

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Education Partnership Group Meeting
December 10, 2009**

Meeting attendees:

- Andee Edelberg, Academy School District 20
- Jim Felice, Widefield School District 3
- Hal Garland, Lewis-Palmer School District 38
- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Doug Jeavons, BBC Research & Consulting
- Dave Roudebush, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8
- Shirley Swope, Peak Parent Center
- Mark Zamora, Harrison School District 2

Phase 2 Update

Doug Jeavons provided a recap of the data and information presented at the October partnership group meeting. This information included general Soldier and family demographics, as well as overall estimates of Fort Carson-related children, including information on children with special needs. Mr. Jeavons noted that refinements to the model continue to be made and will be updated based on the most recent 1 October count day data. BBC will contact school districts for these data.

Mr. Jeavons indicated that at the next meeting (14 January), he will provide updated projections by district for elementary, middle school, and high school aged children. It was noted that growth for the school districts has slowed significantly since 1 October. There is still a “trickle” of students coming in, and some of this growth has been off-set by students also leaving districts. It was also noted that in some districts, growth in student numbers has occurred in neighborhoods with no new construction, indicating that Soldiers and family members appear to be filling up existing single family homes/rentals, rather than purchasing new homes; this is generally what has been anticipated.

It was also noted that deployment schedules will continue to change, and PPACG and BBC will continue to track this information and share any new details as they become available. The next steps for the education component of the Growth Plan will be to provide additional detail – by district – at the January meeting, as well as update/develop new recommendations (as needed) and actions as key priorities to meet school district needs, not just for short-term critical needs, but also for long-term benefits to the region.

State/Federal Issues

District representatives indicated that state and district budgets face extreme challenges; state rescissions are significant challenges for the districts.

Kate Hatten provided a recap of OEA’s Defense Community Conference held in November. An overview of the education session at the conference is attached. The conference was an

opportunity for military growth communities to discuss key issues, lessons learned, and success stories. However, the bottom line remains that OEA has been unable to secure additional funding for school infrastructure (or other major projects) through the Department of Defense. OEA is still pursuing the matter and will report back to Congress in April with available funding mechanisms for growth communities and options to better assist those communities. Traditional funding sources are still suggested by OEA as the best mechanisms for obtaining federal dollars; in addition, information on Build America Bonds (see attachment) was also discussed at the conference. Any additional information from OEA will be provided as it becomes available.

The Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children held its annual meeting in November. Dave Roudebush indicated that the rules and regulations for the Interstate Compact have mostly remained intact. He also noted that Pikes Peak region school districts are already doing much of what is in the Compact because they have been serving military children for a long time.

State Board of Education member Peggy Littleton has been chosen to participate in a study group regarding coordinating K-12 education and military sectors to meet youth needs. An overview of this group is also attached.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 14 January at 3:30pm.

The CDMC will meet on Wednesday, 16 December at 3:00pm

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.