



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
September 12, 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 began their discussion on the charter application (see item 3.0 Charter Application Update).

2.0 AGENDA PLANNING

This item was not discussed during the dinner meeting.

3.0 CHARTER APPLICATION UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert reviewed the following items with the Board:

- The district received amended materials for the charter.
- The district will have (and has had) individual meetings with subject area experts.
- The district has been in regular communication with Jan Harrison (re: questions, processes and timelines).
- Tomorrow, team members will meet to answer questions from the district's subject area experts.
- Please gather questions and on September 24, 2017, the district will address all questions (and some will be answered in advance).
- Reviewed the district's and Board's timelines and procedures for the charter application.

4.0 LATE START SECONDARY

A subcommittee of President Kipp and Director Petterson gathered information on this topic prior to the meeting.

Tonight's discussion is to determine if this topic should be addressed at a future Board meeting. No decisions can or will be made tonight on this subject.

The subcommittee handed out a list of pros and cons of moving secondary schools' start times.

The Board discussed the following:

- Benefits of the idea
- Concerns
- Districts in the state who have moved back their secondary start times
- Could the Board hear one or two proposals from the Superintendent on how to achieve a later start time?
- What was Cherry Creek school district's process? Could the Board get that research?
- Slow, reflective, community conversation driven process, consider everything
- All Board members are interested in pursuing this topic to its fullest extent.

PSD's transportation department noted that a route simulation process is available. The district can try different scenarios (rerouting the current routes). The district would need to set up the program. It is an involved process and will take some time.

Potential scenarios for transportation changes:

- Elementary and secondary schools flip their start times.
- The district runs separate buses (purchase a new fleet) for secondary schools (expensive option, finding additional drivers also difficult).
- Adjust current bell times (current system is highly efficient; any changes will add cost)
- Increase taxes to fund additional transportation options for students.

The district's athletic department noted some considerations:

- Rental opportunities for the community would be impacted by a later school dismissal.
- Sports teams would have to practice later in the evening.
- The district would miss income from other entities who rent from them in the evening.
- Coaches/band directors/club leaders, etc. may move practices or meetings to the mornings; negating the later start time for many students.
- Coaches and athletes get out early for games and meets already; a later start time would further impact classroom learning time.

There was discussion about the new schools (to-be-built) and how they will change pick up times and transportation routes. Does it become easier in that scenario (with new schools)?

Whose decision is this to make? Is it the Board's or the Superintendent's decision? The Superintendent will, in the very least, give a professional recommendation on this topic. If additional funds are needed, then it becomes taxpayers' decision.

It was noted that the district and Superintendent have other priorities as well (what takes priority - the long-range plan, changing start times, etc.?).

The Superintendent and the Board will work on a timeline during agenda setting to get the topic into a Board meeting for official consideration. The earliest the district can try the transportation simulation routes is November or December. Developing the different scenarios will take a lot of time, but they are needed to have the conversation.

The dinner session ended at 6:15 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 6:30 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 made a motion that the Board move Agenda Planning to item 7.0 and Action Items becomes 8.0; all item numbers after that adjust accordingly.

Vice President Trask and 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.

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

4.1 Supply Our Students Partners

The Supply Our Students Program is a collaboration with local organizations to provide new school supplies to children in need. Each year during the month of August, approximately 7,000 backpacks, or their equivalent in supplies, are distributed at no cost to PSD families.

Supply Our Students Partners: Colorado State University (School is Cool), OtterCares Foundation, Intel, Volunteers of America, Realities for Children and Front Range Village.

On behalf of the Board and PSD, Vice President Trask presented a certificate of recognition to each of the organizations in attendance at the meeting.

4.2 CABE Educational Leader of the Year

Mr. Daniel Gallegos (PSD Language, Culture and Equity Department) has been selected as 2017 Educational Leader of the Year by the Colorado Association of Bilingual Educators.

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

4.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smyser presented information on the following:

- Sent a personal welcome video to staff and students on the first day of school
- Traditional Red-Carpet event for new employees
- New classified employees' orientation
- Cabinet work on several district projects
- Meeting with CSU School of Education (School is Cool)
- Meeting with Blue Ocean/Otterbox, looking at partnerships with them
- Bohemian Foundation (re: Salt Lake City program) work is ongoing as they look at ways the community can rally around PSD students
- Principals' meetings
- Outreach with PRSEA
- Superintendent gave a welcome back address to the District Advisory Board
- Meetings with Board members
- City/county/PSD liaison meetings
- Impact teams coaching session

The Superintendent visited several schools on the first day of school and several others throughout the last few weeks. Superintendent Smyser shared a PSD video, "Beginning of School."

Other things happening in the district:

- PSD released a new Sustainability Management Plan

- Preliminary School and District Performance Frameworks data released
- Out of state college fair
- Standardized test results released
- Eco Week happened at CSU Mountain Campus, Estes Park YMCA and Camp Timberline

Executive Director Danielle Clark noted that the new data and sustainability plan can be found on the PSD website under the “News” and “Sustainability” links.

4.4 Board Report

The Board has been busy since the last report in June. Director Petterson reported on some of the activities they have been involved in over this summer and into this school year.

In the district:

- Visited several schools on first day of school
- Participated in District Accountability Committee, Audit Committee and District Advisory Board
- Held an end of year Board retreat
- Held special (school) year-end Board meeting

Board development over the summer:

- Participated in informal Board lunches
- Attended AVID seminar
- Attended Early Brain Development Seminar
- Attended CASB regional meeting

In the community:

- Met with a variety of constituents
- Meeting of legislative subcommittee
- Held August community engagement meeting
- Delivered backpacks for CSU’s School is Cool project
- Started McBack pack participation
- Attended Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, Community Equity Forum, CDE Forum on Teacher Shortages, Colorado Education Network Training and the Larimer County Rodeo Queen Luncheon

There is a community engagement session on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at Council Tree Library from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

President Kipp noted that Vice President Trask has received the CASB McGuffey Award. This award “honors unique Board members who bring committed and passionate service to their Board work.” President Kipp read the Board’s nomination and presented Vice President Trask

with the certificate. The Board and PSD wish him well in the future. Vice President Trask thanked the Board for the nomination.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Joe Gawronski: Poudre School District and Board, please consider working with the people who are trying to start Compass charter school to implement their practices and ideas into an existing school. There are schools in the district that are already doing a lot of what is being asked for in the charter. Gave examples of innovation in the district (Polaris Expeditionary Learning School); hopes district and Compass people can find out what is working within the walls of current buildings and build on it, instead of starting a similar (new) school.

John Runge: There is a need for two varsity hockey teams in Poudre School district. Last year was the first year of hockey at Fort Collins High School. The one, current varsity hockey team has players on it from as far away as St. Vrain (Longmont) School District. Due to state statute, we were able to reserve some spots for PSD students. Please consider adding an additional PSD team. The deadline to submit for another hockey team is February 2018.

Dr. Bill Moorcroft: Sleep specialist, registered as a psychotherapist in Colorado, author of four books and multiple studies, has been studying sleep since 1971 and now helps people with insomnia. Addressed the issue of later secondary school start times. Secondary schools should start later for the benefit of students. Pleased to see that the district will address this topic. Is in support of the district's consideration to change the start time. Invited the Board and district to contact him if he can be of more assistance.

DJ Anderson: Representative on PSD's District Accountability Board. Reported that several people who went through the PSD Insights program have noted that it was a very valuable and informational tool for them. Please continue putting time, cost and energy into this valuable program. Seeing parents engaged, and with that insight, is great for PSD and all students.

Kristy Beachy-Quick: Thanked the Board and district for engaging in, and starting a conversation about moving secondary school start times. Please keep the silent majority in mind when you are weighing this decision. The current early start times negatively affect teaching every student every day. Please consider the student voice in this process; ask for their feedback. Read comments from students on this topic. There are parent ambassadors in the district who formed a Start School Later group and could be a valuable tool (resources, education on this topic) for the district.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2017 and August 22, 2017

6.3 Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation Grant

6.4 Acknowledgement of Receipt of Compass Community Collaborative School Charter Application

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

Directors Donovan and 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.

7.0 AGENDA PLANNING

A majority of the Board is interested in discussing later secondary school start times as an official topic at a future Board meeting. Feel free to email info@psdschools.org or BOE@psdschools.org if you have questions or comments on this topic. There will be more discussion on this in the future.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Colorado Education Network Resolution

DJ Anderson (PSD District Advisory Board member) addressed questions from the Board.

Are all districts joining this group? Hopefully. CASB has been a part of Colorado Education Network (CEN). We hope to reach out through them. Right now, no school Board has joined the network but Poudre Education Association (PEA) has, as well as Denver City Council, several school districts and many organizations. I (DJ Anderson) plan to ask PSD. The idea is to have the whole community behind this initiative.

Is it bipartisan? Yes, it is bipartisan. There may be differences of opinions on how exactly to fund the schools, but everyone seems to agree that funding public education needs some fixing.

Is it going to be productive? We are framing messages about funding education to better educate the public, making sure the value put on public education matches the funding received and ensures improvements in the system.

What is the role of school districts in education funding? We do not want to be left out of conversations about transportation, hospitals, etc. There are going to be a lot of areas asking for funding, education must have a place at that table so that it has a voice in the discussion.

It is free for any organization or individual to join this network? Yes, join by texting CEN 94502.

Director Donovan read the Colorado Education Network Resolution.

Director Donovan moved to adopt and approve the Colorado Education Network Resolution.

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.

8.2 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.7, Compensation and Benefits

There was discussion on the district's compensation and benefits report.

Superintendent Smyser and Executive Director Vicki Thompson clarified information in the policy review. PSD included the entire group of listed districts in the comparison study. The charts show both groups.

Executive Director Vicki Thompson noted that the district is starting a group that will look in-depth at the district's salary structures and (potentially) make new recommendations. Superintendent Smyser noted that every job is also looked at every three years.

Director Donovan moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy EL 2.7 in her internal monitoring report dated September 12, 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.

8.3 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.9, Dealings with Citizens of PSD

Director Donovan moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy EL 2.9 in her internal monitoring report dated September

12, 2017 and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the internal monitoring report.

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.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Revisions to Governance Process Policy 3.3, Agenda Planning

There were no questions or comments on this item.

The Board agrees that it can be on the next meeting's consent agenda.

9.2 Legislative Discussion

President Kipp noted upcoming Board legislative work (i.e. finalizing the Board's legislative agenda, meeting with legislators, inviting local elected officials to the November Board meeting).

There was a discussion about how to educate and engage parents, legislators, and the community in conversations about the state of education funding in Colorado.

The November 18 community engagement session will be moved to November 11. The Board invites the public to attend this session. The topic will be education finance.

Executive Director Vicki Thompson noted that her department is following state-level potential licensure changes.

Director Petterson will track the Colorado Department of Education's agenda items and report back to the Board on those topics.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 Timnath Intergovernmental Agreements

Director Reed moved that the Board go into executive session in the Superintendent's office/conference room to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations concerning intergovernmental agreements with the Town of Timnath, to develop strategy for those negotiations and to instruct the negotiators, all as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb, Executive Directors Hall and Montoya, Planning Manager Willits, Planner on Special Assignment Holder and Assistant Board Secretary Davis.

Directors Petterson and Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The Executive Session began at 8:17 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 9:17 p.m.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education