

2016 Bond and Mill CPAC

Meeting Notes for February 29th, 2016 – DSST Byers Cafeteria

Meeting attendees: See attached list of highlighted committee members in attendance. Board of Education Members Anne Rowe, Happy Haynes and Barbara O'Brien were also present. Additionally, there were members of the general public in attendance to observe the meeting along with DPS staff members.

CPAC Co-chair Speaker Ruben Valdez kicked off the meeting by laying out the objectives of the session – to gain an understanding of 2012 investments and to understand key considerations for 2016 investments. Brad White, principal of DSST Byers, introduced his school program to the committee as well as an overview of the renovated Byers facility supported by the 2012 Bond.

CPAC Co-chair Christine Benero then reviewed the committee mission and responded to a request from the committee by sharing a clear summary of our financial situation and our considerations for 2016. A committee member requested these materials in Spanish and they will be posted on the CPAC website. A committee member asked about the Denver Plan 2020 goal of Great Schools In Every Neighborhood and how DPS supports students who are not in Blue or Green schools. Anne Rowe responded that the goal is about driving equity in all regions of the city and its focus is on improving the outcomes for all students who are in schools that are not currently Blue or Green. A committee member asked a question regarding how DPS per pupil funding compares with other peer districts around the country; driven by Colorado state education funding levels, DPS receives significantly less per pupil funding when compared with peer districts around the country. For example, DPS receives approximately \$4,000 less per pupil in Chicago Public Schools and the gap with students in Cleveland and Rochester is more than \$7,000.

Following this, Acting Superintendent Susana Cordova presented a quick overview of the 2012 Mill Levy Override and Bond investments. Susana also shared some context on the bond including that DPS is delivering 2012 bond projects on time and on budget in a highly inflationary construction environment. Susana also informed the committee of DPS' Minority and Women Owned Businesses goals program targeted at increasing participation of MWBE's in bond work.

Susana then introduced the CPAC committee where committee members spent approximately 40 minutes reviewing 2012 investments in a gallery walk format and discussing investments and impact with staff.

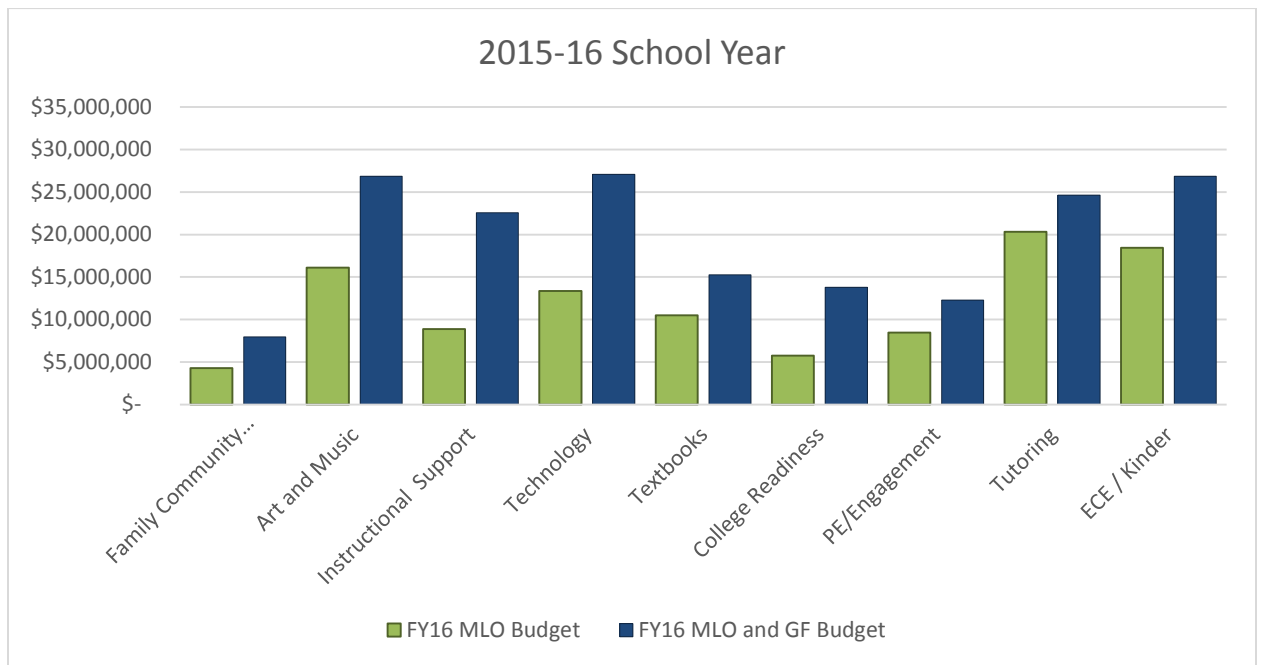
Following the gallery walk rotations, Co-Chair Eddie Koen brought the group back together. Eddie facilitated a feedback session where committee members shared some exciting findings from the gallery walk such as the scope of the 2012 bond safety and security investments to the impact of the 2012 Mill Levy investment in Math Fellows. The committee also raised some questions about the 2012 Mill Levy which were not answered during the meeting due to time but have answers below:

- How does the district use funds to support awareness of Bond and Mill Levy Override Investments? Whenever possible, DPS pushes as much funding out to the school level. We do retain a small portion of the 2012 bond to support communications work which can include activities like working with regional and mainstream media to increase awareness of investments, holding celebration events such as ground breakings or ribbon cuttings, and developing accessible material on how the 2012 investments have been spent across communities.
- Given the transition from TCAP to PARCC assessments, how does the district evaluate the effectiveness of the Denver Math Fellows (DMF) program? Students participating in the math fellow program during the current school year are preparing to take CMAS/PARCC assessments this spring. Those assessments will be used to measure growth for students participating in the program this year and will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in the midst of the transition to a more rigorous state assessment. In addition, there are a number of internal progress checks that are used throughout the school year to identify strengths and areas to grow. Those internal assessments include mastery checks at the end of each unit of study and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) used three times per year to measure growth and identify individual areas for students to grow. Student perception surveys are also used at the middle and end of the year to solicit feedback from students on their experience in the program. One other accountability around DMF efficacy is school flexibility; schools have the opportunity to opt-out of the DMF program and receive a math intervention allocation in its place to conduct their own math interventions. Approximately 10 schools have opted out of DMF due to programmatic decisions at the school level (of 50 programs), however 10 schools have opted into the program having previously conducted their own intervention.
- With expansion of the arts through the 2012 Mill Levy Override, how do we ensure that each student can access arts? We support the belief that all Denver Public Schools students should have access to quality Arts and Physical Education programming throughout their ECE-12th grade experience. We also believe in school-based autonomy and decision making. Because schools have autonomy in their scheduling and programming, there are situations where students are not assigned elective courses during the school day due to in-building intervention requirements. To support enrichment access and opportunity, our teams that conduct intervention work in schools offer guidance to schools in scheduling. For example, Denver Math Fellows generally works with elementary schools to see that DMF students receive their normal 'specials' rotation. DMF generally works with middle schools to see that DMF students receive at least one enrichment block. Many of our schools also work with community partners to provide enrichment opportunities beyond the school day
- On the Bond, what is the share of funds going to new schools versus older schools? Approximately 26% of the bond was invested to build new school facilities such as Shoemaker Elementary, the Ruben Valdez Campus, Frances Jacob Elementary and the Paul Sandoval campus. 74% of the bond was invested across our existing buildings on maintenance, renovations, expansion, technology, safety and security.

- What are the connections between past Mill Levy investments and 2016 considerations? This table provides detail around the 2003 and 2012 Mill Levy investments and their alignment with 2016 considerations:

	2003 MLO <i>(Annual Investment)</i>	2012 MLO <i>(Annual Investment)</i>	2016 MLO Considerations <i>(Potential Investment Range)</i>
Great Schools in Every Neighborhood	Improving Academic Achievement for example School Improvement Grants and Turnaround Supports (~\$3M)	Expanding Denver Math Fellows (~\$17M)	Great Teachers in Every Classroom: Teacher Leadership and Collaboration, Principal Pipeline (\$12-15M)
	Curricular Materials (~\$2.5M)	Curricular Materials (~\$4M)	
	Facility Maintenance (~\$1M)		Great Learning Environments – proactive maintenance (\$5-6M)
A Foundation For Success / Invest Early	ECE and Full-Day Kindergarten (~\$3M)	ECE and Full-Day Kindergarten (~\$13M)	Early Literacy: teacher and staff training, teacher collaboration time, student interventions (\$6-7M)
Ready For College and Career	Improving Graduation Rates for example, Dual Enrollment, ACT Prep, APEX credit recovery (~\$2M)	CareerConnect (<\$1M)	CareerConnect (\$6-7M) Dual Enrollment (\$2-3M)
		Classroom Technology and Technology Instructional Supports (~\$4M)	Classroom Technology (\$6-7M)
Supporting the Whole Child	Elementary Arts (~\$8M)	Secondary Arts (~\$6M)	Support for the Whole Child (\$12-15M)
		PE (~\$7M)	
		Community Engagement Specialists (<\$1M)	
		Counselors (<\$1M)	

- What is the current state of mill funding? The below chart illustrates both MLO funding as well as incremental school general fund investment in key MLO investment areas



Following the conversation around the 2012 Bond and MLO, Chief Operating Officer David Suppes shared high-level considerations for 2016 investments. David started off by sharing how the Denver Plan 2020 serves as our organizing framework. David then shared how the district engaged school and academic leaders in identifying potential MLO investments for 2016. The committee asked a number of questions around the development of the 2016 MLO considerations:

- A committee member inquired around how the list was developed. Response that our school and instructional leaders were consulted at multiple points during the development process. Our academic leadership team is regularly in schools for activities such as faculty meetings or budget conversations and has a deep understanding of the investments that schools feel like they need but might not be able to afford.
- A committee member inquired around funding preventative maintenance from a mill levy. Approaches to funding facility maintenance vary across school districts. DPS has traditionally pushed as much annual operating funds as possible out to schools to support classroom instruction, while relying more on bonds to fund larger critical maintenance projects such as roof replacement, HVAC upgrades and replacement and electrical system upgrades.
- There was a question around how DPS is working with local universities in light of potential investment in early literacy. Susana Cordova shared that DPS works closely with DU and UCD

and other local teacher preparatory programs. She also shared that more than half of DPS teachers receive their education outside of CO.

- A committee member asked to confirm the longevity of an MLO. The voter-approved MLO we would be seeking would be available in perpetuity.
- There was a question around how charter schools would participate in the 2016 MLO considerations. For the 2012 MLO investments, charter schools received MLO funds when they serve the targeted students: for example, only charter schools serving ECE students received a portion of that investment, however all charter schools received additional funds for PE and engagement because that was a broad investment. Charter schools generally have more flexibility in how they utilize MLO funds while still complying with voter intent: for example, while district-run schools adopted Denver Math Fellows from the 2012 mills, charter schools received a per student allocation of the funds based upon eligibility, and have the flexibility to implement their own student interventions to support struggling students. It is anticipated that we would approach 2016 MLO investments in a similar manner.
- A committee member asked how a 2016 MLO investment would support students with special needs. Susana responded that it is DPS intent to increase support for all students through the 2016 MLO. For example, students with special needs could benefit from investments in early literacy or social-emotional supports, as would other students as well.

David proceeded to walk the committee through our development process for 2016 Bond considerations and reviewed initial thinking on New Capacity, Quality Learning Environment, Maintenance and Technology investments. A committee member asked about how technology upgrades are done with technology. DPS schools receive an annual technology allocation from past Mill Levy Overrides to support device replacement and typically have looked to Bond funds to support an increase in total devices. There was a discussion about low-cost access opportunities that support students with access both at school and at home.

David concluded by thanking the 2012 Bond and Mill Levy Oversight Committees for their work in supporting engagement and accountability around these investments. He also shared the Public Comment policy for communities interested in the 2016 CPAC process

Lastly, co-chair Bruce Hoyt presented preliminary sub-committee membership and shared logistics information for the first sub-committees, all of which will be at West High School, 951 Elati Street, at 5:30pm on Monday March 7th.

CPAC Committee Members

Albert Habercorn

Alex Sanchez

Amy Anderson

Anayansi Cabral

Angela Cobian

Anna Jo Haynes

Austin Kane

Barbara Chin

Bruce Hoyt

Bruce Rau

Chet Seward

Christine Benero

Dace West

Deborah Saint-Phard

Diana Romero-Campbell

Ed Cotter

Eddie Koen

Elbra Wedgeworth

Eliot Lewis

Elizabeth Munoz

Gerie Grimes

Gisselle Ortiz

Gloria Borunda

Graciela Baeza

Heather Lamm

James Moore

Janet Lopez

Jeff Dolan

Jessica Allen

Joe Gonzales

John Beeble

Jorge Camacho

Karen Kennedy

Karen Taylor

Katherine Jackson

Kathryn Swan

Kenneth Ho

Kim Desmond

Lauri Dannemiller

Leanna Clark

Lee White

Leslie Lewis

Leticia Zuniga

Lisa Roy

Luchia Brown

Mary O'Neil

Mary Seawell

Matt Johnson

Melissa Rosas

Michon Schmidt

MiDian Holmes

Mike Cerbo

Mike Ferrufino

Monica Arredondo

Morris Price

Oscar Gomez

Oscar Savala Castillo

Pamela Harris

Patricia Frederico

Paula Sandoval

Ramon Bargas

Ricardo Martinez

Rich Lewis

Rosy MdDonough

Rowena Alegria

Ruben Valdez

Sandra Resa-Quintana

Sarah Kurz

Shelli Brown

Stalker Henderson

Stephanie Cross

Sue Allon

Tammi Hollaway

Terry Casey

Tony Curcio

Veronica Montoya

Will Chan