



Financial Oversight Committee Meeting

Education Center, 3A Conference Room
1829 Denver West Dr., Building 27
Golden, CO 80401

Meeting Minutes January 25, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

Financial Oversight Committee (FOC)

Members Present:

Leanne Emm, Chair
Charlotte Franson
Scott Tarbox
Christine Havlin
Jessica Keene

Committee Members and Staff Absent:

Brian Ballard
Gordon Calahan

Staff Present:

Tracy Dorland, Superintendent
Brenna Copeland, Chief Financial Officer
Steve Bell, Chief Operating Officer
Nicole Stewart, Director of Budget & Treasury
Lisa Anderson, Controller

Independent Auditor and Other:

Paul Niedermuller, Clifton Larson Allen, LLP

Welcome: Leanne Emm called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: Leanne Emm called for any changes to the current agenda and for a motion to approve the November 30, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously, and the minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Audit of the Bond Program:

The committee reviewed the Moss Adams report, page 12, and the recommendation from Moss Adams that the district “commission and complete an annual independent financial audit of the Bond Program”.

CLA, Paul Niedermuller, presented information about the GAAP compliant annual audit, which includes the 2018 Bond Fund, the 2020 Bond Fund and the Capital Fund. The financial statement audit is completed in compliance with governmental accounting standards and regular testing is performed over the course of the audit. The audit is performed independently by CLA.

The committee discussed that it would seem the current independent financial audit would cover the expectations, as articulated in the ballot language.

The committee requested that the Superintendent and senior leadership obtain an opinion from bond counsel as to the specific interpretation of the language in the ballot and whether it is satisfied by the district’s existing annual financial audit.

District Vision, Values and Mission:

Superintendent Dorland shared an update with the FOC about the plans to update Jeffco Generations to help guide the district in its programming, services and ultimately resource deployment in the coming years.

Superintendent Dorland noted that the board is starting this work by discussing the mission, vision and values that will guide the board, starting February 5th. The output will be a mission, vision, values and potentially revised Ends statements from the board.

The Superintendent is working to define 2022-23 priorities that help move the district towards coherence. These priorities are emerging now, though may not be finalized until later in 2022. Concurrently, the district will be creating a 3-year plan that updates Jeffco Generations to apply to the 2022-25 time frame. The strategic planning process will extend from February to August (approximately). The priorities include: 1) elementary literacy and secondary math, 2) social emotional wellbeing and behavioral supports, 3) high school graduation, 4) equitable instructional time and 5) operational efficiency and sustainability.

Committee members asked how to ensure that these priorities really move the needle, as opposed to shoring up the status quo. The Superintendent affirmed that the priorities for 2022-23 will help address the more urgent needs and thus help shore up, but will still become year one of the three year plan to take it to the next level.

FY22 Revised Budget:

Stewart shared the revisions to the budget that will be presented to the board on Jan 26th. These revisions include several corrections to both revenue and expense.

Committee members asked why the revised budget would not reflect the current forecast. Staff indicated that the current year forecast includes a variety of one-time savings, particularly around personnel vacancies. We are actively trying to fill those positions and do not want to remove their budget. Staff recommend that the budget only be revised by items that will recur, meaning adjustments to revenue and expense that will persist as the basis for future years.

Staff and committee members discussed approaches to engage FOC in the budget development process for the 2022-23 school year. A typical cadence would include bringing the FOC regular updates about aspects of the budget as they are discussed (e.g., school budgets, departmental budgets, revenue budgets and negotiated agreements as to salary). The FOC has two opportunities to address the board this spring: March 9th and June 8th. These opportunities are the primary ways to advise and support the board as they make budget decisions.

Additionally, as noted by the Superintendent, the district will be undergoing a strategic planning process in the spring/summer with a potential focus on sustainability. FOC could focus more time on this process to ensure this process facilitates larger structural shifts that may be necessary to close the growing budget deficits.

FOC agreed to revisit this conversation in February.

Insight Investment

Mary Donovan, from Insight Investment, provided a macro economic analysis, including items like inflation, interest rates, labor markets, etc. Donovan noted that the investment returns will appear negative due to changes in the market values as the overall yield curve moves.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.