



## Meeting Minutes October 18, 2010

**Present:** Terry Nolan, Nancy Smith, Bill Hodges, Gary Debus, Steve Dyer, Linda Watson, Dorothy Hargrove, Rochelle Logan, Sheriff Dave Weaver, Fran Santagata, Laura Hopkins, Todd Landgrave, Susan Meek, Liz Fagen, Judi Arneson, Melanie Bortz, Tabria Winer, Maureen Waller

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**5:00 p.m. Call to Order** followed by introductions

### **DR. LIZ FAGEN, DOUGLAS COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Fagen talked about how she spent her first 90 days on the job. Dr. Fagen's emphasis on relationships was mentioned throughout her presentation. She has spent a lot of her time meeting with, and listening to, stakeholders within (and outside) the school district. Dr. Fagen also talked about choice and how important it is to parents. She discussed the many choices available to parents in Douglas County.

She talked about the future of education in this country – and how it needs to look different from what we've been doing for the past 100 years. The emphasis today cannot be on memorizing facts – the focus needs to be on creating critical thinking skills. These types of skills will serve students well as they move into a future filled with jobs we cannot even envision today.

**AMENDMENTS 60, 61 AND PROPOSITION 101** – Quick update on the latest polling numbers. It doesn't look like any are going to pass, but no one is willing to stop worrying just yet.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY, DOUGLAS COUNTY LIBRARIES**

Rochelle Logan briefly talked about the higher education study the library is undertaking. Library staff are conducting research and interviewing a wide variety of stakeholders about the value of having an institution of higher education located in the county. The libraries believe the public discussion is valuable and that the packet of information they'll put together will be a useful resource for anyone considering opening an institution of higher learning in the county.

### **NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY**

Melanie Bortz and Tabria Winer discussed the National Children's Study. Douglas County and 104 other locations across the US will be participating in the study. The study will follow 100,000 children from before birth to age 21. More information is available at: [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov).

Efforts to recruit Douglas County women for the study are just beginning. A Fact Sheet with all the important information is attached. If anyone knows women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, they should let them know about the study. Douglas County's contacts are:



Melanie Herrera Bortz ([melanie.herrerabortz@ucdenver.edu](mailto:melanie.herrerabortz@ucdenver.edu)) and Tabria Winer ([tabria.winer@ucdenver.edu](mailto:tabria.winer@ucdenver.edu)).

## **BURNING ISSUES**

**Emergency Management Office:** Fran mentioned that fire restrictions have been lowered to Stage 1 (fire pits are now allowed!).

**LEPC Exercise (AKA Operation Neptune):** the exercise took place on October 6 and the Recovery Tabletop occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Emergency Management received excellent feedback. Some holes were found and plans to fill them were made. It was a great opportunity to practice skills. Everyone believed the recovery tabletop was time well spent.

**Douglas County Libraries:** Dorothy reported that October 27 is Vampire Novel Night at the Highlands Ranch Library. Library renovations are now finished!

**Chamber:** Steve reported that the Chamber has surveyed its members for the first time since he's been with the Chamber (3 years). The board will talk about the results at their retreat.

**Metro District:** Nancy reported that the Metro District's budget is available online. The budget is down 2% from last year. There are no raises for staff next year. Many of the savings are anticipated from plans to do less mowing in the parks/open space areas.

The Mansion will be closed next year for renovations.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.