



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

August 8, 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 school name slips for members to randomly select their 2017-18 school year Board visits.

The November 28 meeting is traditionally when the Board invites newly elected officials to the meeting. It was suggested that the Board cancel the dinner session for that evening and instead, have a reception from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for any outgoing Board member(s). New school Board members will be sworn in from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Board will invite the region's newly elected officials to the official 7:00 p.m. Board meeting.

Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb addressed Colorado statute as it pertains to the charter school application process.

There was discussion about the current charter school application.

- What needs to be specified in the charter's resolution.
- An explanation of the Board's acceptance/rejection process.
- An explanation of the appeals process.
- Discussion about the application review and negotiation processes.
- The Board must accept the application before beginning the contract negotiation process.
- Assistant Superintendent Lambert reviewed Compass school's application timeline (August 15th deadline) and the Board's role in each step of the process.
- There will be opportunities for the Board to ask the charter application questions and hear all sides of the charter school approval debate.
- Historical Review - how the Board approached and discussed charter school applications in the past.

There were questions from the Board about the district's school lunch administrative policies.

- The State requires that the district contact households that have more than \$5 left in a family lunch account (and all students in that family have left the district). Families can donate any funds that are left in their account, transfer them to another student, or get a refund of the amount.
- What do we feed students who have insufficient amounts in their accounts? Students receive the exact same meal as paid (sufficient funds) students.
- There were unpaid accounts at the end of last school year. They were written off. The Board questioned if people are taking advantage of this process.

Director Petterson and President Kipp volunteered to review the Board of Education section of the new website for edits/changes.

The Board discussed how to approve monitoring reports in the future. Going forward, these will require an official Board vote.

2.0 AGENDA PLANNING

The Board will vote during tonight's regular business meeting to add this topic to the meeting's agenda as item 9.2.

3.0 SCHOOL VISIT ASSIGNMENTS

Each Board member (randomly) selected seven to eight schools to visit for the 2017-18 school year.

4.0 STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP TOPICS

The Board will vote during tonight's regular business meeting to add this topic to the meeting's agenda as item 9.2.

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 6:37 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 Petterson moved to add item 9.2 to the agenda so that the Board can continue their dinner session discussion.

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 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smyser presented some of the things the district worked on over the summer.

The Superintendent continues to meet with the county, city and the School Board to discuss shared interests (transportation, mental health, etc.).

The Superintendent met with the new editor of the Coloradoan.

Representatives from several big companies in the region met with the Superintendent to discuss how they can support the school district and new opportunities for students.

Within the Cabinet, time was spent working on strategic planning efforts. Superintendent Smyser thanked Otterbox for their support in helping to facilitate these discussions.

The Superintendent worked on coordinating efforts and creating clear plans with PSD Foundation and Front Range Community College.

CASE (Colorado Association of School Executives) had its annual conference. Administrators from PSD gave presentations at the conference. PSD had a large and positive presence at the conference.

The district is busy preparing for the new school year. The Superintendent expressed thanks to several organizations for school supply drives and encouraged families in need to check out the PSD website about receiving free school supplies.

Construction in schools is ongoing. School registrations are in full swing.

Superintendent Smyser noted the district's new online fee payment system and the new all-day Head Start preschool program.

4.2 Board Reports

On Saturday, August 19 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. there is a Board community engagement session at Old Town library in the community room. The community is invited to come and talk to the school Board during this time. These sessions are held throughout the school year, typically on the third Saturday of each month.

In September, the Board will give a more thorough Board report on summer activities.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

DJ Anderson: PSD parent and volunteer. Presented information on Colorado Education Network (CEN). Asked the Board to vote on a resolution in support of CEN and become members to help spread the word on the importance of education throughout the state. Additionally, there is an opportunity this fall for PSD parents and students to share their stories of success. He will be reaching out to the PSD community to find these stories.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes from June 13, 2017, June 15, 2017 (Special Meeting), and June 29, 2017 (Special Meeting)**
- 6.3 Intergovernmental Agreement for 2017 Coordinated Election**
- 6.4 Zoology Instructional Materials Adoption for High Schools**
- 6.5 Contract for Purchase of Water Rights from the Ruff Family Partnership, LLLP**

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

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.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 Long Range Planning Update

Superintendent Smyser gave a brief update on the long-range plan.

The ongoing litigation associated with the 2016 mill and bond continues to impact construction timelines. The case will be heard by a Colorado appellate court. A timeline has not (yet) been set. Construction is likely to be delayed by another year (total delay at this point is two years later than initial construction goals). Should the litigation be resolved within the next month or so, we may be able to stay on a one year time delay. This is an unlikely scenario.

The district is working with attorneys on the disposition of the Ballot Issue C3 funds collected in 2017 if PSD is not able to issue bonds this year.

Wellington Middle School has added another modular to the outside of the building. There are now more students taking classes outside of the school in modulators than students that are taking classes inside the building.

The district will continue to watch growth in the district and work on finances to ensure needed modulators are in place.

The district is close to selecting an architectural firm to work with on building the new school.

The district will carefully watch the October count numbers. A third-party firm will work with the district to help project five-year-out numbers.

In the meantime, the district has not stalled on planning, but continues to work on school innovation, designing instructional programming, etc. During a December Board meeting the Superintendent hopes to address where things are heading with new instructional programming.

The Superintendent noted when the Board can expect further updates on district enrollment, demographic studies and secondary schools' curriculum design.

The Board had questions.

If the high school in Wellington will not be ready for two more years, how do we accommodate growth in the meantime? There is room for one more modular at Wellington high school. The site is prepped for it. How about locker space? It is not sufficient. At this point, each locker serves three students.

Wellington High School is in the worst position space-wise and then it's Eyestone Elementary. There are currently five tracks of first graders and that number is expected to grow. The gyms and bathrooms are also being squeezed for space.

There was discussion on the current legal situation (regarding delayed construction).

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.2, Treatment of Staff

There was discussion about separation interviews (exiting staff). Executive Director Vicki Thompson noted that the district sends out a survey to staff who leave the district. Sometimes it's salary, it's too expensive to live here, workload is too much, challenge of the position, retirement, etc. There is not one specific thing, but the survey information is helpful.

Director Donovan moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy EL 2.2 in her internal monitoring report dated August 8, 2017 and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the internal monitoring report.

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

8.2 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.5, Emergency Superintendent and Executive Succession

Director Gutowsky moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy EL 2.5 in her internal monitoring report dated August 8, 2017 and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the internal monitoring report.

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.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Legislative Discussion

The Board may consider changes to its proposed legislative agenda.

Board members are encouraged to continue talking to legislators about education funding.

9.2 Dinner Session Agenda Topics Continuation

The Board continued discussions from the dinner session.

Community Schools Discussion: In the near future, Superintendent Smyser will present an introduction to the Board on this discussion.

Wellington Water: Right now, there are some issues with the water in Wellington (its look and smell). The water is safe; it is an aesthetic issue. If the district has the same water source at the new middle/high school, will the district need to filter for reduction in hardness? Executive Director Pete Hall noted that he met with Wellington officials today. They are very aware of the issues with the water and are working on it, both to control the current situation as well as future issues. The district should not have to change anything at the school.

Teacher/Administration Training: How does the district ensure that something tangible happens with the money spent on staff training? The Superintendent noted that the nature of professional development is that the district can't force people to stay after training. There is room to grow in this area in terms of tracking dollars to positive change in schools. The district encourages and supports staff who come back from training and want to implement new methods.

Student Advisory Groups: Are there specific topics that the Board would like feedback on? Please come back with ideas. Assistant Superintendent Nielsen reviewed what the student group (at Rocky Mountain High School) looks like this year.

Superintendent Smyser gave a quick update on the Principal Advisory Group progress. The Principal Advisory Group started meeting in June. They have set agenda topics, will meet again soon to work through more topics. Assistant Superintendent Nielsen noted that it is already proving to be a positive and impactful group.

There is an informal Board lunch this Thursday.

10.0 AGENDA PLANNING

Future agenda items discussed:

- PSD partnerships in the community
- What input the Board would like from students?
- Consider request to support Colorado Education Resolution

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education