

DCSD School Board Meeting
9-21-10
American Academy Cafeteria

Present: Dan Gerken, Cliff Stahl, Meghann Silverthorn, Craig Richardson, John Carson (came in after Closed Executive Session concluded), Doug Benevento, Justin Williams

5:00 p.m.

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

6:49 p.m.: (back in open session)

- Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent's report: welcome to new CFO (Bonnie Betz), and other positions that have been hired to replace vacancies.

6:50 p.m. Acceptance of Agenda: voice vote/acceptance

6:51 p.m. Student and Staff Appreciation

- American Academy Student Showcase: Mr. Todd (1st grade at American Academy) with 2nd graders (his students from last year). Todd: this was kind of last minute but I was able to get 12 of the students to come. (Students went through the skeletal system with a song and a chant on the layers of the earth).
- Student and Staff Recognitions:
 - Tiffany Vaughn RVMS, Raytheon's Math Hero Award
 - Dr. Caroline Jefferson-Jenkins: was inducted into the Girl Scouts of Colorado Women of Distinction Program
 - Dr. Caroline Jefferson-Jenkins: award from League of Women Voters, Making Democracy Work Award (Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins was the 15th national president of the League of Women Voters)
 - Night Hawk News, RHMS: created a film and it was chosen as a finalist in its category from Denver Academy Film Festival for Youth.
 - RHMS: awarded as a Colo. State School of Character by CDE, chosen as a finalist for a national award (only school in Colo.)
 - Patti Magby: Meadow View Principal named 2010 Principal of the Year by the Colorado Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
 - North Ridge Elementary: "The Brainiators" placed 1st out of 26 teams in the elementary level of the "Direct Diposit" Challenge.

Reports:

- Silverthorn: DAC update...had a meeting last week with remaining members, 71 combined applications for teacher, administrator, community member positions. Doug and I are the subcommittee for that. We have talked with them (remaining members) about getting more involved with issues going on at the school level. Want them to concentrate on the achievement gap. Benevento: wanted board to know they are working on the achievement issues...seem excited to become more involved.
- Benevento: School Choice Task Force continues to meet...exploring options for choice in the district, both in and out of the system. Such as contract schools, open enrollment, the board will receive a presentation on that.
- Stahl: I do want to make you aware my continued plea that my wife will soon be having a baby and I will need some help with committees so we need to move that to the forefront. Williams: what are they? Stahl: communications, student

leadership...we have a whole list. Gerken: for the next board meeting lets come prepared for that discussion.

7:09 p.m. Community Engagement

- Gerken: we are pleased to be meeting in a charter school tonight. There have been 19 school visits so far (by board members) so far this year. The employees in make us proud. CITE, the Continuous Improvement of Teacher Effectiveness initiative for teacher development and evaluation was launched this year and will provide better tools and processes for evaluation and professional development and will help us move toward a more meaningful Pay for Performance system to better support out teachers and students. We are currently trying to get our administrators and teachers up to speed. Thursday, October 21st at 7 p.m. is the next DCSD Choice Task Force meeting. This meeting is open to the public and we encourage you to become involved with this group as it creates a blueprint for school choice in Douglas County. Sub-committee plans should be completed by October to be presented to the board in November. The formal full Task Force Plan will be presented in December. I am sure all of you are aware of three measures that will be on November's ballot. Amendments 60, 61, and Proposition 101 would drastically and negatively impact DCSD. The impact is so severe that we need to discuss these measures with our public. 60 would cut school funding in ½, 80 mill less over next 10...61 prohibits all new state borrowing. If 61 passes we will look forward with plans for a COP which will cost tax payers more because the debt will not be tax-free...over 10 years 56 million dollars (in cost) to the district. Prop 101 will drastically reduce the state income tax rate (and vehicle taxes and fees)...impact will be 16 million less in revenue...For all three, total 152 million less in revenue over 10 years (for DCSD). Over 30% decrease to total budget. We ask that you discuss the negative impact with neighbors and friends ([please refer yet again to the ppt. that was presented at the last BoE meeting around the specific impacts of 60, 61, 101 to DCSD, it is posted on www.dcft.net with these notes](#)). Want to thank American Academy for welcoming us tonight.
- No public comment.
- Boy Scouts of America Presentation by Don Booher and Pat Dannenberg: ([Please refer to the .ppt posted with these notes on www.dcft.net or www.dcsdk12.org](#))
 - Questions: Carson: thank you for what you are doing for our kids, there is no doubt in my mind that the value system I have as adult is one I learned from Scouts. We don't endorse particular groups, we wanted to make sure you have the ability to communicate...given the reasonable option with either back to school nights or Thursday folders. We have made it clear that we want a reasonable means to communicate with parents and kids. Williams: have you come up with ideas for the process (around service projects)...the process is for the Eagle Scout to go out and seek projects? To encourage them to come to the schools. We just need to understand the process, what the standard would be, and could deliver. Fagen: I would like to introduce you to Bill Moffitt and Diane Doney they will work together with you to access a list of projects in our district. Williams: is there anything additional we can do? There are still some schools we have some difficulty in, being able to access. Continued support would help. Williams: what can we do to coordinate with your counterparts in Highlands

Ranch? We will coordinate with them. Silverthorn: I am delighted you came; my husband is an Eagle Scout. Our staff is here to help. We were all invited to attend (a service project)...planted a liberty elm tree in front of Saddle Ranch. Benevento: I want to thank you...it is part of living in DC that we have great volunteer service. I am glad to hear your access to schools is improving. Booher: there are other organizations that contacted me to understand how the policy works...Girl Scouts (others listed I did not catch). Richardson: Thank you, I would hope you would take additional time...in June to let us know how we are doing on the two issues (access and projects). You mentioned that Cherry Creek is up to 50% participation; I want to be at 51%. Why are we at a lower percentage? Booher: only certain schools...time is one of the answers, they have had access longer. Time will help, as people understand us better. If it is attractive people will come. Gerken: again, Pat nice to see you...Don sorry for messing up your last name. Thank you again for your laudable work. Lets keep the dialog going...could we have some formal process by the next meeting? Fagen: if we could have four weeks? We are looking at being able to put up projects or needs.

7:53 p.m.: Action Items

- Bonnie Betz (District CFO) voted in as BoE Treasurer.
- Carson: something happened this week that will change the entire charter school dialog...Oprah gave money to charter schools...maybe hearing it from Oprah will make more sense than John Stossel (20/20). Gerken: this is a board that has been very receptive to charter schools, we are not looking for every school to be a charter school...but if there is parent demand out there I see the board as being favorable. Benevento: we are trying to offer options inside the public school system as well as options outside of it. Gerken: the more options we have the better all of them will get.
- Williams: did we receive an application from Ben Franklin? Is that appropriate to discuss? Well then I make a motion to adjourn.
- **Adjournment: 8:03 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.