



## 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  
February 27, 2018

#### **DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM**

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre and 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 Nielsen; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, Dustin Reintsma, and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

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

#### **1.0 DISTRICT INFORMATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Board discussion included:

- A large crowd may be in attendance tonight due to public security concerns stemming from the Florida school shooting.
- The Board will hold public conversation surrounding PSD security at future meetings.
- Executive Director Clark stated preliminary numbers indicated 2,000 students were checked out of school for the march. Most signs held by students supported gun control. A peaceful counter protest coincided.

#### **2.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Director Petterson 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 process of securing District construction contracts. Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Superintendent Smyser, Executive Director of Human Resources Thompson and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Director Gutowsky 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 5:42 p.m.

The executive session ended at 6:22 p.m.

### **3.0 AGENDA PLANNING**

There was no discussion on this item.

### **4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There was no discussion on this item.

The dinner session ended at 6:25 p.m.

## **BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM**

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre and 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 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 Febvre called the regular business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

President Febvre applauded students for taking part in democracy with an unwavering respect for the process.

### **2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no recommended changes to the agenda.

### **3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Andrew Bandi thanked PSD for allowing student voices to be heard through the march. School safety is the end goal; gun control is not the only issue. Additional funding is needed for SROs, behavioral specialists, mental health and teachers.

Allie Holton thanked PSD for acknowledgement of the march. The protest was not just about gun control but also mental health. Student inclusion in future conversations surrounding school safety was requested.

Brooke Giffin thanked PSD for support of the march and stated she does not know the exact solution for making schools safer, but acknowledged she is scared and not focused in school due to safety concerns. She invited the Board to keep meeting with students to address concerns and steps taken.

Brandi Barela thanked the district for guiding students and believes PSD is leading the way on bridging the gap between administration and students. Lockdown drills within specific student groups remains a fear.

Dallas Horta stated PSD needs to make a shift to keep schools safe and bulletproof; parents and community are happy to pay for this. Possible steps suggested include metal detectors, an elevated position for police or retired military by the door, one entry and one exit with a one-direction turnstile and buzzers on doors to know which door is open.

Mike Pruznick asked if parents could legally excuse students for the walkout and believes the Board message to the community regarding PSD security procedures was insufficient. Requests for transparency regarding student identified threats as well as tools to keep shooters out of schools.

Eliana Pritchett thanked everyone willing to listen to student opinion and spoke of becoming afraid to attend school in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Drills are performed to handle typical situations but in light of the recent tragedy, confusion exists regarding fire alarms.

Harris Elias stated safety concerns have been made worse by lack of information from schools and requested access to information on threat assessments balancing a right to privacy with the community need for information.

President Febvre introduced Sergeant Laura Lunsford, supervisor of the School Resource Officer program with the Fort Collins Police Services, who spoke to the role of SROs in schools. Information included:

- PSD has 11 full-time officers covering 37 schools
- Additional Deputies cover 10 more schools
- Primary role of SRO is safety
- Other roles include but are not limited to:
  - Internet safety training
  - drug and alcohol awareness
  - develop relationships with students
  - wrap-around services for students with community
  - law education
  - sporting event security
  - PSD personnel training on run, hide, fight
  - camera utilization within schools
  - floor plan study of schools
- SRO training consists of:
  - annual active shooter training
  - medical training

- Single Officer Tactics training
  - trend assessments
  - incorporation of lessons learned from other tragedies
- SWAT members teach nationally and internationally

Sergeant Lunsford asked for community support to keep everyone safe on campuses, stating if you see something say something. Parents can have ongoing conversations with students. Recognition was given to the SROs in attendance, with acknowledgment to those unable to attend due to training or working sporting events at schools.

Director Draper thanked PSD administration, SROs, parents and speakers for the work done to ensure student safety as well as sharing fears and offering solutions. The Board will continue to address security through multi-faceted solutions.

President Febvre stated security conversations will take place at future meetings.

#### **4.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 4.1 Personnel Action**
- 4.2 Audit Committee Ongoing Member Recommendation**
- 4.3 CDE Expelled and At-Risk Student Services (EARSS) Grant**
- 4.4 Addendum to Second Revised Superintendent Contract**
- 4.5 Colorado Department of Education Colorado's Computer Science Education Grants for Teachers Program**
- 4.6 Memorandum of Understanding for FRCC Secondary Programs**

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

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 Board recessed at 7:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:17 p.m.

#### **5.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS**

##### **5.1 Technology Refresh Status Update – Digital Age Learning**

Director of Professional Development Kate Canine provided an update on technology refresh status. Robert Beauchamp, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment;

Crystal Boyd, Technical Services Director for Information Technology; Dustin Reintsma, Executive Director of Information Technology also spoke in support of this item.

Currently 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup> grade and teacher devices need to be refreshed. A finite amount of funds combined with increasing needs and enrollment. PSD will coordinate learning requirements with lower price points.

A Request for Information (RFI) was utilized to gather information and research units. Three different manufacturers provided six different devices to levels for hands-on testing. Feedback indicated 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades preferred an 11-inch unit with a touch screen and a folding back. 9<sup>th</sup> grade will maintain the standard 13-inch units with a touch screen. PSD is delaying teacher refresh for another year due to a need for more information and feedback. Teacher input is critical.

Committee recommendations of vendors and pricing will be available in March. Requests for Purchase (RFP) will be brought to the Board in April for approval.

Technology supports learning. PSD must develop flexible processes to analyze needs and options. A PSD steering committee will utilize a decision flowchart to complete analysis and address information from stakeholders. Director Canine will bring information to the cabinet with implementation, communication and training plans to facilitate decision.

Learning expectations should be the first piece in deploying infrastructure, followed by budget and timeline.

Board discussion included:

- Direction and vision toward purchases was requested so bids can be put into context. Vision would inform the Board purchase and cabinet decisions.
- Preparing students to be 21<sup>st</sup> century learners is the goal.
- Current building infrastructure can handle the technology.
- PSD experienced an increase in technology expertise with staff in the last few years.
- Equity with technology between schools is critical. Authentic experiences in areas of interest or passion will engage students in learning through the technology.

## **5.2 Internal Monitoring Report: DE 1.0**

Director of Research and Evaluation Dr. Dwayne Schmitz presented the District Ends internal monitoring report. Assistant Superintendents Jinger Haberer, Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen also spoke in support of this item.

PSD is a high achievement district. Post-secondary outcomes and Post-Secondary Workforce Readiness (PWR) experience rates while in high school are high.

Opportunities for improvement are:

- Gaps in outcomes for some student subgroups
- Connections data patterns align with persistent achievement gaps
- Declining graduation rates

Association between students with low tests scores and levels of self-reported connections is evident in this report.

Report Updates and features include:

- Hyperlinks for clicking back and forth on information
- Lead directly to data visualization tools
- New health and wellness measure and target
- Red sign posts that link targets with action steps in PSD Unified Improvement Plan

The Monitoring Report helps PSD learn from past school year targets and look forward. Purposeful division of graphics for each school aide in individual improvement plans.

English Language Arts indicated above average achievement. 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA dipped but remains above average in achievement. Dr. Schmitz is not concerned.

Math results indicated high achievement and growth for all grade levels and are above the state average.

Targets were met in Science and Social studies. PSD shows a long history of doing well.

PSD Subgroup Achievement information indicated Elementary, Middle and High School exceed the state average in Science, Math and English Language Arts for all students. Elementary IEP students were either at state average or slightly below or slightly above. Middle School IEP students were above the state average. High School IEP students were at or above the state average.

CDE official numbers indicated PSD dropped below the state average for graduation rates. PSD post-secondary students were not included in graduation numbers. Inclusion would raise the graduation rate to 81.7%, three points higher than the state number.

Increased mobility coincided with decreased graduation rates. Connections and levels of support improved scores. The data indicated increased connections between staff and students can continue to improve success.

Board discussion included:

- Dr. Schmitz was commended for the outstanding report and transparency of information. Data indicates PSD is doing well and above state average. Continuous improvement through identifying interests is pivotal, and declining interests is concerning.
- Elementary schools formed building blocks for career paths and worked on building adult connections to bring out student passions and interest. Identifying the interest must be followed by career exploration and awareness. Technology is a great way for students to explore interests.
- Academics and connections can succeed in unison. The data supports a reliable association between the two.
- Mobility was explained as any student who comes into or leaves school at an abnormal transition time. Mobility differs from absent.
- Concern was expressed regarding the IEP outcome gap compared to the rest of the state. The state has 13 different category designations for special needs. PSD has more rigorous requirements for identification, and autism program numbers are above state average due a reputable program.
- Concern about the drop in the PSD graduation rate starting in 2012 was expressed, and trying to reconcile a district with high achievement and a falling graduation rate is difficult. PSD is one of the top districts in the state with ASCENT students. When ASCENT rates become part of the 4-year graduation rate data for the state numbers should align. Graduation consists of pulling together credits which differs from measuring achievement. Other districts are more flexible defining credits. Changing how students achieve credits will align PSD with other districts.
- PSD should broaden the definition of successfully completing high school to include areas of flexibility. Two areas of concern are attendance and connections, and those are two areas we can do something about immediately.

Dr. Schmitz distributed documents to the Board containing changes to specific data, and requested the Board approve the monitoring report as presented but allow for these revisions prior to distribution.

Director Kipp made a motion to approve the monitoring report as revised.

Director Draper 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 Board recessed at 10:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:08 p.m.

### **5.3 Mental Health and Social/Emotional Update**

Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement Jinger Haberer and Director of Research and Evaluation Dr. Dwayne Schmitz presented the Mental Health and Social Emotional Update. Sarah Belleau, Director of Integrated Services; Darcie Votipka, Director of Student Services; Kate Canine, Director of Professional Development; Melanie Voegeli-Morris, Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator; Aaron Vogt, Integrated Services Coordinator; Patti Young, PSD Counselor Coordinator; Theresa Fightmaster, Lead Counselor for Secondary Schools; Barb Long, Behavioral Specialist and Brittany Hutson, Lead Psychologist also spoke in support of this item.

PSD uses the Five SEL Standards (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making) for social and emotional learning. SEL is a coordinated effort of strategies knitted together to create a safety net of support for students; starts in the classroom and branches out to community and families.

Support comes in various forms:

- PSD personnel received mental health training in the areas of QPR Suicide Prevention and Trauma Informed Instruction. Additional staff trainings are scheduled this spring.
- Personnel created an on-line Behavior Tool Kit to be accessed by educators daily. Provides information on behavior basics such as interventions, data collection, collaboration, Functional Behavior Assessments and offers other resources. The website is now available to staff.
- Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) focuses on providing wrap-around service utilizing clinical treatment services, natural supports and community support for children in or at risk of out-of-home placement due to variables of poverty, domestic violence and trauma. FAPT currently has 40 open cases in Fort Collins.

The social and emotional wellbeing survey was imbedded in the connections survey and was built with the Five CASEL Standards in mind. PSD can utilize data to see differences from school to school, commonality, and measure social/emotional learning. This information puts PSD ahead of most school districts in the country.

Board discussion included:

- FAPT is a multiagency collaboration through the department of human services. Any agency can refer a student but PSD is the primary referral source. Funding from House Bill 1451 provides financial assistance.

- Additional mental health staffing was recognized as an area of concern. Mental health referrals are up with 54 open cases in PSD. National recommendations state one psychologist per 500 students; PSD staffs one psychologist per 1100 students. Counselors are also well beneath the recommended ratio.
- Discipline issues are on the rise in kindergarten and Headstart. Counselors are doing more behavioral intervention which leaves less time for prevention.
- PSD provides wrap-around services for behavior issues to the best ability. The budget is finite and increased support would require funds.
- Family support is critical and many parents need resources. Support for the parent is support for the child. Stigma still exists around mental health.

#### **5.4 Legislative Discussion**

Director Kipp discussed current legislation and the impact to education.

The following bills are supported:

- HB18-1014
- HB18-1052
- HB18-1070
- HB18-1088
- HB18-1095
- HB18-1209
- HB18-1232
- Initiative 93
- SB18-12

The following bills are opposed:

- HB18-1221
- HB18-1222
- SB18-11
- SB18-61
- SB18-83
- SB18-175

The following bills will be monitored:

- HB18-1002
- HB18-1019

The Board approves the positions on these bills.

#### **6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education