



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Michelle Lyng
Jeffco Public Schools
mblyng@novitascommunications.com
202-380-7114

Jeffco School Board Adopts 2015-2016 Budget

District increases pay for current staff and equalizes charter mill levy override funding

GOLDEN, Colo. (June 18, 2015) – The Jeffco Schools Board of Education tonight adopted the final budget for 2015-2016. This budget is the culmination of a process that began in August 2014, during which the District sought community and staff input through a budget survey, budget forums held throughout the district, and public hearings.

“Our Jeffco community placed a high value on competitive employee compensation, on a targeted focus on improving early literacy, and on increasing staff,” said Jeffco Superintendent Dan McMinimee. “We faced budget challenges because we received less than we expected from the state, but we see this budget as a win for our teachers, students, and families in Jeffco.”

The budget contained a \$15.7 million compensation placeholder for teachers and staff. Compensation items accounted for approximately 82 percent of the new state money in an effort to attract, retain, and reward the best teachers and staff for Jeffco Schools. The highlights of this placeholder in Jeffco Schools’ general fund that the board approved include:

- An average one-percent increase for all staff differentiated by performance
- Adjustments to current licensed staff salaries to ensure Jeffco teachers are paid competitively with the new hire salary plan
- Additionally, the budget includes targeted salary items to standardize the work year for assistant principals, and to make market adjustments for principal salaries.

The Board also approved a \$2 million additional allocation to be distributed based on enrollment to charter schools.

“For the first time in Jeffco history, all Jeffco Schools students will receive the same per pupil funding from the mill levy override, regardless of the public school he or she attends,” said McMinimee. “The previous inequities were unfair.”

Another bright spot in the budget included a \$3 million transfer to the capital reserve fund for a new school in Northwest Arvada, bringing the total placeholder for the new facility to \$18 million, which will allow Jeffco Schools to build a new school without incurring additional debt.

“Our community told us clearly that we need a new school in Northwest Arvada, but also that they were not keen on taking out additional debt. It was clear that we would not have additional revenue to pay for the debt in future years, which means that Jeffco would have had to cut other areas in future



Building Bright Futures

budgets to make debt payments,” said Ken Witt, President of the Jeffco School Board. “We listened to the Jeffco Community, and believe this is a responsible and positive solution for everyone.”

State funding increased by approximately 2.8 percent due to inflation and enrollment growth, which made the new expenditures possible. These investments support the goals of improving student achievement and of addressing the community’s values.

Additional information regarding the district’s budget can be found online at www.jeffcopublicschools.org/finance.

About Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 60 years. Approximately nine percent of all the K-12 students in Colorado attend a Jeffco School. Our mission is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future. The district has 155 schools on 168 campuses. Additional information about Jeffco Public Schools can be found at JeffcoPublicSchools.org.

###