School finance update

The Senate Appropriations Committee this morning approved this year’s school finance package: HB 1292 (Student Success Act) and HB 1298 (School Finance Act). Both bills head to the Senate floor early next week.

Student Success Act

As reported in Chalkbeat, the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday afternoon stripped important amendments to the Student Success Act that scaled back burdensome transparency requirements and added $10 million to the negative factor. However, on Friday morning, the Senate Appropriations Committee removed all of the transparency requirements from the bill (over Sen. Johnston’s objections) and an amendment

TIF fairness bill advances to House floor

The House Finance Committee approved the Urban Development Fairness Act, HB 1375, on Thursday morning. The bill would bring greater equity to tax increment financing arrangements used to fund development in Urban Renewal Areas.
Meetings will be held in Montrose, Sterling, Denver and Pueblo starting May 12. There is no cost to attend; however, Delegate Assembly on Sept. 27.

We also hope you'll come with ideas to help us shape our 2015 advocacy agenda, including resolutions for consideration at our behind-the-scenes recap of the 2014 legislative session – the victories we enjoyed and the considerable work that still lies ahead.

Ken DeLay and Jane Urschel

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Much of this success must be credited to our members – your calls, emails, letters and passionate lobbying helped legislators better understand the impact that deep budget cuts have had on your districts and communities, and the importance of meaningful increases to school funding.

Ken DeLay and Jane Urschel want to personally thank you for your help this session. At these luncheons, they also will give a behind-the-scenes recap of the 2014 legislative session – the victories we enjoyed and the considerable work that still lies ahead. We also hope you’ll come with ideas to help us shape our 2015 advocacy agenda, including resolutions for consideration at our Delegate Assembly on Sept. 27.

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Worth a watch: Colorado Futures Center video on Colorado Quality of Life

The Colorado Futures Center at Colorado State University has released a short and well-illustrated video based on its findings from a long-term state fiscal sustainability study released in December. Watch the video here.