



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
October 10, 2017

DINNER SESSION - 5:00 PM

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Nate Donovan, Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, Carolyn Reed, and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser, Assistant Superintendents Jinger Haberer, Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, Dustin Reintsma, and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

1.0 CHARTER APPLICATION UPDATE

Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb reviewed the policies and procedures that guide how the Board will approach the charter school application decision.

Some of the questions the Board will have to answer during the October 24, 2017 charter hearing should include:

- The idea behind the school; is it a good idea for students? Will it help students in the district?
- Have the charter applicants put in place a concrete plan that operationalizes their idea?
- Will their plans work?
- Does the budget work?
- Are all the practical elements present?
- Can they successfully implement the plan and maintain it?

Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb noted that in November, the Board will need to make one of the following decisions:

1. Approve the application with conditional approval.
2. Deny the application with reasons.
3. Deny the charter application for next school year, but leave the charter process open so that the charter can work on their application/plans. The charter will have additional time to address outstanding issues or concerns.

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert handed out to each Board member a copy of the charter school's application binder, "CCCS Application Review Materials." Lambert then gave an overview of the materials included in the application binder.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION – MILL/BOND LITIGATION AND RELATED FINANCIAL MATTERS

Director Petterson moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice and information concerning actual and threatened litigation related to the District's November 2016 mill/bond ballot language and related financial matters involving the District's mill levy certification and issuance of general obligation bonds. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Kutak Rock Attorneys Tom Weihe and Tom Snyder, Executive Director Dave Montoya, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb and Assistant Board Secretary Kyla Davis.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Febvre, Gutowsky, Kipp, Petterson, Reed, and Trask

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

The executive session began at 5:13 p.m.

The executive session ended at 6:28 p.m.

The dinner session ended at 6:30 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING - (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Nate Donovan, Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, Carolyn Reed, and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser, Assistant Superintendents Jinger Haberer, Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, Dustin Reintsma, and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Kipp called the regular business meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Kipp led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Donovan moved that the Board move Item 8.1 Wrap Around Services for Schools to Item 8.2. Item 8.2 Irish Elementary Priority Improvement becomes Item 8.1.

Vice President Trask seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Febvre, Gutowsky, Kipp, Petterson, Reed, and Trask

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

4.1 Book Trust

Book Trust is a Denver based non-profit organization that started 16 years ago in PSD. It now serves seven schools in the district.

On behalf of the Board and PSD, Director Donovan presented a certificate of recognition to Adrienne Schatz.

4.2 McBackpack Program

McBackpack is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing supplemental food to PSD students and their families who would otherwise not have enough food over the weekend.

On behalf of the Board and PSD, Director Febvre presented a certificate of recognition to Ann Randall and Gerry Lake.

4.3 CCTM Outstanding Teacher

Chris Suppes, Fort Collins High School math teacher, has been named a 2017 outstanding teacher by the Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

On behalf of the Board and PSD, Director Gutowsky presented a certificate of recognition to Chris Suppes.

4.4 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smyser reported on some of the events she attended, and things she has been working on this month including:

- attended Principal meetings
- community outreach
- met individually with Board members
- participated in a Foothills Rotary event
- attended the Rotary Teacher of the Year luncheon
- attended an industry partnership event at Shepardson Elementary School
- met with the Larimer County Manager
- met with a group of Denver area schools Superintendents
- held a teacher's leader meeting
- met with PSD Foundation leadership
- attended the CASE Superintendent's Conference
- met with Timnath Town Manager
- attended Bohemian Foundation event
- worked with members of Cabinet on several projects (over 75 current projects)
- visited several schools this month

There is a lot going on throughout the district right now including college fairs, book fairs, homecoming and more.

4.5 Board Report

Director Petterson reported on some of the activities Board members have been a part of this month.

In the District:

- Participated in District Accountability Committee, District Advisory Board, Shepardson PBL Breakfast and the Rotary Teachers of the Year luncheon.

Board Development (over the summer):

- Participated in September Board retreat
- Participated in informal board lunches
- Attended CASB Policy Governance training session
- Attended DAB and League of Women Voters candidate forums

In the Community:

- Held regular community engagement sessions
- Met with a variety of constituents
- Held individual meetings with local legislators
- Held BOE legislative sub-committee meetings

- Attended Alliance for Suicide Prevention Breakfast
- Spoke at Downtown Sertoma Club: "How are things going in PSD"

There is a community engagement session on Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 10-11:30 at the Council Tree Library.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Jim Roland: Expressed support for Career Pathways program opportunities in the district. His son participated in the program. Read a memo from his son who now works for the Wildlife Forestry and Natural Resources program in Alaska. The Career Pathways opportunity was very beneficial, gave him a passion for forestry, as well as college credits and knowledge prior to starting college. Thanked everyone in the Career Pathways program for the amazing opportunity.

John Jacobsen: Careers Pathway program student. Gave gratitude and thanks to the district and the program for the opportunity to participate in it.

Kristen Draper: Running for a Board of Education position. Hopes to use her experience and skills to help further the district's excellence and commitment to quality education for all students.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2017, September 19, 2017 (Special Meeting) and September 26, 2017

6.3 2018-2019 Calendar Approval

6.4 District Accountability Committee (DAC) New Members

6.5 School Accreditation and Request to Reconsider

6.6 Approval of Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) 2017-18 Grant Application for Compass Community Collaborative School (CCCS)

Director Donovan asked to pull item 6.2, the September 26, 2017 minutes, from the consent agenda for a small typo. It will become action item 7.2

Director Petterson asked to pull item 6.6 off the consent agenda. It will become action item 7.3.

Director Donovan moved to adopt and approve the remaining items on the consent agenda.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Febvre, Gutowsky, Kipp, Petterson, Reed, and Trask

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Resolution in Support of Classified Employee Appreciation Week

Tony Rowland, ACE President spoke to the classified employees in the district.

Director Donovan moved to adopt the Resolution (read as written in the October 10, 2017 Board of Education Business Meeting Agenda) in Support of Classified Employee Appreciation Week.

Vice President Trask seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Febvre, Gutowsky, Kipp, Petterson, Reed, and Trask

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

7.2 Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2017

Director Donovan moved to amend the minutes to add Director Donovan's name to the AYE voting results section of item 5.1.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Febvre, Gutowsky, Kipp, Petterson, Reed, and Trask

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

7.3 Approval of Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) 2017-18 Grant Application for Compass Community Collaborative School (CCCS)

Director Petterson pulled this item from the consent agenda to acknowledge that some of the work described in the charter application is already being done at another school in the district.

Petterson noted that Polaris Expeditionary School is doing groundbreaking work with strong academic results.

Director Petterson moved to approve the grant application as written.

Vice President Trask seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Febvre, Gutowsky, Kipp, Petterson, Reed, and Trask

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 Irish Elementary Priority Improvement

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert and Irish Elementary School Principal Lindsey Walton presented information on the Priority Improvement planning efforts at Irish.

Irish Elementary has already developed a preliminary Priority Improvement Plan. The final plan will be ready for Board review and approval in the November 14, 2017 meeting's consent agenda. This timeline gives the Board an opportunity to give feedback on the plan before it is submitted to the state.

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert explained that the Board will need to approve the initial plan. The finalized plan will be submitted to the state by January 15, 2018.

The school looked at data and their overall systems to determine those things working well in the school, and identified areas that need more resources. They identified three areas that require improvement strategies including, overall instructional model, intervention model (for kids performing at a consistently low level), and social/emotional support for students.

Principal Lindsey Walton noted that not only are they already writing the plan, but they are also beginning to implement changes. Action steps and benchmarks were outlined and presented to their student accountability committee (SAC meeting) for parent feedback. The parent community has been very responsive, supportive and is ready to help the students and school. Principal Walton noted several specific examples of support already in place at the school (team trainings, impact training, checks in place to ensure accountability, etc.).

The Board asked how long it will take to turnaround the school's performance. Irish Elementary hopes to make great progress in the next few months and the results will be evident by next year.

8.2 Wrap Around Services for Schools

Director of Student Services, Darcie Votipka presented information on wrap around services offered in the community that are available to PSD students and families.

Director Votipka discussed:

- The district's vision of community collaboration.
- The history of long-standing partnerships with PSD (i.e. Project Smile/Envision, Center for Family Outreach, Family Assessment Planning Team, Community Life Center, Center for Family Outreach).
- The categories of student needs in the district (youth development, social emotional support, family engagement, expanded learning opportunities, college/career/citizenship, health and wellness support).
- Each community partnership by category that PSD currently has in the areas of need.
- The criteria used to determine whether or not to partner with a particular community wrap around service organization (does it meet district needs, is it of educational benefit to students, etc.).

Community Comment:

Seth Kelly: Executive Director of B.A.S.E. camp. B.A.S.E. camp would love to do more partnering with the district; this can be limited in some ways by state policies, but looks forward to continuing to work creatively with the district. Thanked the district for their partnership and ability to work together. There are things to improve in the partnership. We would like to align with the school district's goals and look forward to making it an even better partnership in the future.

The Board had questions.

Are there systemic issues that the administration can knock down to allow community organizations to share money and resources for our students - to fill gaps we cannot as a district fund? There is a desire to do more in district partnerships. How do we respond to that, how do we help?

Director Votipka noted that the Student Services department looks carefully at what is needed in the school community. Sometimes a group doesn't meet the district's needs.

Director of Language, Culture and Equity, John McKay discussed how the demographics and needs of the school district have changed, so each partnership needs to have a relationship behind it and an understanding that the partnership meets the district's ultimate goals. There are also a lot of data privacy policies and school safety concerns that need to be considered when proposing that numerous organizations come in and out of the district.

Are the districts standards too strict? Are they being turned away because the risk seems too great? Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb noted that the secondary consideration to partnerships are the district's policies. The primary consideration is the alignment with the district's goals and has nothing to do with legalities. The district does not want competing or inconsistent programs for students.

Superintendent Smyser noted that the district has an obligation to keep student information safe. It is also important to realize that the district has a lot of companies competing to provide services to students in the district.

PSD's Student Assistant Services Melanie Voegeli-Morris discussed how the district helps families access services in the community with parent permission. The district has a lot of relationship-based partnerships with community health organizations. Ms. Voegeli-Morris believes that students are getting the best of what the community offers, as well as access to excellent, unique services within the school district. The district works to ensure the best solution for students and their families.

How do we address small communities within our district (i.e. Red Feather Lakes, Wellington, etc.)? The district works hard by making connections and communicating district needs in those areas to provide services equitably across the entire district.

Several Board members commented on the discussion:

- There is great internal work happening in this area of student services.
- We are appreciative of the district's vetting process.
- A Board member urged the department to continue to be open to community partners that complement the district's vision.
- A Board member noted that they received a letter from an organization that would like to come into the district, but not all things are doable.
- Please continue to watch for systematic barriers in the system and push to do more with community partners.

Director McKay noted that district staff sit on community Boards and are in-tune with conversations about disparity in the district. Decisions on (wraparound services) supports in the district are based on what enables students to achieve in all areas. The district has a process and carefully considers organizations.

8.3 Legislative Discussion

President Kipp noted that the legislative subcommittee met and discussed the legislative resolutions for CASB; the Board has agreed to remain neutral on Resolution 15.

The November 18, 2017 community engagement session will be about school financing. The subcommittee is putting together information for the meeting.

Several Board members gave updates on their contact with local legislators. They will all be at the November 28, 2017 Board meeting.

9.0 AGENDA PLANNING

The hearing for Compass Charter School will be held during the October 24, 2017 Board meeting. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. During this time, the Board will have an opportunity to ask questions. The Board will vote their decision on the charter application during the November 14, 2017 meeting. The community will have an opportunity to comment on the charter school application during the October 24, 2017 meeting.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 Superintendent Job Performance Feedback

Director Donovan moved that the Board go into executive session in the Superintendent's office/conference room as authorized under C.R.S 24-6-402(4)(b) to discuss personnel matters related to feedback on the Superintendent's job performance. Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Superintendent Sandra Smyser, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb and Assistant Board Secretary Kyla Davis.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The Executive Session began at 9:19 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 12:03 a.m., Wednesday, October 11, 2017.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 12:04 a.m., Wednesday, October 11, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education