



## Poudre School District Board of Education

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

### Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Business/Work Session Meeting

August 22, 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**

The Board discussed the event in Charlottesville and how it impacts PSD schools. What is the district's response?

- PSD is no place for hate.
- The Board reviewed programs in the district (e.g. Rachel's Challenge) and how the district works with secondary principals about ways they can build culture in their schools and in each classroom.
- Thanks to a grant the district received, several schools attended an anti-bullying training session.
- The district has age appropriate material for elementary kids to tackle these topics.
- 225 coaches attended a training session on how to build character in players (it's not about winning and losing games).
- Are principals communicating their efforts to parents? It depends on the school. These things are sometimes addressed in monthly newsletters.
- From a systemic point of view, how do we know there is appropriate training happening in each school? This is in the district ends and can be seen throughout district programs and curriculum (social studies for example).
- PSD's Connections Survey captures data by school on how students are self-reporting their social/emotional state, feelings of connection and inclusivity in their school.
- Assistant Superintendent Nielsen noted that the district is asking schools what their plans are on social/emotional programs, looking for specifics and is sharing that information among schools.
- Every school has a system in place to provide support for any student who needs support.

Compass charter application is complete and each Board member has a copy of it. Assistant Superintendent Lambert explained next steps in the process. Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb confirmed the application is complete.

There was a question on the Timnath IGA. There will be an Executive Session in an upcoming Board meeting to address this topic.

The Superintendent was asked where she is at in the process of developing 360 degree evaluations for PSD Cabinet members. These will be complete sometime this fall so that people have time to work on improvements throughout the school year.

## **2.0 Student Advisory Group Follow-up**

Assistant Superintendent Nielsen noted that Rocky Mountain High School is working on putting together their student advisory group. It is early in the year, but Nielsen noted that he will get back to the Board on the specifics of the group as it develops and they identify their three core topics.

The Board had questions for Assistant Superintendent Haberer regarding Navience.

Did any student lose work that was not saved or backed up somewhere else? Haberer said she would have to get back to the Board if they are looking for exactly what was and wasn't saved from the program. She also noted that because of the type of information Navience accommodated (for example, a college essay), there is a good chance students had it saved in other places. The Board is not expecting or needing a detailed report on this; just a general idea of the transition success. Superintendent Smyser noted that there was clear direction during the transition process that the focus was on seniors. The district had close communication with school counselors throughout the entire process.

There was discussion about federal government testing requirements and how it may affect PSD.

There is a possibility that the Board will meet on September 6, 2017 regarding November elections.

## **3.0 Agenda Planning**

There was no discussion on this item.

The dinner session ended at 6:20 p.m.

## **BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION - (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 work session meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Mike Pruznick: Community member has concerns regarding the following: wood burning smoke (should the district cancel bonfires due to risks and find alternatives), the proposed children's healthcare plan could impact low income students in PSD (Board, please look at this topic). Thanked Director Nate Donovan. Asked the district to give out more information on the district's court cases. Asked if the district is auditing the lawyers. Asked the Board to work on bringing the community together; that support is important to our district.

Kaycee Headrik: Boys and Girls Club of Larimer County. PSD has been an incredible community partner for years. Thanked PSD for going above and beyond in the community and in helping their organization. Presented a plaque to PSD's Executive Director of Facilities, Pete Hall.

### **4.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **4.1 Personnel Action**

#### **4.2 Schedule of Fees and Other Select Charges (Updated)**

Director Donovan moved to adopt and approve the recommended actions for items on the consent agenda.

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.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **5.1 Colorado Education Network Draft Resolution**

The Board is considering that PSD join the Colorado Education Network (CEN). The CEN is a group whose goal is to support adequately and equitably funding public education in Colorado. There is no cost to join the network.

The Board had questions/comments.

There was discussion on resolving/clarifying some language in the resolution. Directors Petterson and Donovan will work on the resolution language in subcommittee and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

What is behind the CEN movement? Do we want representation? President Kipp said CEN is a group that is working to reframe messages to the community so that everyone understands education funding and why it is inadequate in Colorado.

Are all districts joining this group? What is the process? Is it a bipartisan group? It is not partisan; it is about education funding. It feels like all sides know there is a need to address education funding in the state. There might be different ideas as to how to solve these issues. There are other districts in this group.

This will come back in a future meeting; the Board will vote on whether the district should be represented in this group.

### **5.2 Legislative Discussion**

President Kipp noted that there is a focus right now to develop and define the state's education vision for the future. Framework and structure is needed for this discussion.

A finance committee for education was created by a bill in the last legislation. There are other groups working on education finance as well (state Superintendents' group, for example).

President Kipp noted that Board members will meet with legislators on education finance. There needs to be a lot of thoughtful discussion on how to specifically address this situation. The community is encouraged to become involved in these important topics.

## **6.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS**

### **6.1 Growth for All Learners (Achievement Gap Update)**

Assistant Superintendent Lambert began the presentation on how the district is working to close the achievement gap.

Specific numbers (statistics) will be given and explained in detail at a future Board meeting.

Lambert reviewed student achievement growth over the last couple of years and pointed out the variabilities between the numbers at each school level. PSD is a high achieving district, but aims to do even better. Lambert talked about the things that impact achievement in the district (e.g. are they getting a healthy breakfast, positive family life, etc.) and discussed influence on learning numbers, high impact teams, sources of efficacy, etc. He explained how schools in our district partnered with experts to develop impact teams at each of PSD's title I elementary schools.

The Board had questions.

Is there data on efficacy – whether this affects teachers leaving or staying in the profession? There are probably studies on this, but we do not have that information here tonight.

Can you clarify some of the growth numbers presented in the slide? That level of detail will have to wait until a later Board meeting when Director of Research and Evaluation Dwayne Schmitz will present the statistics on this topic.

What are other things the district is doing to close the achievement gap?

- Schools are working on hiring teachers and staff who are invested in teaching in a collaborative team environment.
- Dashboard, along with other data, is helping the district track growth between grade levels, student achievement and connectivity.
- The district is asking questions at each school to make sure there are effective teams in place so that teachers are not working in isolation.
- The district is trying something new. Instead of using funds to pull a teacher out of the classroom for training, that money is going into adding extra support in the classroom.

There was discussion about how student progress is tracked from the earliest levels of elementary through high school and the differences between tracking growth and achievement.

Assistant Superintendent Haber noted that soon, connectedness survey results will be pulled into dashboard to give a full picture of a student.

If there were more resources that could go to “Growth for All Learners,” how would it be used? More resources would help to speed up this process - more time with the consultant, more time with teachers.

## **7.0 AGENDA PLANNING**

The Board discussed how the last two meetings have been shorter than usual. Should there have been more in the agenda? Some of it is just timing of the year (when discussions, approvals, etc. need to happen). In the future, we can look at planning ahead and discussing other items this time of year. A suggested topic – connections in the community. The Board would be interested in hearing an update on this topic.

## **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Board meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education