BUDGET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes March 4, 2009
(Approved at the Meeting of 4/1/09)

Members Present: Adam O’Connor, Dan Willoughby, Ken Collins, Marcus Wilson, Cyndi Grein, Robin Kim, Neil Patel, Chrystal Van Beynen, Sharon Kelly

Absent: None

Meeting commenced at 2:04 p.m.

Meeting notes of February 18, 2009 were accepted.

Follow-up—Adam shared with the committee there was an error with one of the two items came out of Chancellor’s Staff communicated last meeting—that any requisitions over $25,000 be approved by a Chancellor’s Staff member and all travel being reviewed by Chancellor’s Staff. He clarified that travel is only being approved by the appropriate Chancellor’s Staff member, not the group, and added that this procedure has already been in place at FC.

Child Care is still in the works—it is on the agenda again for next Tuesday night. Adam is not sure if the board is ready to take action yet. It was tabled to this specific meeting. One BDC member asked the number of proposals that we brought forward. Adam indicated that there were two from the college—one for a 30 child lab and another for a 2 classroom 48 child lab. A faculty member had also brought several proposals on his own.

At least one board member is willing to cover up to $100,000 of loss another board member comfortable with covering $150,000 or possibly come up with something in between. Instead of having a subsidy grant—if the district is willing to come up with the money one idea could be to subsidize ourselves. Possibly have a sliding scale: 10 full pay; 10 half pay and 10 free brings us with the acceptable amount. Adam shared with the committee that we will still need to feed the children in any proposal. Some discussion ensued on how to feed the children. We currently have a full time cook in child care which could be eliminated. There is a cost of approximately $5 a day for someone to bring food to child care or we could possibly use Sodexo or an outside company that specializes in this service.

District Budget Review—The DPC subcommittee did meet on Monday. Now they are 80% done with the list—hopefully it will be completed at their next meeting.
Dynamic Fund Letter—that we would not be soliciting for Dynamic Fund proposals. Dan Willoughby shared with the committee the thoughts from the deans. The deans are not opposed to the elimination of the Dynamic Fund this year but are concerned about who decides who will be contacted from the list of last year’s Dynamic Fund recipients. Adam indicated that BDC would discuss who needs to be contacted. If a program is not on the Dynamic Fund list from last year they will not be contacted. The deans want to know since there will be no Dynamic Fund, is there another course of action to obtain funds? After some discussion, Adam reminded the committee that the BDC would be making all recommendations for carryover funds. Adam stated that at the next meeting in April we will talk about the Dynamic Fund list and discuss how to be sure that the deans and others know if/how the issues raised above will be addressed. He also added that we will be looking at the allocation of carryover funds at the first meeting after we come back in the fall.

Agenda last time—A question was asked about what the Senate’s budget resolution related to. The process that the district is going through is a little vague. Ken indicated that they are thinking about having a joint resolution between the three senates—the other senate presidents want to hold back since the budget was just passed.

Cash Allocation Discussion—Without really knowing what our budget is going to be, we will keep rolling along looking at budget reductions. Should we go with “status quo” or request a reduction in base allocations for 09/10? Do we have any information? $2.5 million in ongoing cuts to the district currently possible. If this budget holds, we probably won’t have any cuts though due to additional growth funds. If we haven’t filled some positions, have we met a reduction target already? The expectation is that the budget will not hold and we will have some significant cuts ahead. Do we reduce budgets now—we can always add back budget. Which would be more palatable? Deliberations/discussions need to take place if we are going to decrease budgets. Tell people that we need to realize that it might be cut by X amount of dollars. Ken Collins didn’t see a need to scare everyone. Lottery money enters into our thinking about budget—we assume that we will receive $250,000 this year and any amount over that this year. Adam will look to see how much there is over the $250,000.

Go ahead with tentative budget—using the current allocations. Mention that a 5% cut could happen reminding of a shared burden.

2009/2010 Review of Potential Budget Cuts—Adam explained how he came up with the 5 page list of potential budget cuts from the original 12 page list. The committee then started reviewing and categorizing the 5-page list. Adam indicated that he will take a stab at completing the list and sending it out to the members for review through March 20th and make any adjustments in order to respond to the District by April 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.