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Mission Statement

Together we are committed to graduating and preparing all children for success in college and careers.

MINUTES
Board of Education Work Session
December 17, 2009
Student Service Center – Board Room

The Board of Education Work Session began at 8:44 a.m. with the following Board members present: President Danielle Lindorf, Director Tammy Harold, Director Andy Holloman, Director Dave Martin

1. Board Member Orientation

1. Debriefing from CASB

The Board discussed information that they gained from attending the Colorado Association of School Boards Conference. Attending this conference was very informative to all Board members. They were able to attend a variety of work sessions dealing with curriculum, financial issues and on line academies as well as Colorado School law. The overall consensus is that the next few years are going to be very challenging for school districts.

2. Best Practices & Legal Overview – Brad Miller

BOE legal counsel reviewed with the Board the rolls of attorneys in the district as well as the Boards responsibilities as they carry out their duties.

3. Communications Standards – Danielle Lindorf, Dr. Schoeppey & Stephanie Wurtz Meredith

Standards for communication were discussed. Board members can only speak as a board when they are in a Board meeting. They are a marketing tool for the district and it is important to get the district mission statement out to the community.

The Falcon Flyer is being sent out to all email addresses available twice a month. This is a good media source for the Board to use to get information out to the community. Community meetings are in the planning stage. The district web site is updated on a continuing basis and media releases are issued on an ongoing basis. A community partnership campaign has been started to bring in area businesses to work with our schools. A strategic plan for our communication process will be coming to the Board for review. The goal is to communicate and educate our community regarding the district vision and goals.

4. BEST Grant Information (Colorado BEST Grant & Grant Processes) – Annie Sorensen, Grand Coordinator

Talked about competitive grants, grants that we present a proposal for and are either awarded or not.

Have received over four million dollars worth of grants for the district since 2004. We have about three million dollars in active grants at the present. The program costs about seventy thousand dollars a year to run. The average return on grants presented is about 85%; which is a good average. Between 2009-2010 there has been a huge jump in programs being awarded to the district. Grants flow to very promising programs not just needy programs. Major incentive is to seek multiyear grants; it helps us to sustain and it helps teachers get results. It also helps us be able to evaluate the program. There are proposals that have been presented this year that we are waiting response on. On the horizon there are several grants that we are developing at this time.

The process is, prospecting, researching on where grant comes from, looking at corporate and family foundations. The important thing is would the grant be a good fit for the district we are very targeted on our approach. The development of information is essential to put forth the best proposal possible. Buy in by the staff that would be responsible for the program is essential.

Being proactive in what the district is focusing on is a benefit when applying for grants. Grants are very specific, they are used for specific items and all the money has got to be accounted for that program. Grants are kept very separate from all other budget items.

A review was given in the process for applying for a Colorado BEST Grant. The proposal is due the first of April.

5. Bonding Companies – David Bell

Mr. Bell reviewed the does and don't in regards to bond elections. There is nothing magic about this; it is a decision making process. A well constructed plan is never a waste of time. Each area is individual and has different dynamics.

6. Financial Overview (PPR breakdown, debt breakdown) – Joleen Schaaake

Operating costs were presenting by building. The information was pulled by location not by program. The funded pupil count is cost per FTE. The cost per individual schools were

Percent of Total Operating Revenue expended by level was reviewed along with the ending fund balance (including TABOR) TABOR grows every year.

The state sets the PPR for the state. Falcon school district is on the lower end of the funding.

Talked about mill levy override. Examples of mill levy override election ballots was presented.

Bonded Indebtedness legal uses was also shown to the Board as well as the district bonded debt compared with other districts in El Paso County and the current bonded capacity.

Out of 176 we are 167 in funding; that is 11th from the bottom.

7. School Calendars – Dr. Schoeppey

Dr. Schoeppey stated that more than double the responses were received with the second survey done by the district.

Option B is the recommended calendar for the 2010 – 2010 school year. The other change that is presented is the number of student contact days is 170. At the middle school two days were added

and at the high school one day is added. He will be recommending the approval of the option B calendar with the increased number of day along with a change in the two board policies GCD and GDD to go along with the calendar.

The significant change is the thanksgiving it is only the three days. It was important to both staff and parents are the two week breaks for fall, Christmas and spring. Will be bringing the 2011-2012 school calendar in the near future.

Building administrator contract days are being looked at to make them consistent.

It will be important to review the contracts of the charter schools to align them with the calendar of the district.

Danielle Lindorf, BOE President

Tammy Harold, BOE Secretary