

January 29, 2015

Good Morning,

I had the opportunity to attend a Master Capital Plan Town Hall last week. Having studied the budgets both at the school and district level, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 2013-14 fiscal year, the indebtedness of DCSD and speaking to many teachers, principals, students and parents, I have come to the conclusion that I would like to encourage the community to support a bond question on the 2015 ballot.

This administration has ignored capital needs in our community for 5 years. Funds are already being taken from the school operations fund to supplement capital purchases, and according to Bonnie Betz, the annual reduction of funds could be as high as \$741 per student, likely taken from schools' site based budgets. While many of us are very concerned about the lack of transparency, lack of prioritization and inability to accurately project or account for the costs of capital projects, the impact of not supporting a bond in our community this year would be devastating to DCSD.

I believe we should continue to demand accountability for how those bond dollars are spent, but we cannot punish our students, schools and staff any longer. If we do not believe our board and administration is responsible with taxpayer dollars, we need to tell them that with our votes for Board of Education positions.

It seems to me the need is apparent and as a community we need to put aside our differences and demand that the DCSD Board of Education and district administration include a bond question on the 2015 ballot. The voters and taxpayers of Douglas County deserve the right to express their support for our district capital needs through a ballot initiative. We will have a lot of work ahead of us to inform the community, but I am concerned that any alternative solutions to a bond to meet capital needs will have a longstanding, detrimental impact on our community.

I have attached a letter to the community to get the dialogue started. Please consider sharing it with your followers and the community as a whole. It is critical that we encourage supporters to go to the link in the letter to voice their support for a bond initiative by filling out the Master Capital Plan survey.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Julie Keim