

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Education Partnership Group Meeting
March 12, 2009**

Meeting attendees:

- 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
- Maggie Lopez, Academy School District 20
- Dave Roudebush, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8
- Cyndy Scriven, Fremont County School District Re-2
- Greg Sinn, Pueblo City Schools
- Darryl Webb, Hanover School District 28
- Mark Zamora, Harrison School District 2

The majority of the meeting focused on efforts to obtain more detailed information regarding the projected growth at Fort Carson, which is expected to increase significantly this summer. Recent numbers provided by the 4th Infantry Division suggest that 1,838 soldiers from the Division Headquarters and 1st Brigade have committed to moving to Fort Carson and that 3,333 school age children are also moving to the region. PPACG is trying to confirm these numbers and get more details regarding the school age children. However, these details have been difficult to obtain. PPACG and the schools would like information such as ages of the children and what special needs any of them may have.

Dave Roudebush indicated that District 8 representatives, along with other National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) were in Washington, DC earlier this week meeting with Congressional and Department of Defense representatives to discuss the need for funding and better data. Dr. Roudebush indicated that there will be a briefing at Fort Carson next week to address some of these concerns. He indicated that he would report back on any additional information he is able to glean from the briefing.

Attendees expressed the need to obtain the information on school-age children as soon as possible. Districts are currently in the budget/planning process for the next school year and will be required to notify teachers of layoffs by June 1. Therefore, any changes to current conditions, such as an increase in Fort Carson-related students, will affect the districts' planning efforts. While many districts have not seen significant military growth, recent trends indicate that there may be changes on the way. For example, District 3 has added 152 military students since October 1; District 8 has seen an additional 142 military students since January; and District 3 indicated receiving nine calls from Fort Hood parents just today. Cyndy Scriven indicated that Fremont County Schools have twenty new students since October 1, but the number of military-related students is unknown. She also noted that sales tax is up 5% in Florence, primarily because of local tourism.

The key issues for schools are physical capacity, staffing needs, state budget issues (i.e., second count day funding), and special needs students/staffing requirements. Determining exactly

where the new families will live remains a challenge; currently, estimates are based on projected development activity and historical patterns. PPACG will continue to work with Fort Carson, the 4th ID, and OEA to obtain the needed data as quickly as possible to assist the districts in their planning and budgeting decisions.

Other issues discussed included potential stimulus funding for schools. It was noted that the state has still not determined details for the funding; those details are expected later this month. Concerns about second count day funding were also raised. Although it appears that school districts will receive at least some funding this year (prorated to last year's funding amount), funding for next year is not anticipated – when it may be most needed.

District representatives also expressed interest in communicating information about their schools to Fort Hood families. The upcoming Mountain Post Welcome, coordinated by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, was suggested as an opportunity to provide such information to the incoming families.

The next partnership group meeting was scheduled for April 9 at 3:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.