



## Poudre School District Board of Education

2407 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521 • 970-490-3607

### Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Work Session  
October 21, 2025

#### **DINNER SESSION - 5:00 PM Superintendent Conference Room**

PRESENT: President Kristen Draper; Vice President Jessica Zamora; Directors Jim Brokish, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, and Andrew Spain; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile; Chief Officers Dr. Lauren Hooten and Dave Montoya; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: Vice President Zamora arrived at 5:12 p.m.

Dinner session began at 5:08 p.m.

#### **1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics**

- Budget Advisory Committee and Budget Design Team may be combined.
- District Advisory Board is asking for board direction/areas of focus and a deeper level of involvement.
- Request was made to check in with each committee using a standard and consistent protocol.
- Superintendent Kingsley provided an overview of Head Start funding.
- Director Spain talked about student Seth Long's charity event.

#### **2.0 Agenda Planning**

- Curriculum Team update will be provided at a future meeting.
- Committee charters were reviewed two years ago; may need to revisit during a future dinner session.

Dinner session ended at 5:27 p.m.

#### **WORK SESSION (BOARDROOM) – 5:30 PM**

PRESENT: President Kristen Draper; Vice President Jessica Zamora; Directors Jim Brokish, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, and Andrew Spain; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile; Assistant Superintendents Dr. Julie Chaplain and Dr. Insoon Olson; Chief Officers Dr. Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, and Dr. Dwayne Schmitz; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

## **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Draper called the regular business meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

## **2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

## **3.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **3.1 Board Resolution in Support of Colorado’s Healthy School Meals for All, Colorado State Ballow Propositions LL and MM**

Director Duffy moved that the Board approve the resolution to support Colorado’s Healthy School Meals for All, Colorado State Ballow Propositions LL and MM.

Vice President Zamora seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Students cannot learn if they are hungry.
- State of Colorado took an initial step at the start of the program; voters are asking the State of Colorado to cover the entirety of the program.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

## **4.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Kingsley introduced a *Quick Win* video highlighting the recent Canvas Community Classic district football games and expressed gratitude to all involved with the experience, talked about recent school visits, said important discussion will arise from the air conditioning and bell time items, and thanked voters for support of the 2024 debt free mill levy that will allow staff to address deferred maintenance needs.

## **5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Laura Whitehead expressed concern about potential mishandling of the Effective Needs program at Cache La Poudre Elementary.

Molly Gutilla stated education is one of the strongest predictors of health and happiness and thanked the Board for providing all students with safety, connection, and belonging in a transformative environment.

Tom Griggs said the strength of the community will carry us through federal and state budget cuts and expressed his belief that optimism is a choice.

Carrie Pitzulo thanked the board and district for supporting LGBTQ students and for providing a safe space for belonging, wellbeing, and wellness.

Dani Lawrence spoke about the CDE assessment and questioned the data integrity of vulnerable students and students with disabilities.

## **6.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Upcoming Board of Education Community Engagement Sessions will be held on November 4, 2025, at Irish Elementary and Timnath Elementary; all are welcome to attend.
- Director Duffy spoke about the *PSD Foundation Ignite the Impact* event on November 10, 2025, and stated it is always an uplifting evening.
- Director Brokish provided an update on a recent community engagement session held at Linton Elementary School; ten community members were in attendance.
- Director Schoenbauer provided an update on the community engagement session held in Wellington that included two attendees.
- Gratitude was expressed to all involved with the first annual Sports Equipment Swap hosted by the Student Advisory Committee.
- Vice President Zamora spoke about an audit of the Integrated Services department.
- Congratulations to the Wellington softball team for qualifying for State.
- Director Spain spoke about a charity event/fundraiser created by Wellington student and football kicker Seth Long.
- Thank you to all involved with the *Community Classic* and *Peer Summit*.

## **7.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

### **7.1 Personnel Action**

### **7.2 School-based Fee Schedules**

### **7.3 Early Head Start Partner Contract with La Familia/The Family Center**

Vice President Zamora moved that the Board approve and adopt the recommended actions for the items on the Consent Agenda.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, and Jessica Zamora  
Those voting NO: None  
Motion passed: 7-0

## **8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Update on Plans for Air Conditioning Installation**

Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya provided the update.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to the voters for approval of the debt-free mill levy, which will allow for installation of air conditioning in schools over several years.
- Current plan is to focus on installation in middle schools; Lesher and Webber will be first.
- Important to consider the tight construction period during summer break.
- Multiple board members said using a bonded debt is not ideal and felt the district should adopt a 'pay as you go' approach.
- Workforce availability and workload capacity will affect timelines.
- Fort Collins Power and Light are aware of the anticipated increase in electrical load.
- Contracts will appear on board meeting agendas for approval as they become available.
- Request was made for an update on heat mitigation.
- Any bell time change may have a direct impact on building needs for air conditioning.

Board recessed at 7:21 p.m.  
Board reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

### **8.2 Bell Times**

Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya and Director of Transportation Dan Weaver provided the update.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to Transportation staff for arduous work performed while creating the five scenarios.
- Current bus driver shortage will affect all scenarios to varying degrees.
- Charter bus usage creates a significant increase in cost to the district; not using charter buses creates a significant increase in overtime for district staff.

- Director Spain recommended implementation of a massive hiring fair to find more drivers in lieu of a change to bell times and routes.
- Multiple hiring fairs and marketing strategies have been implemented over the past few years with limited results.
- Many districts are experiencing a shortage of drivers, and some have implemented rolling blackouts.
- Guidance from the board regarding bell times and the length of the instructional day is tentatively scheduled for the November 4, 2025, board meeting.
- Competing feedback from community members exists; incumbent on board members to make decisions that benefit the district as much as possible, as soon as possible.
- Director Brokish recommended a scenario that prioritizes a start with high school schedules, then elementary, then middle schools.
- Multiple board members asked the district to engage with the community and staff about a potential change.
- Five Board members requested implementation in the 2027-28 school year; one board member requested implementation in 2026-27, and one board member recommended implementation in 2028-29.
- Important to understand requirements for instructional time/length of day before attempting to address bell schedules.
- Focus groups could provide enough data to help us move forward.
- Instructional time changes impact staff more, and bell time changes impact families more.

## 9.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 9.1 Executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(h) for purposes of discussing matters regarding the appeal of the decision to expel Student A where public disclosure would adversely affect the persons involved; executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(g) for the purpose of considering documents related to Student A's expulsion appeal that are protected under the mandatory nondisclosure provision of the Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. § 24-72-204(3)(a)(I), specifically and only the video of the student misconduct recorded on August 20, 2025; and an executive session pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) for purposes of conferring with the attorney for the Board of Education to receive legal advice on the process and procedure related to the appeal of a decision to expel Student A.**

Director Havelda moved that the Board enter into executive session as authorized by C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(h) for the purposes of discussing matters regarding the appeal of the decision to expel Student A where public disclosure would adversely affect the persons involved; executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(g) for the purpose of considering documents related to Student A's expulsion appeal that are protected under the mandatory nondisclosure provision of the Colorado

Open Records Act, C.R.S. § 24-72-204(3)(a)(I), specifically and only the videos of the student misconduct recorded on August 20, 2025; and an executive session pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) for purposes of conferring with the attorney for the Board of Education to receive legal advice on the process and procedure related to the appeal of a decision to expel Student A.

Individuals invited to join the Board in all or part of the executive session are Superintendent Brian Kingsley, Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile, Principal Joe Zappa, attorney Coulter Bump, General Counsel Autumn Aspen, Student A, Parents of Student A, attorney Lynn Lucas, attorney Elie Zwiebel, legal fellow Ariadne Athey, and Guardian Ad Litem Scott Patton.

Director Duffy seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

Executive session Part A began at 9:18 p.m.

Executive session Part A adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Executive Session Part B began at 10:00 p.m.

Executive Session Part B ended at 10:33 p.m.

## **10.0 ACTION ITEM**

### **10.1 Review and Take Action on Superintendent's Decision to Expel Student A**

Director Brokish moved that the Board affirm the Superintendent's September 16, 2025 decision that a student at Blevins Middle School be expelled from Poudre School District through May 27, 2026; that the Board adopt the Determination of Appeal and Order of Expulsion as presented; and that the Board Secretary be directed to serve the Determination and Order on the student, the student's parent, or the student's attorney via hand delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested.

Director Spain seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

## **11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Secretary to the Board of Education