



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
February 13, 2018

DINNER SESSION – 5:30 PM

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

ABSENT: Assistant Superintendents Jinger Haberer and Scott Nielsen

The dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

Due to time constraints, the Medicaid discussion may be an Action Item at the February 27, 2018 meeting.

More information will be included in the next Superintendent's update regarding the email related to Spanish.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Kipp moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) & (e) to confer with the District's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on issues concerning the Board's contracts with its charter schools; and to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations concerning charter school contracts, to develop strategy for those negotiations and to instruct the negotiators. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb, Assistant Superintendent Lambert, Executive Directors Montoya and Hall, Board Secretary Oppenheimer and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

Voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motions passed 7-0

Executive session started at 5:34 p.m.

Executive session ended at 6:27 p.m.

2.0 DISTRICT INFORMATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS

There was no discussion on this item.

3.0 AGENDA PLANNING

There was no discussion on this item.

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports discussed.

The dinner session ended at 6:27 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

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

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the regular business meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Febvre 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

Superintendent Smyser asked PSD Communications Executive Director Danielle Clark to introduce the honorees.

4.1 Outstanding Community Partner: Center for Family Outreach

Executive Director Clark introduced Laurie Klith, Director of the Center for Family Outreach. Ms. Klith thanked the Board for their continued support. Over the last 18 years the Center for Family Outreach has served over 25,000 youth and families. 19,500 of the students they work with are PSD students and the Center helps keep them out of the legal system with an 84% success rate.

Director Kipp addressed the honorees on behalf of the Board of Education. Director Kipp sits on the Board for the Center for Family Outreach. The district appreciates their partnership and all they do for students.

4.2 National School Counselor of the Year Finalist

Executive Director Clark introduced Poudre High School Principal Kathy Mackay, who spoke about Poudre High School counselor Cassie Poncelow's accomplishments and contributions to PSD students. Ms. Poncelow was one of six finalists for National Counselor of the Year. Students were in attendance and spoke to Ms. Poncelow's positive influence on them and how she helped them in school. Counselor Poncelow expressed gratitude for the support at Poudre High School and in Poudre School District and is appreciative of the opportunity and honor.

Director Reed congratulated Ms. Poncelow on behalf of the Board of Education.

4.3 National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certification

Executive Director Clark introduced Assistant Superintendent Jinger Haberer, who spoke about the accomplishments of the three Poudre School district teachers receiving the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certifications. The following teachers were recognized:

- Elissa Pitts, Poudre High School math teacher
- Kristine Bibbey, Poudre High School math teacher
- Marcia Lewis, Poudre High School math teacher

Marcia Lewis thanked Poudre High School administration for their support and thanked the Board for the recognition.

Director Draper congratulated the teachers on behalf of the Board of Education.

4.4 Superintendents Report

Superintendent Smyser presented her monthly report.

Some of the work and events Superintendent Smyser was busy with included:

- Attended the state board hearing
- Announced central office restructure plan
- Participated in employee negotiations
- Attended principal level meetings
- Attended CASE meeting
- Held a Profession of Teaching meeting

Working with cabinet members on:

- Graduation rates
- Central office restructuring

The Superintendent visited several schools in the district in the last few weeks.

Other things happening in the district included:

- Positive Coaching Workshop offered to middle school parents
- Student-Athlete Leadership Summit
- Great Kindness Challenge at many elementary schools
- National school counseling week
- PSD district spelling bee
- End of 3rd quarter

The Superintendent reported a large need for bus drivers in the school district and encouraged anyone interested to apply.

4.5 Board Reports

Director Petterson outlined board member activities.

In the district:

- Visited several schools in the district
- Riffenburgh IB reauthorization process
- District Accountability Committee
- District Advisory Board
- Audit Committee Meeting
- PSD Foundation Board Meeting
- Employee Negotiations
- State Board of Education appeal on CCCS charter

Board Development:

- Informal Board lunch
- New community outreach opportunity
- Scheduled superintendent evaluation meeting
- Innovation center visits to other Colorado school districts
- Conference in Washington, D.C. meeting with US Senators and Representatives on federal education issues (Advocacy Institute of National Association of School Boards)
- Active Board subcommittees
 - Superintendent evaluation instrument
 - Outreach
 - Legislative (now meeting weekly)

In the Community:

- Individual meeting with constituents
- PFLAG meeting
- Imagine Zero Suicide Prevention LGBTQIA+ workgroup meeting
- One Colorado
- Larimer County Child Health Plan Plus
- City Plan + FoCo Creates kickoff
- McBackpack
- Workforce Development Center board meeting
- Kickoff meeting for Initiative 93 to improve school funding
- State swimming and diving competition
- Malachi Winter Guard Invitational competition
- Opening day of legislature
- Senate and House Education Committees
- Joint budget committee
- Lobbying on HB 18-1014 and testifying before House Education Committee in support
- Legislators' town halls
- Commissioner Lew Gaiter's forum with Wellington resident
- CASB Board activities (orientation, retreat, etc.)
- CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee

The next community engagement session will be Monday, February 19, 2018 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Wellington Grill.

The appeal by Mr. Sutherland has been in the Colorado Court of Appeals for six months. The court recently rendered an opinion in favor of Poudre School District. Further information will be shared as the situation develops.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Tom Griggs spoke about the Coloradoans for Public Education Policy. He has been both a volunteer and a teacher in Northern Colorado. He encouraged the Board to visit the website for more information on the organization. He expressed appreciation for PSD's efforts on behalf of the schools.

DJ Anderson stated he was very moved by the students who spoke on behalf of Counselor Cassie Poncelow. Mr. Anderson discussed the Great Schools Thriving Communities ballot initiative. He encouraged people to get involved for more funding for schools, and extended appreciation for what the Board is doing for children.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2018, January 16, 2018 (Special Meeting), and January 23, 2018

6.3 Assistant Secretary Appointment Resolution

- 6.4 Program Changes Requiring Termination of Classified Job Positions**
- 6.5 District-Wide and School-Based Student Fees and Other Select Charges**
- 6.6 Colorado Department of Education Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant**
- 6.7 Compass Community Collaborative School Charter School Contract**

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

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Resolution in Support of Career and Technical Education Month

Vice President Gutowsky read the resolution in support of Career and Technical Education Month.

Director Donovan seconded support of the resolution.

Career and Technology Education (CTE) Coordinator Kathy Hanson spoke about the CTE program and expressed gratitude for the support from the community, and spoke about the opportunities CTE provides for PSD students. Ms. Hanson introduced Woodward Operations Supervisor Keith Korasick, who spoke to the value of the partnership between industry and education. Ahmed Esmat, Former CTE student and Poudre High School 2017 Graduate, spoke in support of the CTE program in PSD.

Also in attendance were:

- Scott Keever – Woodward Operations Supervisor
- Kelly Roberto – Woodward HR Consultant
- Josh Weissman – PSD CTE Teacher of the Year, 2016-17

President Febvre congratulated the PSD CTE program on behalf of the Board.

7.2 Compass Community Collaborative School Lease and Facility Documents

Director Petterson read the resolution, included at the end of the minutes as Attachment A.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

There was no Board discussion on this item.

Voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

The board recessed at 7:33 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Enrollment Projections Update

Superintendent Smyser shared that enrollment drives budget planning and the fiscal safety of the district along with long range planning, informs the district about the community's behavior and preferences, policies and political concerns. In past years the district has strengthened choice policies, especially with out-of-district students. Projections are not a science and it is difficult to predict what people will do related to choice. The data is important and PSD spends much time on it.

PSD Planning Manager Brenden Willits and Data Analysts Anne Harding and Betsy Westbury presented enrollment projection data to the Board.

Contributing factors for projections include:

- Birth counts/birth rates
- Building permits
- Population estimates

The overall trend for charter school enrollment has been increasing over the past several years. The number of students in PSD choosing to choice-out of the district has increased from 717 to 1,396 students.

Trends are difficult to predict. Building permits help predict trends. There is now a plateau of steady permits. Five-year population estimates are projected at 9.7% for Larimer county but 6.5% for school-aged children. This would be an increase of 3,600 students by year 2022.

Predictions show 27,857 students by 2022-2023 school year, a 3.7% increase from this year's October count which indicates growth. A 243-student increase is predicted next school year. Birth trends will be monitored over the next few years.

Board discussion included:

- Full and half day kindergarten students do not affect enrollment numbers. Full time is counted the same as a half day. This would still have an impact on classroom sizes and tuition considerations.
- Potential funding for full time might encourage students to attend since they would not have to pay for part of the day.
- Projections for K-12 is the primary focus. Inclusion of pre-k is difficult to predict.
- The birth rate is dropping but the population is increasing. Families are moving into the district. Kindergarten enrollment continues to increase and is predicted to increase next year.
- In a sine wave phenomenon, population increase generally comes in waves stemming from war-time era. There are still remnants from the population booms of the past. Migration also impacts population and creates a secondary sine wave. Boom and bust creates another sine wave. The difference between peaks and troughs can be a couple hundred students. Currently late elementary and early middle are highest in population; early elementary and high school are lowest. It is believed that this will start picking back up. However, millennials are having fewer children and waiting later in life to have children which makes it harder to predict.
- These are strong projections and growth beyond the report is not expected to change radically. It is realistic to be conservative and predict one to two years out. Regionally PSD is strong. The interest rate indicates the housing industry will stay the same. DOLA and PSD forecast an increase of 1-2% yearly growth.
- A future discussion will occur based on this information. The long-range planning group will bring an update back to the Board soon. This needs to include data and values.
- Based on the information included in the choice-in and choice-out diagram, a big contributing factor in choice-out is the increase in charter school enrollment.
- The attraction to charter schools and Colorado early colleges can be attributed to the quick program creation and flexibility. The expansion of their physical building allowed an increase in students. There can also be a flock mentality when someone moves to bring others with them as a group. It is a challenge to take those groups at PSD schools because high schools are full and cannot absorb large numbers of new students. Alternative options become attractive for parents who cannot move within their own district high schools because of capacity.

Director Kipp thanked the consultants for presenting this information to the Board.

8.2 Policy Reviews: Board-Superintendent Relationship Policies

Director Petterson recommended a review of the Board-Superintendent Relationship policies take place at an upcoming retreat.

8.3 Legislative Discussion

Director Kipp spoke to the Board of Education legislative committee that meets every week to keep up with the fast-moving landscape of developing bills. Initiative 93 and House Bill 18-1232, a petition that would provide more funding for education and reconfigure how funds would be distributed to districts, was addressed. Director Kipp is a proponent of the Initiative and Bill and invited people to research the website and advocate for this.

Director Kipp made a motion that the Board support Initiative 93 and House Bill 18-1232.

Board discussion included:

The Board would like more time to become educated on the topic before voting. It will be placed on the agenda for the February 20 retreat.

Director Kipp withdrew the motion.

9.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

9.1 Superintendent Evaluation

Director Draper moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss personnel matters related to the Superintendent's performance appraisal, goals, annual evaluation and possible contract revisions. Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb, Superintendent Sandra Smyser, Board Secretary Oppenheimer and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

The executive session began at 8:35 p.m.

The executive session ended at 10:17 p.m.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education