



Poudre School District Board of Education

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

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Special Business Meeting - Retreat
February 20, 2018

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING – 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Directors Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Cathy Kipp, Rob Petterson and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Tom Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Director of Communications Danielle Clark

LATE: Vice President Susan Gutowsky arrived at 4:08 p.m.
Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya arrived at 4:12 p.m.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

Director Donovan requested the Board separate Action Item 2.1 Initiative 93 and HB-1232 on the agenda into two different actions items. The Board agreed. HB18-1232 was addressed first.

2.1 HB18-1232

The HB18-1232 bill would provide funding for schools. Decisions on spending would be made at the local level rather than statewide. Funding includes free all-day kindergarten, mental health support, reduction of class sizes, recruit and retain great teachers and increased support for pre-K. The bill would also eliminate the negative factor for each school district.

171 out of 178 Superintendents in Colorado support the bill. Superintendent Smyser is aligned with that support.

Director Kipp moved the Board support HB18-1232.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Gutowsky

Motion passed 6-0

2.2 Initiative 93

Initiative 93 would provide funding for HB18-1232.

Director Kipp moved the Board support Initiative 93.

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

Director Donovan requested the Board make an addition to the Action Items for a statement of support on HB18-1014. The Board agreed.

2.3 Statement of Support for HB18-1014

HB-1014 would eliminate the Social Studies bill which states schools only need to teach Social Studies every three years.

Director Kipp will compose and send a letter of support for HB18-1014 to the House Education Committee.

Director Donovan moved to approve sending a statement of support for HB18-1014.

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

President Febvre requested Action Item 2.3 Medicaid on the agenda be moved to a Work Topic item as a discussion topic. The Board agreed.

3.0 WORK TOPICS

3.1 Medicaid

Superintendent Smyser presented her summary of Medicaid. Due to the uncertainty of the federal landscape Dr. Smyser suggested PSD wait to participate. Application paperwork is ready to send should the Board choose to proceed.

Board discussion included:

- School districts that implemented Medicaid are providing services and receiving reimbursement. Of the 10 largest school districts PSD is the only one not participating.

- Districts currently enrolled stand to lose investment, personnel and infrastructure if Medicaid fails.
- Reimbursement levels off after three years.
- Concern regarding the federal landscape and long-term viability is valid.
- Mental health funding is important and could be addressed now as an ongoing expense.

The Board trusts the perspective of Superintendent Smyser and will support her decision.

3.2 School Start Times Discussion

President Febvre asked for an expression of values from the Board to help guide staff who will be doing the work related to the exploration of school start times.

Board discussion included:

- Concern was expressed that the survey was finalized without Board review.
- Executive Director Clark stated the survey was designed by levels with an extensive introduction from the Superintendent. The survey is not scenario based or concrete and is intentionally abstract since it is the first foray into this topic. Eight different surveys are set to go out.
- Assistant Superintendent Nielsen confirmed the initial survey is designed to see trends and learn how willing different groups are to move forward and make change. Scenarios are not appropriate in the initial survey.
- Wording can be added to the email introduction of the survey. The Board represents the community and wants to make sure the survey is right.
- The Board agreed to adhere to the current survey timeline.

The Board recessed at 5:31 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 5:45 p.m.

3.3 Board Budget Priorities

Executive Director of Finance Montoya introduced PSD District Priorities, PSD Budget Projections (+4 years) and the Revised Mill Levy.

The following items were identified as Board priorities:

- Mental health from ongoing resources
- Board reserve from 1% to 2% to meet future district needs
- CTE person with one-time money for finite amount of time
- Security upgrades
- Modulars

- Site based one-time money for improvements
- Equity and achievement gaps
- COLA

Board discussion included:

- Social and emotional wellbeing, equity and achievement gaps, additional considerations, long range planning, reserve levels, maintain competitive salaries and benefits.
- Due to carryover, non-compensation budgets within PSD had not been touched for some time. Sweeping those budgets created a lack of flexibility moving forward.
- Mr. Montoya updated the Board about the employee negotiations meeting. Full information and transparency were provided, leaving a strong foundational understanding of where PSD stands.
- It is recommended \$10.1 million from the 2016 mill levy override and the negative factor buy down be treated as one-time spending next year.
- PERA costs are increasing. The district contribution will increase first followed by employee contribution. \$2.6 million will be going into PERA cost instead of salary increases.
- Superintendent Smyser stated she convened a strategic operations group with all PSD high school principals and several local business people. The group suggested PSD build a career technology center as opposed to carving out space at each site. All students in the district could access one pathway.

3.4 Board Norming

President Febvre spoke about the importance of establishing Board norms.

Board discussion included:

- Meeting efficiency needs to be addressed. Improvements must be made to keep the Board Secretary more informed.
- The legislative subcommittee confirmed a need to meet weekly to stay on top of legislation and will change the start time from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to accommodate schedules.
- Guidelines for communication were established including improved transparency, hard questions to encourage out-of-the-box thinking, presentation of all sides to an issue, and honoring frank discussion with respect.
- Superintendent Smyser will look into ways to address follow-up on questions asked during Board meetings and will communicate results in a Friday update.

3.5 Other Board Business

Superintendent Smyser stated she received many emails after the Florida shooting. The national conversation is coming from students; they are pushing through barriers and moving fast. Poudre High School scheduled a walk out Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

Board discussion included:

- PSD crisis team, security and mental health staff met to formulate next steps. May be some financial requirements and may need to change some best practices.
- Keep community informed and ensure information is accurate and complete.
- Law enforcement will be invited to speak at the next Board meeting on February 27, 2018.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education