

**CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE BOARD
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2009 MEETING**

**Meeting Held at:
State Services Building
1525 Sherman St.
Denver CO 80203
Room B70**

Wednesday February 4, 2009

I. Call to Order

- 9:05a.m. Norwood Robb called the meeting to order.

Attendees

Mary Wickersham – CCAB Chair	Tim Guiterman – CCAB
Norwood Robb – CCAB Vice-Chair	Dave Van Sant – CCAB
Greg Randall – CCAB	Tom Stone – CCAB
Tim White – CCAB	
Ted Hughes – Ex Officio non-voting member	

John Sleeman – CCAB Legal Advisor Scott Newell - Staff (CDE)
Vody Herrmann –Staff (CDE)

Excused

Mike Maloney – CCAB Secretary
Adele Willson – CCAB

- Agenda reviewed.
- CCAB Vice-Chair asks for motion to approve the agenda;
 - So moved by Dave Van Sant;
 - Tom Stone 2nds the motion;
 - No discussion;
 - Motion carried.
- Review of prior meeting minutes.
 - Dave Van Sant moves to approve the minutes;
 - Tim White 2nds the motion;
 - No discussion;
 - Motion carried.

II. Directors Report

- Ted Hughes gave an update on the proposed budget reductions that affected the Division. He informed the CCAB that the FDK facility funding, in its entirety, is listed to be one of the items suspended if the

budget reductions are approved by the legislature. In addition to the FDK facility funding, the charter school capital construction grant appropriation has been budgeted to be reduced by 4.865 million.

- Ted Hughes told the CCAB that the Division is in the last stages of the contract negotiations between Parson's and CDE for the statewide facility assessment. Ted was hopeful the contract would be agreed to by Parsons within the next couple of days.
- A CCAB member requested a small bio or a narrative describing who Parsons is and some background information to be distributed to the CCAB. Another CCAB member asked about Parsons proposed schedule and if it will fit in with the BEST grant timeline the CCAB established. Ted Hughes gave an overview of Parsons schedule and told the CCAB there would be a fair amount of assessment data available by the time grant applications were to be reviewed for the next grant cycle.

III. BEST Grant Program

- Ted Hughes told the CCAB that the Division received 69 grant applications by the 1/23/09 grant application deadline. He told the CCAB the Division was currently reviewing the grant applications and a summary book will be mailed out by next Friday to allow time for CCAB member review.
- Ted Hughes reviewed the project prioritization, as outlined in the BEST rules, for the first grant cycle. There was also discussion over how the applications will be ranked in the summary book based on the project prioritization.
- One CCAB member asked if there was an opportunity for any federal money, being proposed in a federal stimulus package, to be distributed through the BEST grant program. Vody Herrmann said CDE has been working on documents and working with legislators to get Federal funding distributed through this program, however, nothing has been committed to-date. A CCAB member commented on this saying there are reports that any Federal monies coming to Colorado schools would go directly to the school districts and would bypass the State. Vody Herrmann said she was aware of this option.
- There was discussion surrounding the current legislative session and if there was any legislation pertaining to the BEST grant program. Vody Herrmann told the CCAB there will be a bill introduced that will make a few changes to the financial structure of the program as well as changing a few administrative issues. The CCAB requested the bill number be sent to them once introduced.
- The CCAB asked CDE staff what the dates would be for the next grant cycle. Ted Hughes said the grant cycle is tentatively scheduled to open on March 2, 2009 and close on June 5, 2009. This would be dependent upon how quickly staff could have application modifications completed.

IV. General Public Comment

- John Gotto asked the CCAB if the board would prefer to see large scale projects broken out into phases or submitted as one grant application.
- Ted Hughes said that if the project lends itself to phasing it would be appropriate. He also told John Gotto that if the applicant decides to phase the project there was no guarantee that additional phases would be awarded so proper planning needs to occur by the applicant to determine the best approach to structuring their project.
- Terri Thomson from Littleton Preparatory Charter School (LPCS) addressed the CCAB and asked if their intent letter would be valid for the next grant cycle and does LPCS need to wait for the statewide facility assessment before applying for a BEST grant.
- Ted Hughes said their letter of intent, that was already submitted, will be valid for the coming grant cycle and although the statewide facility assessment will help validate any facility issues at LPCS, they are eligible and able to apply for a grant during the next cycle whether they have their assessment by then or not.

The CCAB vice-chair called for recess before the commencement of the public hearing

V. BEST Grant Program

- Upon reconvening the CCAB Chair called the hearing for rules pertaining to the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant program to order.
- The CCAB Chair read opening statements and opened the floor up for any comments pertaining to the rules.
- The first comments came from Jim Griffin from the Colorado League of Charter Schools Jim extended his thanks to Ted Hughes for his efforts with assisting charter schools across the State to start formulating plans for their facility needs.
- Jim's first comment to the CCAB was to compel the board to take strong consideration to any hardship letters submitted by charter schools for reasons to follow.
- Jim had concern that a school district and charter school can have significantly different ten year histories of receiving local tax dollars for facilities and in some cases the charter schools match is much higher than the districts (e.g. District 20 - 51% match and Classical Academy - 95% match).
- Jim's second comment dealt with the Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) percentage for charter schools and the extent to which official FRL numbers are used to compute a charter schools match, without regard to whether or not the school offers a federally eligible hot lunch program. Jim stated he has found, only 28% of charter schools have eligible kitchens, and many more are denied food services by their districts. Jim felt that huge disparities existed between the official and actual FRL numbers and at a minimum, charter schools should be able to submit alternative estimates of FRL numbers for something as high stakes as the match calculation.

- Vody Herrmann said that there is a form currently in use that can be utilized by the charter schools to calculate FRL eligible pupils in a school that does not offer food services.
- A CCAB member added that this situation exists for all schools in the State and is not unique to just charter schools.
- The CCAB Chair, seeing no additional comments closed the hearing for rules pertaining to the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant program.
- The CCAB Chair asked the CCAB if they wished to discuss the comments as they pertain to the rules or wait until the following meeting. The CCAB agreed to wait until the following meeting.

VI. Future Meetings

- The CCAB agreed to meet via teleconference on February 11, 2009 to finalize and adopt the BEST grant rules.
- There are currently two meetings scheduled for February 24th and 25th to review and recommend grant applications for financial assistance from BEST.

VII. Adjournment

- The CCAB Chair makes a motion to adjourn
 - So moved by Dave Van Sant;
 - Norwood Robb 2nds the motion;
 - No discussion;
 - Motion carried;
 - Meeting Adjourned.