



Small Schools Study

MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting:	August 9, 2007	Minutes Prepared By:
Location:	ITC Conference Room B	Sonja Ballstadt
Time:	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	

In Attendance

- Manny Ortega
- Kevin Hahn
- Dave Montoya
- Sonja Ballstadt
- Karen Martin
- Evelyn Jacobi
- Sabine De Voe
- Brian Williams
- Lucin Gilliland
- Mark Eversole
- Bryce Hach
- Sandra Lundt
- Deb Caskey
- Rita Brozka
- Leslie Shaner
- Jaime Cawthron
- Ellen Laubhan
- Jasmine Faulkner
- Sarah Belleau
- Brian Carpenter
- Brian Olver
- Justin Silverstein
- A. Brown
- Monique Flickinger
- Sam Aldern
- Bill Peisner
- Doug Johnson
- Kathy Hix
- Taylour Nelson

Interests in Serving on Committee

As committee members introduced themselves, they expressed their interest in serving on this committee:

- Provide staffing to schools
- Children attended Poudre School District schools, represent elementary principals
- Concerned about enrollment
- Supervises a small junior high
- Support at-risk students, choice, and served well by small school
- Represent secondary principals
- In the future, may have children attend Poudre School District
- Attended Mountain schools, majority of current small schools in feeder system, accountability of K-12 & beyond, level of education
- Parent, represent Blevins and feeder schools
- Rocky Mountain High School & Colorado State University
- Advocate for Mountain schools
- Provide communication support to committee and public
- Teach at Putnam, music teacher, interested in community
- Special education
- Supervises a small elementary, represent Literacy, Specials and Technology
- Experienced staffing cuts last 3 years, ensure equity
- Represent consulting firm
- Support committee with student based budgeting information.

Agenda & Meeting Notes

Review Outcomes:

- Committee members will review their charge, purpose & role.
- Committee members will understand the context of and practices associated with student based budgeting in Poudre School District.
- Committee members will review the tasks conducted by Justin Silverstein from Augenblick, Palaich & Assoc.
- Committee members will understand the time line for their work.

Review Committee Charge/Purpose:

- Analyze the different size schools for program offerings, scheduling implications and cost ramifications.
- Determine consistencies and essential classes, which can be offered through the analysis of prototypical models.
- Recommend cost implications to affect 2008-09 student based budgeting.
- Identify school sizes at which closure may be considered.

Roles of Committee Members – Moving the District forward

- Attend all committee meetings or communicate absences to the committee facilitator in a timely fashion.
- Express his or her constituents' view
elementary & secondary principals will provide information & receive feedback at their levels' meetings.
- Participate in consensus decision-making on behalf of constituents.
- Regularly report progress and decisions to his or her constituents so that members within the group understand subjects discussed at meetings
Ellen Laubhan & Kevin Hahn will provide communications via website, newsletters, etc.
- **Ellen Laubhan handed out a memo regarding tips on how to handle the media if contacted by them.**
- **Ellen asked the committee if they would be willing to be the contact for the media – 2 people (Brian Olver and Evelyn Jacobi) signed up.**
 - **Participation is completely voluntary**
 - **If you do want to participate, the reporters would request your home & work phone numbers.**
 - **Reporters may call you for a quote for an article, occasionally.**
 - **Committee members would be speaking as a parent, teacher, community member, and can comment if they feel comfortable with the subject, but not as a spokesperson for PSD or for the entire community.**
 - **You can decline to comment, saying only that the subject is not an area they feel well enough informed about to comment.**
 - **Extra copies of this memo available at future meetings.**
- Obtain information for his or her group if additional information or data is required.
- Gather information at the request of the committee to further the committee's progress in developing resolution, options, and/or straw designs.

School Finance Background/Context/Student Based Budgeting – Dave Montoya, Budget Manager for PSD

- Reviewed Student Based Budgeting vs. FTE (full-time equivalent) funding.

- FTE is how Poudre School District use to determine staffing for school sites. Beginning with the 2007/2008 school year, the district will use Student Based Budgeting to staff schools.
- With FTE – there were problems with inequities in model, programs were funded instead of students.
- Student Based Budgeting uses dollars based on number of students at the school. Each student has a base amount of dollars they receive and then, dependent upon certain factors and weights, they receive additional dollars in addition to the base amount.
- Small School Study Committee will determine what the weight of size factors will be. There are currently 6 Tiers to the size factor.
- Title 1 & Special Education dollars vary year to year and are not a part of Student Based Budgeting.
- Dollars for staff and for building budget are in one budget – schools determine how dollars are spent.
- Money follows the student year to year.
- The smaller the school, the more expensive it is to operate.
- Course offerings are a site decision.
- How does the size of a school continue to offer a base education to a student?
- **Handout: Student Based Budgeting – factors and weights**
- **Handout: Size Factor Used in Student Based Budgeting**

Augenblick, Palaich, & Associates – Justin Silverstein

- Justin will help the small school study committee determine what an effective school looks like by using 3 approaches:
 1. **Evidence Based Approach: Review current research on what resources are important to have in good schools.**
 2. **Statistical Approach: Focuses on data utilized during a study in the state of Nevada that collected expenditure data at the school level. Examine the differences in school spending due to school size.**
 3. **Professional Judgment Approach: Uses the knowledge of educators to examine the differences in programming & cost based on size. A group of Poudre School District educators, comprised mainly of principals and teachers, will be brought together to identify the resources necessary for varying sizes of schools. (8 people to be on panel, to be completed by early September, Small School Committee members may observe)**
- The Superintendent, Cabinet & Small School Study Committee will take the information from these 3 approaches to help determine what should each Poudre School District student educationally experience regardless of school size.
- Websites for research information: Background on the Colorado Adequacy Work – <http://www.cosfp.org/COSFAdeEqu.htm>, and information on school funding at www.schoolfunding.info.

Small School Study Committee Time Line

- Dates of future meetings

Date	Time	Location	Address
September 13	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	JSSC Boardroom	2407 LaPorte Ave.
September 20	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Poudre High School Media Center*	201 Impala Dr.
October 11	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Bauder Elementary Media Center	2345 W. Prospect
October 25	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	JSSC Boardroom	2407 LaPorte Ave.
November 15	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	JSSC Boardroom	2407 LaPorte Ave.
November 29	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	JSSC Boardroom	2407 LaPorte Ave.
December 6	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Blevins Junior High Media Center	2102 Taft Hill Rd.
December 13	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	JSSC Boardroom	2407 LaPorte Ave.

*Location still needs to be confirmed

Additional Handouts will be available at future meetings

- Lessons on Assessing the Costs of Small Schools: Evidence from Denver, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

#