



**Vision**

*All students in Colorado will become educated and productive citizens capable of succeeding in society, the workforce, and life.*

**Goals**

*Every student, every step of the way*



**Date & Time:**  
March 2, 2017  
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:**  
201 E. Colfax Ave. Rm. 101  
Denver, CO 80203

**Capital Construction Assistance Board Members**

Tim Reed –Chair  
Kathy Gebhardt – Vice Chair

Margi Ammon  
Denise Pearson  
Ken Haptonstall

Cyndi Wright  
Scott Stevens  
Roger Good

- I. Call to Order** - 1:30 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Roll Call** – Margi Ammon, Kathy Gebhardt, Roger Good, Ken Haptonstall (attended by phone), Denise Pearson, Scott Stevens, Cyndi Wright, and Tim Reed  
CDE Attendees – Cheryl Honigsberg, Jay Hoskinson, Julia Fitzpatrick, Ashley Moretti, Jim Owens
- IV. Approve Agenda**  
Motion by: Roger Good  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Kathy Gebhardt  
All for: Margi Ammon, Kathy Gebhardt, Roger Good, Denise Pearson, Scott Stevens, Cyndi Wright, Tim Reed  
All against: None
- V. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2016 and February 2, 2017**  
Denise Pearson suggested to amend the minutes and change Deer Trail School District to Kiowa C-2 School District under her comment during the board report.  
Motion to approve the amended minutes by: Denise Pearson  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Kathy Gebhardt  
All for: Margi Ammon, Kathy Gebhardt, Roger Good, Denise Pearson, Scott Stevens, Cyndi Wright, Tim Reed  
All against: None
- VI. Board Report**  
Kathy Gebhardt informed the CCAB that she participated on a tour of schools in the following Eastern plains districts: Marina, Akron, and Otis, to evaluate the region’s current shortage of teachers. She also mentioned she had not heard of any movement on the Governor’s proposal to remove \$15 million from the assistance fund ending balance. Jim Owens stated he would comment on this during his director’s report.  
  
Cyndi Wright mentioned she attended the Capital Improvement Symposium and recommended CCAB members attend it next year. It was well attended with over 250 participants and it exceeded her expectations.
- VII. Director’s Report**  
Jim Owens introduced Julia Fitzpatrick, the Division’s new Regional Program Manager to the CCAB. She is Kevin Huber’s replacement and would be working with districts in the Northwest region of Colorado. Julia shared a few remarks about her professional experience with the CCAB.

The Division received fifty application for the FY17-18 BEST grant cycle which closed on February 24, 2017. It was

less than the Division expected but the dollar amount requested was considerably higher than expected. Jim stated that this was the largest amount requested since the program's inception. There is an estimated total of \$631 million in requests between the state contribution and district matches. The Division is currently reviewing all submitted applications and are preparing them for the May grant selection meeting. The list of applicants and their individual project costs will be shared at the April 4, 2017 meeting.

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for Adams Arapahoe 28 J on April 26, 2017 at 5pm for Mrachek Middle School, which was a BEST project from FY1617.

Jim participated in the Charter School League's panel discussion on financial assistance available for charter schools across the state.

Jim attended a phone conference hosted by the National Council School Facilities discussing the federal government's draft senate infrastructure bill. It includes \$75B for K-12 capital construction investments. Representatives from twenty-five states participated on the call. Jim was particularly interested in hearing from different states that have competitive grant programs similar to BEST. Additionally, he had an opportunity to brief the call attendees on the BEST program.

The draft House Bill 17-1082, a parallel program to BEST for technology grants, has not gained much momentum Jim reported. The draft bill has moved out of subcommittee hearings and is still under consideration, but there are no updates at this time. CDE prepared a fiscal note on the bill's impact on BEST, which identified the funding for the program would be the first \$5 million beyond the first \$40 million of marijuana excise tax that BEST receives. The cost for administration of the program would be minimal thus being absorbed by the Division.

The conversation around Governor Hickenlooper removing \$15million from the assistance fund ending balance also has not had much movement Jim added. Information from the Joint Budget Committee regarding the removal of the \$15 million would be communicated to the board once the Division receives feedback.

Ever year the Division of Capital Construction completes an annual report on the BEST program that is mandated by statute. The report is a cumulative summary of the program since inception. The report was submitted to the appropriate senate & house education and finance committees, JBC and the State Board of Education in late Feb. The CCAB packet contains an abbreviated version of the report. A copy of the full version of the report can be found on our website.

The Division is still waiting on a recommendation from the Department of Treasury around the dollar amount recommended to borrow for COP projects based on the increased cap for FY17-18. The Department of Treasury is in the process of selecting a financial advisor to make the recommendation. The financial advisor and Attorney General Representative, Heidi Dineen, are scheduled to present at the April 6, 2017 CCAB meeting regarding the recommendation.

During JBC & CDE "figure setting" on March 8<sup>th</sup>, cash grant appropriation for FY17-18 is planned at \$70 million. In addition, total debt service appropriation is planned at \$75M. During the April 6, 2017 meeting the CCAB should plan to discuss how much of the \$70 million they would like to allocate towards the cash grants along with a discussion around lease-purchase grants.

Jim reminded the CCAB that Ashley Moretti sent an email regarding CDE's revised travel policy effective February 2, 2017. Travel reimbursement requests must be submitted within sixty days of travel. Request submitted beyond sixty days will be reported by the IRS via form 1099.

Jim explained the CCAB technology position is still vacant and the Division is waiting on an appointment from the House and Senate Minority Chairs. The Division will continue to monitor the appointment. Additionally, CDE's Legislative Liaison checks in weekly with the chairs to see if the appointment has been made.

Kathy asked about presenting to the State Board of Education on the financial assistance that has been allocated by the Division to charter schools over the past years. Jim stated the Division will be presenting on this at the June State Board of Education meeting prior to the conversation around the FY17-18 recommended projects.

## **VIII. Discussion Items**

### **a. BEST Grant Application Scoring Overview**

Cheryl walked the CCAB through the application evaluation tool and explained the Division's changes to the form for the FY17-18 grant cycle. The CCAB engaged in conversation around the changes. The CCAB recommended these additional changes be made to the form:

- **Under section "Evaluator Review of Financial Capacity", question "Has the applicant exceeded their match requirement?" be removed.**
- **Under section "Evaluator Review of Project Proposal", question "The project complies with BEST Construction Guidelines" the scoring be changed from "Yes(5) No(1)" to "1-5".**

Ken Haptonstall expressed concern over the new scoring rubric granting "1-5" points for each question instead of "1-10" points, thus leading to a higher probability for project scores to be tied. He asked for direction on the policy around breaking tied scores. Jim commented he would look into the policy and update the CCAB at the April 6, 2017 meeting.

Jim agreed to have the Division make the additional changes and reminded the CCAB the Regional Program Managers are the subject matter experts around the applications and are available to answer any questions that arise during their individual application review process.

### **b. Lease Purchase Process**

Jim reminded the CCAB that a discussion around the lease purchase process was previously initiated by Kathy Gebhardt. The discussion during the February 2, 2017 CCAB meeting was tabled due to her absence. Kathy suggested the CCAB continue to table the discussion until the Department of Treasury issues a recommendation around COP financing for the FY17-18 cycle.

## **IX. Future Meetings**

- **April 6 @ 1:30 p.m. Location: 201 E. Colfax Avenue, Room 101, Denver, CO 80203**
- **April 26 @ 1:30 p.m. Location: 201 E. Colfax Avenue, Room 101, Denver, CO 80203**
- **May 17-18 @ 9:00 a.m. Location: 1829 Denver West Dr. Building #27, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Golden, CO 80401**

**X. Public Comment** – No one was signed up for public comment.

## **XI. Adjournment – 3:25 p.m.**

Motion by: Scott Stevens

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Kathy Gebhardt

All for: Margi Ammon, Kathy Gebhardt, Roger Good, Denise Pearson, Scott Stevens, Cyndi Wright, Tim Reed

All against: None

**The mission of the BEST Board is to protect the health and safety of students, teachers and other persons using public school facilities and maximize student achievement by ensuring that the condition and capacity of public school facilities are sufficient to provide a safe and un-crowded environment that is conducive to student's learning.**