal of a teacher to increase in class size...how many teachers would you have to dismiss to increase class size by one? Doney: in the original budget book...the \$250 SBB decrease would increase elementary by 2 and secondary by 3.5. Principals have funded teachers through fundraising and tried to do everything but reduce teachers. Gerken: that will not be the case this year.

Doney: you all received the email that said we are happy the Jobs Bill money is coming, but hold on to it because there may be another mid-year state rescission.

Silverthorn: do you have an hour equivalent of an FTE? Doney: I do not have that breakdown, HR does.

7:19 p.m.: committee updates

- Carson: (School Choice Task Force) we are having a meeting tomorrow night with our attorney from 6-9 about our Colorado framework (referring to the exploration of the use of vouchers).

7:20 p.m.: Adoption of Agendas

- Motion made, seconded and approved

7:22 p.m.: Public Comment

- None

7:22 p.m.: Study/Action Items

- Jason Hopfer (district lobbyist): I would like to walk you through the email I sent you this morning...the money you should be expecting from the Jobs Bill you would be advised not to go spending it. We are looking at current-year budget reductions; the number is unknown. We don't know how they will be implemented; there is a good possibility that K-12 will have further reductions. We won't know the numbers for a while, but is not good. Stahl: do we have a contract (referring to the district's contract with Mr. Hopfer)? Hopfer: we don't have actual contract language. It expired on the 31st. Stahl: I would like to make a motion to approve but we don't have the actual contract...I make a motion to approve the contract (based on receipt of the contract) with Jason Hopfer and his firm, combine both of the contracts, eliminate some of the work that needs to be done elsewhere. Gerken: savings of 15,000 from last year? Stahl: yes. Motion seconded and approved.
- Stahl: I motion that we alter our 2010/2011 goal to be the healthiest school District in the nation and that we place the charge of Health and Wellness Initiative under the Douglas County Educational Foundation for further investigation and for implementation of the new wellness initiative. Motion seconded and approved.
- Carson: we have our policy governance and we have the superintendent policies...I was looking at the policies this weekend and it is 3-4 years old. I was wondering if Nona you could get an updated policy and superintendent policy. I would like to have the most up to date. Stahl: we have that under our library, under policy and regs...click the drop down and it will give you all of it.
- Stahl: I would make a motion that we adopt the acceptance and only monitor reports...seconded and approved.
- Benevento: there was some confusion of how members were appointed (to DAC) and removed...what Meghann and I discussed...that we re-write the bylaws to more closely follow the state statute...we proposed an amendment to the bylaws ([see the documents titled DAC Bylaws and DAC Resolution on our website: www.dcft.net](http://www.dcft.net) or www.dcsdk12.org). We added two amendments to the bylaws...any (board) member can bring to the board a proposal to remove a DAC member and it would be a board vote. The process to appoint to the DAC, my proposal is to appoint a subcommittee to recommend the candidates. Gerken: of Board members? Benevento: yes. Silverthorn: the board members can request that a DAC member be involved. Right now the board's involvement is unclear. We thought it appropriate to increase the

board's involvement. Benevento: real quickly, to outline where we are to the current DAC and what effect it would have...the DAC has one vacancy and one seat coming up (for parents). We have three vacancies for a community member involved in business. I move to seek a second that any member of the board can recommend to the balance of the board the removal of a DAC member and second the DAC shall have a minimum of 5 and no more than 11 voting members. BoE lawyer: I believe the statue requires a minimum of 7. Benevento: you are right...it is 6. I would not seek to amend it...let me recommend leaving it how it is to avoid confusion. Gerken: have you officially moved... Benevento: I would move the resolution as amended to read any board member can bring to the board a removal of any DAC member. Gerken: is it explicit that then the board will vote? (voted on and approved). Richardson: can I suggest that we change in the resolution to "no fewer than two." Silverthorn: I want to talk about a few things...there are a few issues on the table. There are a couple of nominations put forth, and there is a DAC meeting scheduled on September 14th by the chairman without the approval of the board...they are looking to us to say if it should be a meeting that is not formal since there are not any action items (and no quorum). I told Kevin Larson on the phone today...do we want them to have to meet on the 14th and have no decisions or ...the process has become confusing because the chairman Mr. Claxton has put these things forward without the Board...he has put this forward without any input of the board. Gerken: are we asking...are we saying we don't want any decisions being made? Silverthorn: this meeting on the 14th has been scheduled...we can ask for a postponement, I just want to know what we as a board...The board will make the decision about who should succeed (Mr. Claxton). Benevento: we should appoint the committee now...I am happy to do it unless someone else wants to. Motion made, seconded, approved. Benevento: we need to fill three spots vacant, a principal, teacher, parent. We have 6 parents, we can seek to increase to 10 or let stand. Gerken: you can take charge of that. Silverthorn: both his chairmanship (Mr. Claxton) and his member at large position is expiring. He felt he would be of value of the board/DAC (if his term was extended for a period of time to provide continuity). Gerken: is there anyone on the board that wants to make a motion to extend his term? No motion made. Silverthorn: I will inform him that his next meeting will be his last as a member and the chair.

- Stahl: I would make a motion that there is slight change to the long-range planning bylaws. We currently have a charter representative and are about to have another one...to be fair to all of the feeder areas that is key to long-range planning. I make the motion to approve their bylaws as presented.
- Discussion around retreat location: Gerken: should we do Cherokee Ranch as a retreat?
- Carson: Nona, will you look at the policies...I am not able to pull all of it up. If you could just take a look at that and see if we need to update, I am looking at a monitoring report from 2007.
- Silverthorn: I have received some commentary that the FOC is not available.
- Gerken: everyone is aware of the baseball game?
- Richardson: I would like to flag an issue for Dr. Fagan and how to address it at the next meeting. I did see the emails about the Chinese language teacher. Language is to me one of the key national security issues...I am worried about a shortage of talent

in that area. I do not have enough data to know what is going on in that particular case...I do not want to see it relegated to whose available and who we know. Perhaps at our next meeting if staff could present around where we are and where we are headed in that important issue.

- **Adjournment: 8:10 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.