



## Poudre School District Board of Education

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

### Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Business Meeting  
February 10, 2026

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

PRESENT: President Jessica Zamora; Vice President Kevin Havelda; Directors Karla Baise, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, and Coronda Ziegler; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile; Chief Officers Dr. Lauren Hooten and Dave Montoya; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: Director Conor Duffy

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:08 p.m.

#### **1.0 Early Childhood Orientation**

- Early Childhood Director Becca Benedict provided board members with the Early Childhood orientation.
- Board of Education must approve the hiring of any Head Start leadership staff per grant requirements.
- Growth potential is directly related to funding.

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

- Comprehensive Planning Committee is discussing the potential addition of four members; Board member feedback was requested.

Dinner session ended at 5:37 p.m.

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 5:30 PM**

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

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

#### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Zamora called the regular business meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.

## **2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Zamora led the Board of Education, staff, and community members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

## **4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS**

### **4.1 America’s Healthiest Schools Award – Beattie Elementary**

Beattie Elementary Assistant Principal Jenn Castor introduced Counselor Stephanie Coleman, who talked about the recognition and award.

Director Schoenbauer congratulated Jenn and Stephanie on behalf of the Board of Education.

### **4.2 Timnath Middle-High School State Champion Girls Cross Country Team**

Coach Matt Miltenberg spoke about the hard work of the students involved in both the State Championship accomplishment and academics.

Director Spain congratulated the team on behalf of the Board of Education.

## **5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **5.1 Resolution in Support of Classified Employee Appreciation Week**

Director Spain moved that the Board approve a resolution in support of Classified Appreciation Week, February 2-6, 2026.

Vice President Havelda seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- ACE President Joni Baker presented a video that celebrated Classified Employees Week and spoke about the varied duties of classified staff.

Those voting AYE: Directors Karla Baise, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, Jessica Zamora, and Coronda Ziegler  
Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

## **5.2 Resolution in Support of Black History Month**

Director Duffy moved that the Board approve the updated resolution that was presented to the Board in support of Black History Month.

Director Spain seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Kinard Middle School Gifted and Talented Coordinator Wendi Grigg spoke about the resolution and introduced student Hank Tillman who provided a presentation about Black History Month.
- Gratitude was expressed to Hank for sharing his personal story of black history.

Those voting AYE: Directors Karla Baise, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, Jessica Zamora, and Coronda Ziegler

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

## **5.3 Resolution in Support of Placement of a Statewide Ballot Initiative on the November 2026 Ballot to Increase K-12 Funding and Enhance Educator Salaries**

Director Spain moved that the Board endorse the resolution for the inclusion of a statewide ballot initiative to increase K-12 funding and enhance educator salaries.

Vice President Havelda seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Poudre Education Association (PEA) President Candice Mozer spoke about the resolution and introduced the following teachers:
  - Irma Sandoval
  - Olivia Becker
  - Theo McFarland
  - Wendy Bergman
- Appreciation was expressed to PEA for bringing this resolution forward.
- PSD teachers continue to outperform other districts and receive high marks despite underfunding.
- Colorado has a 4.5 billion dollar shortfall in education funding compared to other states.

Those voting AYE: Directors Karla Baise, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, Jessica Zamora, and Coronda Ziegler  
Those voting NO: None  
Motion passed: 7-0

## **6.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Kingsley thanked classified employees for their hard work, introduced a *Quick Win* video highlighting the Rocky Mountain High School Boxing Club, thanked staff for thoughtful and creative ways they make students feel at home, thanked Dr. Dwayne Schmitz for his many years of service to Poudre School District and conveyed well wishes on a well-earned retirement, and spoke about the upcoming budget update.

## **7.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Teacher Oren Logan spoke about the importance of the work performed by the Whole Child Collective Committee, said many teachers are burned out due to reductions in FTE and higher workloads, and asked the Board of Education to collaborate with the committee to find solutions.

Courtney Peterson challenged the Board to use the lack of funding, potential consolidation, and potential reduction in staff as an opportunity to dream big and re-build the district.

Joshua Reyling stated 15 months ago the district promised the passage of 4A would allow 3-5 years to make a decision about consolidation, and said there is no evidence the district is looking to increase efficiencies to reduce costs.

Sabrina Herrick expressed concern in multiple areas and said the public deserves an explanation about spending money to make building improvements when that building may end up closing.

Dani Lawrence expressed concern about the Legislative Subcommittee Meetings and cited multiple reasons.

Tom Griggs spoke against the federal voucher program and offered his services to report to the board and community about the status of the voucher program in Colorado.

Reggie Johnson asked the Board to keep LGBTQ students foremost in mind and safe in an environment that no longer supports them.

Ben Stough stated the recent student-led protests were district sponsored and offered multiple examples to support his claim, adding there are no stores in town that have the

quantity of product necessary to make the signs which indicates signs were made in schools, and therefore the protests went against the rules.

## **8.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There was no discussion.

## **9.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

### **9.1 Personnel Action**

### **9.2 Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2026, January 22, 2026, and January 27, 2026**

### **9.3 Roofing Replacement at Harris Elementary**

### **9.4 Roofing Replacement at Irish Elementary**

### **9.5 Roofing Replacement at Shepardson Elementary**

### **9.6 Roofing Replacement at Poudre High School**

Director Duffy moved that the board approve and adopt the recommended actions for the items on the Consent Agenda.

Director Spain seconded the motion.

Those voting AYE: Directors Karla Baise, Kevin Havelde, Andrew Spain, Jessica Zamora, and Coronda Ziegler

Those voting NO: Directors Conor Duffy and Scott Schoenbauer

Motion passed: 5-2

## **10.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **10.1 Board – Superintendent Relationship Policies Review**

Board discussion included:

- Vice President Havelde requested the board pivot from using BSR 4.1, Unit of Control, to using the newly implemented Board Forecasting section of the meeting.
- Request was made to either amend BSR 4.2, Accountability of Superintendent, or create a new board policy regarding the district's General Counsel to mitigate any potential conflict of interest.
- Intent of 4.1 was discussed by multiple members.
- Providing procedure or process in policy may provide clarity.
- Policies are amendable.

### **10.2 Monitoring Report/Policy Review: DE 1.0, General District Ends (Part 1)**

Chief Institutional Effectiveness Officer Dr. Dwayne Schmitz provided the update.

Board discussion included:

- District is facing financially challenging times and reduced resources; could be an opportunity to emerge stronger due to forced clarity.
- Important to concentrate on a universal standard of excellence.
- Survey indicated high school students overwhelmingly want help and training in stress management.
- Gratitude was expressed to Dwayne for service over the years and amazing hard work.
- Mental Health specialists and IEP paraprofessionals have already been reduced prior to impending budget cuts; improvement for students on the margin is at risk.
- Current scenario of resource reduction while continuing to do more with less is not sustainable.
- Expectation of continuing positive progress does not align with the reduction in staff and resources and is not sustainable.
- Staff communicate and consult with peer school districts.
- State of Colorado does not require a consistent attendance methodology.

Board recessed at 8:25 p.m.  
Board reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

### **10.3 Budget Update**

Chief of Staff Dr. Lauren Hooten and Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya provided the update.

Board discussion included:

- Resolution to explore the Reduction in Force will be voted on at the February 24 meeting with formal determination on April 14.
- Current RIF discussion is precautionary dependent upon State budget; important to be upfront and transparent about the process.
- Recall provisions are detailed in the procedures.
- Information has been shared with the Associations.
- State funding is a large part of the problem; please reach out to State Legislators to prioritize education.
- Recommendation was made to market Poudre School District schools to increase attendance.
- State reduced the BS factor 330 million dollars.
- Some districts are filing a lawsuit against the State of Colorado.

- Appreciation was expressed for naming the issues, being transparent, and giving people an opportunity to prepare, and considering the people of the district.
- Board majority tasked staff to move forward with working toward the Reduction in Force process.
- Gratitude was expressed for the information.

## **11.0 BOARD FORECASTING**

- Request was made for information regarding steps taken to assist students with stress management.
- One board member requested examination of BSR policy to retain outside counsel for the board.

## **12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Vice President Havelda moved that the Board enter executive session for the following purposes:

- 1) to confer with an attorney for the Board to receive legal advice on specific legal questions relating to C.R.S. § 22-30.5-104 as authorized by C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b), and
- 2) to develop the strategy of the school district for negotiations relating to the 2026-2027 collective bargaining agreement or employment contracts as authorized by C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e)(III).

Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Superintendent Brian Kingsley, Chief of Staff Dr. Lauren Hooten, Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile, Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya, and General Counsel Autumn Aspen.

Director Spain seconded the motion.

Those voting AYE: Directors Karla Baise, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Scott Schoenbauer, Andrew Spain, Jessica Zamora, and Coronda Ziegler

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

Executive session # 1 began at 9:42 p.m.

Executive session #1 ended at 10:29 p.m.

Executive session #2 began at 10:29 p.m.

Executive session #2 ended at 10:35 p.m.

## **13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Secretary to the Board of Education