



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

May 9, 2017

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 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 DISTRICT ISSUES/BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

President Kipp passed around an end of year letter to PSD staff. Please review and contact Director Donovan with any questions, comments or changes to the letter.

The Board is sending a letter to Colorado General Assembly about House Bill 61.

The Board reviewed a draft version of the School Board election/recruitment brochure.

Director Reed moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss matters concerning allegations of District administrator misconduct. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb, Executive Director Thompson and Assistant Board Secretary Davis.

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.

The executive session started at 5:38 p.m.

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

The dinner session ended at 6:29 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 6:32 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

There were no changes to the agenda.

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Executive Director Danielle Clark introduced the recognitions for the evening.

4.1 2017 5A Colorado Athletic Director of the Year

Wayne Moddelmog, Rocky Mountain High School Athletic Director, was named Athletic Director of the Year by the Colorado Athletics Directors Association.

Director Gutowsky presented a certificate of recognition to Mr. Moddelmog on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.2 Classified Employees of the Year Awards

Winners were nominated by their colleagues in recognition of their impressive work and commitment to serving students, staff and the district.

ACE Employees of the Year:

Cheryl Albaugh, EAS Specialist, Employee Assistance Services
Melissa Buderus, Early Childhood Paraprofessional, Irish Elementary
Kathy Ghidossi, Office Manager, Integrated Services
Andrew Kaminski, Head Custodian, Polaris Expeditionary Learning School
Ellie Loek, Tutor for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners, Poudre High School
Alejandra Orozco, Family Liaison, Linton Elementary School

Don Morford Custodial Award:

Dale Foster, Head Custodian, Traut Core Knowledge Elementary School

Brett Holm Transportation Award:

Amy Hatch, Office Manager, Transportation

Vice President Trask presented certificates of recognition to the employees on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smyser reported meeting with Jared Polis and Board members about school finance and checking in with the Bohemian Foundation. The Superintendent has also interviewed potential school principals, attended the PSD Foundation annual breakfast, held a budget information session, attended the Mary Hull awards ceremony, attended the Masonic Public Schools Recognition ceremony, addressed school principals, attended the ACE Employee of the Year banquet, participated in employee negotiations, attended the CASE annual awards reception, met with Jim Parke from Otterbox and Tom Gendron with Woodward Governor, attended the PSD retiree celebration, spoke at the DAB meeting and more.

The Superintendent visited several schools in the past month.

There is a lot happening throughout the district.

- Thirteen PSD teams qualified for Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.
- High school graduation ceremonies will happen in the coming weeks.
- Alternative Education Night is May 10, 2017.
- The PSD Communications Department won 16 state awards.
- The PSD Finance Department has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2016 CAFR.
- US News and World Report's 2017 Best High School's in America included four PSD high schools including Liberty Common, Ridgeview Classical, Fossil Ridge High School and Rocky Mountain High School.
- The Career Pathways Carnival at Front Range Community College was this week.

4.4 Board Report

Director Petterson presented the Board report.

The Board has been busy between meetings, some of their work included:

- Visited several schools in the district
- Participated in District Accountability Committee
- Visited employee negotiations meeting
- Attended FCHS Caminos Luncheon
- Attended PSD Foundation Breakfast
- Attended District Advisory Board
- Attended PSD Retirees Celebration
- Attended Student Think Tank meeting
- Attended Zach 4th grade heart dissection
- Attended GED Graduation at Poudre High School
- Helped with Freshman Seminar mock interviews
- Helped with FRHS senior interviews
- Attended audit committee meeting
- Attended DAB Academic subcommittee
- Attended PEA scholarship breakfast
- Working subcommittees on improving community engagement
- Informal Board lunches
- Held regular community engagement sessions
- Attended Masonic student recognition event
- Held meetings with various constituents on a variety of issues
- Attended meeting with Representative Polis on LBGTQ issues
- Attended Great Education Action Summit
- Held BOE luncheon with Representative Polis
- Attended Center for Family Outreach breakfast
- Participated in a panel for Family Leadership training class
- Attended City Liaison meeting
- Attended Early Childhood Policy Council meeting
- Legislative work (met with legislators, sub-committee meetings) and more

The next community engagement session is at Harmony Library on May 27, 2017 from 10-11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to give information to people who are interested in running for the Board. There will be three open positions on the Board next year.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Alexa Nickoloff: Senior at Rocky Mountain High School. Campaigning for change in PSD's mental health education curriculum. In past meetings, the district has talked about focusing on the mental health of students. There are a lot of students living in our district who need help. We need more resources in

this district. Current health classes do not address these issues. We protect students with financial and economic classes, why do we not give them education on mental health issues?

Eric Sutherland: Parent in the school district. The district is no closer today than they were months ago, to issuing bonds. Please take stock of your strategy within; look at the long-range plan for the district. There are solutions to school financing, but there's no point in talking about those solutions if no one is willing to listen.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2017 and April 25, 2017**
- 6.3 School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP) Contract**
- 6.4 Colorado Department of Education School Health Professionals Grant**
- 6.5 Revised Governance Process Policy 3.6**
- 6.6 Addendum to Liberty Common First Amended Charter School Contract**
- 6.7 2017-18 FRCC Career Pathway MOU**
- 6.8 Annual Head Start Grant Approval**
- 6.9 Early Childhood Duration Grant**

Director Donovan requested that items 6.6, 6.7, and 6.9 be pulled from the consent agenda. They become action items 8.2, 8.3, and 8.4.

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

Director Reed 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 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 Early Childhood Annual Report

PSD Early Childhood Director, Carolyn Martin presented this annual report update. Martin noted that a large number of materials were submitted to the Board prior to this evening's presentation for review.

Tonight, Martin will some spend time focusing on how they have spent the year preparing for a major program expansion.

The department has worked hard to accommodate a major program change. In the past, Head Start preschoolers attended half-day school. The new requirement from the federal government is that for school year 2017-18 Head Start-funded children be in all day preschool. Congress has made money available for this program; the PSD full-day programs for Head Start will use these federal funds. 40% of PSD preschoolers are funded through the Head Start program; that is approximately 110 children for school year 2017-18.

The district needed to find four additional classrooms to accommodate the large increase in students. PSD expanded preschool classroom space at Lopez, Johnson, Putnam and Bauder elementary schools. Adding these rooms allows the district to accommodate all preschool children for 2017-18.

In other early childhood financial news, Director Martin noted that this year, the department had a great year applying for and receiving several local grants for their program. Last year they received \$26,000 in grant monies. This year they doubled that amount, receiving \$52,000 to support PSD's Early Childhood program.

Accommodating the program change and doubling local grant money funds were major achievements this year for the department. Department workgroups and a steering committee that included parents and staff helped to accomplish all the work that was needed this year.

The department has three goals for next year. They want to continue work on children's attendance, monitor and act when children are not acquiring oral language skills, and focus on integration so we can do our best work in this district.

The Board had questions.

How long has Congress appropriated the funds for the all-day Head Start program? Is there a risk to the funding of the program? Our district has had Head Start funding for over 50 years. They are longstanding commitments. Future federal funding is very unpredictable in the current government environment.

Any highlights from this year's preschool testing and assessment? Thanks to a grant our department received from the Colorado Department of Education, we provided new and expanded training for staff on best testing/assessment practices. Our early childhood educators use the exact kind of assessment required to accurately gauge a child's level. They watch kids as they play and note certain indicators. Our staff is trained to use that assessment tool in an informative way.

Regarding numbers in the report, on page 2, it shows a grant fund amount of \$52,000. Does that include local monies? Yes, that is local grant money only. The department secured twice as much local grant money this year as compared to last year.

The Board thanked Director Martin for the report.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Resolution in Support of Teacher Appreciation Week

May 8-12, 2017 is National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Director Gutowsky moved that the Board approve and adopt the “Resolution in Support of Teacher Appreciation Week” as presented in the Board of Education’s May 9, 2017 Business Meeting Agenda, Action Item 8.1.

Director Donovan 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.

Tom List, President of the Poudre Education Association thanked the Board for the proclamation of the resolution. He then read a quote that highlights teachers’ work. List also thanked classified staff and administrators, all of ACE and PACE, special service providers, the Superintendent and central staff for their hard work and support.

8.2 Addendum to Liberty Common First Amended Charter School Contract

Director Donovan encouraged charter schools to think seriously about future bond issue and other mechanisms to fund capital improvements at charter schools.

Director Donovan moved to approve this charter school contract.

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.

8.3 2017-18 FRCC Career Pathway MOU

There was a small typo on this memorandum. It has been corrected for the record.

Director Donovan moved to adopt the corrected memorandum of understanding.

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.

8.4 Early Childhood Duration Grant

There was a small typo on this grant. It has been corrected for the record.

Director Donovan moved to adopt the item (as corrected).

Director Febvre 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.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Revisions to Policies GP 3.3, GP 3.8 & BSR 4.4

Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb noted proposed revisions to policies GP 3.3, GP 3.8 and BSR 4.4.

Policy GP 3.3 does not reflect the district's current agenda setting practice, thus the proposed revision to the policy language.

Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb pointed out that paragraph 4 does not mean that a vote must be taken and that the only way requested agenda items get on is by vote, it's simply that if the request isn't accepted in the agenda setting process, then the other Board members have another avenue to get the item on the agenda if they can get a motion, a second and a vote to add it. Because we are in the process of revising this section of the policy, it makes sense to add this clarification.

The coversheet provided in the meeting agenda packet outlines the proposals for the other policy revisions.

The Board discussed moving policy EL 2.2 to the end of the school year (June), as opposed to doing this review in August. Executive Director Vicki Thompson agreed that it would be good to do this policy review towards the end of the school year.

To stay in compliance, there will be a review of policy EL 2.2 in August 2017 and then the Board will look at moving future reviews to June.

These changes are acceptable to the Board and the updates/revisions will be on an upcoming consent agenda for Board approval.

9.2 Discussion of Board of Education's Budget

Executive Director Dave Montoya discussed the Board of Education's yearly budget.

Board members do not get paid for their work. Montoya outlined the expenses that are covered in the Board budget and noted that not all items in the Board budget are Board items. For example, the budget pays for software, a facilitator during employee negotiations, expenses related to the Board room and some technology expenses.

Montoya noted that the Board is careful with the funds they use for conferences and travel and ensure the money is well spent.

9.3 Legislative Discussion

There was discussion about the state legislative session's last few weeks. The senate education committee put a controversial bill into the school finance bill. Our Board has taken a stance against 1375. Please email your senators to tell them 1375 will override our voter-approved mill levy.

There was discussion about the Rural Sustainability Act, hospital provider fee and its impact on school funding.

Bill 1181 will take PARCC testing out of high school and replace it with a version of the PSAT. This is better for our students. The Board supports this bill.

The Board is working on their 2018 legislative agenda now. If you have an idea, or something you think should be changed, please let the Board know in the next couple of weeks.

10.0 AGENDA PLANNING

There was no discussion on this item.

11.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Superintendent Job Performance Feedback

Director Petterson 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)(f) 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 Davis.

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.

Executive session began at 8:09 p.m.

Executive session ended at 10:54 p.m.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education