



## ***Financial Oversight Committee Meeting***

Education Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Seminar  
Room  
1829 Denver West Dr., Building 27  
Golden, CO 80401

### **Meeting Minutes** **September 27, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.**

#### **Financial Oversight Committee (FOC)**

##### **Members Present:**

Christine Havlin  
Brian Ballard  
Theresa Shelton  
Melissa Jamieson  
Amy Alvarez  
Jessica Keene

##### **Staff Present:**

Tracy Dorland, Superintendent  
Brenna Copeland, Chief Financial Officer  
Steve Bell, Chief Operating Officer  
Brian Sammons, Budget Director  
Christie Moss, Controller  
Elizabeth Schroeder, Budget Analyst

##### **Committee Members and Staff Absent:**

Gordon Calahan

#### **Welcome**

Ms. Copeland called the meeting to order. All attendees reintroduced themselves for the benefit of the new members.

Ms. Copeland announced a change to the agenda to accommodate last-minute scheduling conflicts of attendees. The “Discussion: Cost-Saving in Consolidation” agenda item was moved before the regular committee business.

#### **Discussion: Cost-Saving in Consolidation**

Committee members were invited to share their thoughts on where cost savings might be realized within the elementary school consolidation proposal. Discussion ensued on various potential areas of cost savings, such as school leadership, administrative personnel, site maintenance and utilities, among others. Ms. Copeland then provided an in-depth overview of Regional Opportunities for Thriving Schools to committee members, highlighting the proposal, overall impact, rationale, variables in the financial modeling, and cost-savings projections. The presentation included key slides from the slide deck presented at the August 25, 2022 Board of Education meeting. Ms. Copeland emphasized that all work in developing the Regional Opportunities for Thriving Schools proposal was focused on the goal of providing extraordinary student experiences for Jeffco students.

Ms. Copeland also provided clarity on school-based staff vs. centrally budgeted staff; for staff that work every day in schools, some are paid from the school-based budget and some from centrally managed departmental budgets. Cost savings projections therefore depend on a mix of savings from school-budgeted FTE (e.g., principals, secretaries, clinic aides) and departmentally budgeted FTE (e.g., social emotional learning supports, mental health staff, custodial staff, and food service staff). In addition, certain non-personnel cost savings have been estimated, such as reduced utility costs.

Committee member Keene requested further details on realization of anticipated savings related to building upkeep and maintenance. Chief Operating Officer, Steve Bell, provided specifics on District policy on running

schools in “mothball mode,” and emphasized that many variables impacted the prediction of realization of the anticipated cost savings related to the underutilization of buildings.

Superintendent Dorland and Ms. Copeland reminded the committee that FOC leadership is scheduled to go before the Board of Education at the November 2 meeting and are expected to share their perspective on how the elementary school consolidation proposal aligns with the District’s primary goal of providing extraordinary student experiences for Jeffco students. Additionally, Ms. Copeland and Superintendent Dorland invited committee members to consider live attendance or livestream participation in the October 12<sup>th</sup> Board Study Session.

A summary of preliminary findings of the Student-Based Budgeting (SBB) process review conducted by Education Resource Strategies (ERS) is expected to be presented at the October 12 Board Study Session.

### **Committee Conclusions and Recommendations**

Due to the expanded dialogue about the cost savings, limited discussion ensued around messaging to the Board of Education regarding the committee’s conclusions and recommendations. However, several committee members expressed their preliminary support of the consolidation proposal and expressed that this work represents responsible stewardship and a commitment to strong schools.

Committee members agreed that it will be beneficial to talk further about the findings from the SBB process review before confirming their conclusions and recommendations for the Board of Education.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Committee member Shelton highlighted a statement in the August 23 minutes that seemed ambiguous to her. The committee discussed the August minutes and asked for a revised version to address Ms. Shelton’s concern. Ms. Copeland will provide a revised version that can be approved in the October FOC meeting.

### **Appointment of new Chairperson and Representative to the Audit Committee**

Ms. Copeland noted that two roles need to be filled by the FOC: FOC Chairperson and Representative to the Audit Committee. Ms. Copeland released the conversation to the committee members.

Committee member Keene put her name forth as the FOC Chairperson. Committee member Havlin seconded the motion and called for a vote. All committee members voted in favor of Jessica Keene as the new FOC Chairperson.

Committee member Shelton put her name forth as the Representative to the Audit Committee. Committee member Havlin seconded the motion and called for a vote. All committee members voted in favor of Theresa Shelton as the new Representative to the Audit Committee.

### **Next Meeting Preview**

Brenna Copeland presented the future meeting schedule and requested that the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting be moved back one week (February 21) to allow sufficient preparation for the March 1 Board of Education Study Session. The action was deemed not a voteable change and was agreed upon by the committee members present. The revised February meeting date will be updated in all online and physical platforms and documentation. The next FOC meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25.

Prior to adjournment, Christie Moss provided a handout to committee members outlining the dates in which financial reporting documents will be released to the public for 2022-2023 fiscal year.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.