

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE BOARD MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2011 MEETING

**Meeting held at:
Alamosa School District RE-11J
209 Victoria Street, Alamosa, CO 81101
Alamosa School District's Board of Education Room**

I. Call to Order

- 10:42 a.m. Mary Wickersham called the meeting to order.

Attendees

Mary Wickersham – CCAB Chair	Ted Hughes – Staff (CDE)
Mike Maloney – CCAB Secretary	Kevin Huber – Staff (CDE)
Norwood Robb – CCAB Vice-Chair	Dustin Guerin – Staff (CDE)
Pete Jefferson – CCAB	Scott Newell – Staff (CDE)
Greg Randall – CCAB	Kristin Lortie – Staff (CDE)
Lyndon Burnett – CCAB	

Excused

Dave Van Sant – CCAB	Adele Willson – CCAB
Tom Stone – CCAB	

- Agenda reviewed
- CCAB Chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda;
 - So moved by Norwood Robb;
 - Greg Randall 2nd the motion;
 - No discussion;
 - Motion to approve the agenda carried.

II. Board Report

- The CCAB Chair told the CCAB she would like to have a discussion about the June meetings at the next meeting in September once the independent survey results were finalized.
- A CCAB member told the CCAB he was working with Senator Schwartz to introduce a legislative change to provide more funding for the BEST program. The CCAB chair talked about the funding the BEST Program currently receives, and how the debt payment cap may be increased. The CCAB Chair said a problem could be that we could not make our debt payments or not have any funds for new BEST cash grants. The CCAB Chair said the financing is currently structured so the BEST Program does not get in over its head.
- A CCAB member mentioned Proposition 103 would be on the ballot this November and would increase state taxes to help provide more money to schools. The CCAB Chair noted another ballot imitative that would legalize marijuana, and provide the BEST Program with a percentage of money from taxes.

- A CCAB member said he spoke with Paul Hutton, with Hutton Architecture, about BEST's Sangre De Cristo project. The CCAB member said 9 News is going to be doing a segment on the new school BEST help build.

III. Directors Report

- Ted Hughes told CCAB about upcoming ribbon cutting announcements at Alta Vista Charter School and the Colorado School for the Deaf & Blind.
- Ted Hughes told the CCAB about an issue regarding Corridor Community Academy's (CCA) BEST Cash grant which was awarded for the FY2011-12 grant cycle. CCA's matching funds were supposed to be provided through a Bennett 29J bond election. Bennett School District has now changed their mind and does not want CCA to be on the ballot. Ted Hughes noted it was a BEST cash grant and that it did not have to go through the financing process like the BEST lease-purchase grants did.
- Ted Hughes told the CCAB about the Colorado Lottery proceeds for last fiscal year. Ted Hughes told the CCAB the Colorado Lottery had projected \$2.2 million for the BEST program, but lottery sales were down and the program was only receiving ~\$650,000. Ted Hughes said he talked a few of the Colorado Lottery representatives and requested better projections.
- Ted Hughes gave the CCAB a brief update on the financing process for the FY2011-12 BEST lease-purchase projects. Ted Hughes told the CCAB Ross Montessori School did not have any land yet and that the Rocky Mountain Deaf School was having trouble obtaining land. Ted Hughes told the CCAB Fidelity is the title company and that they are doing very well. Ted Hughes talked about a few of the lease-purchase projects that were coming to an end and that the money needed to be reallocated and spent with a 3-year period.
- Ted Hughes and the CCAB discussed a legislative report the Division creates and submits each year per the statute. Ted Hughes told the CCAB he would send the report to the CCAB. The CCAB discussed the differences between new schools and schools that had health and safety issues and what the performance of the students was. Ted Hughes said he has looked at some national reported data and it is hard to determine if a new school is helping children improve academically or if there are other factors. The CCAB discussed other variables and situations that can affect learning environments.
- Ted Hughes told the CCAB about a new employee he had hired to help with financing within the Division, and that he was going to hire a technical support person to help with the new schools with warranties, operations, training and that the new buildings are operating how they were modeled.

IV. Discussion Items

- Review of the Capital Construction Guidelines. Ted Hughes told the CCAB the guidelines were originally adopted by the CCAB in 2009 and a lot has changed over the last 2-years and some information needed to be updated. The CCAB reviewed the guidelines and discussed changes and updates that needed to be made.

- Discussion about the independent survey to be conducted by the Third Mile Group. Ted Hughes talked to the CCAB about BEST's June grant selection meetings and how the CCAB decided a survey would be good to gain feedback from BEST applicants and Board members. The CCAB reviewed the draft survey questions and discussed them. The CCAB made some minor changes and discussed the processes used at June meetings as well. The CCAB decided that every applicant be sent the survey. The CCAB Chair suggested revisiting the initial sort order for applications and how points are allocated, grouping the projects differently and have a standard, not-to-exceed amount of pages that can be submitted for a waiver request. Ted Hughes said for grants that fall under cash and lease-purchase, the duplicative narrative section can be removed. The CCAB discussed different strategies applicants are using and asked if there was any way to avoid an application with eighty different schools.
- Discussion pertaining to the new charter school match percentage calculation. Ted Hughes spoke briefly about the issue with the current charter school match percentage and how two of the four criteria in statute are no longer used. Scott Newell, with the Division staff, reviewed the new proposed criteria with the CCAB. Scott Newell told the CCAB that certain information is not currently captured by CDE would have to be requested from the charter school and this information would only be requested from the schools that were applying. Scott Newell to the CCAB the calculation would start with the weighted average district matches of the student body of the charter school. Scott Newell reviewed the other factors which would adjust the match percent.

The CCAB discussed criteria options and a CCAB member asked how the Charter School Institute (CSI) schools would be affected. Scott Newell said a starting percent would have to be chosen and that after running some calculations, 30% may be a good starting point. The CCAB discussed disadvantages of being a CSI charter school and how it is harder for CSI schools to raise funds. Scott Newell said these criteria look at the different ways a school has tried to provide a match and adjusts their percentage amount accordingly. The CCAB Chair said if the new criterion were approved, it would have to go before the legislation. The CCAB Chair asked if the Board was comfortable with doing that. The CCAB agreed they were comfortable. A CCAB member asked about fund raising efforts. Scott Newell said it could be incorporated. The CCAB discussed other situations about fund raising efforts and if the CCAB should look at how they allocated those funds prior to submitting an application. The CCAB was happy with the new criteria and working towards getting a new match percent calculation.

- The CCAB Chair told the CCAB the State Land Board was interested in putting one of their board members on the CCAB. The State Land Board told the CCAB Chair they were not seeing the benefits of the funds which were allocated to the BEST program. The CCAB Chair said it would require a statutory change to add a new Board member. Ted Hughes said the League of Charter Schools wants to put a member on the CCAB as well.
- A CCAB member asked if there was an annual board report they could have. Ted Hughes told the CCAB statute requires an annual legislative report to be prepared and submitted annually in February. Ted Hughes told the CCAB he would send the CCAB the previous year's reports.

V. Future Meetings

- Ted Hughes reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule with the CCAB and suggested canceling the December meeting. The CCAB agreed.

VI. Public Comment

- The CCAB Chair asked if there was anyone else who had questions or would like to speak from the public, there were none.

VII. Adjournment

- The CCAB Chair asked for a motion to adjourn:
 - So moved by Norwood Robb;
 - Pete Jefferson 2nd the motion;
 - No discussion;
 - Motion carried;
 - Meeting Adjourned