



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

April 10, 2018

DINNER SESSION – 5:00 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Susan Gutowsky; Directors 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

LATE: Director Donovan arrived at 5:10 PM

The dinner session began at 5:01 p.m.

1.0 SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION INSTRUMENT REVISIONS

Changes to the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument were considered.

Discussion included:

- Many good things are included in the current instrument.
- Information from the DE1.0 monitoring report is required to fully evaluate the Superintendent. Report release occurs after the January evaluation.
- Revision to instrument language reflecting inclusion of DE1.0 information after the January evaluation will be composed by Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb for Board approval at the April 24, 2018 meeting.
- Superintendent Smyser requested Standard 2, Strand 1, Appendix A be left unchanged as student instruction is one of her core functions. The Board agreed with the request.

2.0 AGENDA PLANNING

Discussion included:

- Community conversation surrounding school safety is necessary. Public opportunity to talk to the Board may be beneficial.
- Multiple scenarios were presented. Work sessions and community engagement are possibilities. Meeting could take place before end of 2017-18 school year.
- Director Donovan requested Consent Agenda item 6.10 be removed and added to Action Items to discuss equity surrounding fees.

3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Donovan moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) to confer with the District's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on public employment and contracting issues. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb, Assistant Superintendents Lambert, Nielsen & Haberer, Executive Directors Thompson & Montoya, 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 5:47 p.m.

The executive session ended at 6:17 p.m.

Agenda Planning discussion continued:

- Teacher walk-in scheduled for April 16 in support of education funding across the nation.
- Potential opportunity for PSD to host a CASB regional meeting. More information to follow.

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Susan Gutowsky; Directors 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

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Donovan arrived at 6:36 p.m.

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

Director Petterson moved to add the Extension of Payment In Lieu of Land Dedication Agreement to Action Items.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Donovan

Motion passed 6-0

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

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

4.1 Outstanding Community Partner: Colorado State University

PSD Community Partnership Coordinator Beth Higgins spoke to the recent signing of a mutual statement of support between CSU President Dr. Frank and PSD Superintendent Dr. Smyser. Multiple partnerships exist between the two organizations. Those in attendance for CSU included:

- Brian Jones, Little Shop of Physics
- Kathy Phifer, School Is Cool Backpack Program
- Jeff McCubbin, College of Health and Human Services
- Saloma Cardona and Connie Jaime-Lujan, 1st generation students
- Patrick Krza, Athletics
- Stacy Grant, Director of RAM Traps

Director Donovan welcomed those in attendance, expressed appreciation for collaboration and thanked CSU on behalf of the Board of Education.

4.2 Colorado State Chess Association 2018 K-8 State Champions

Ridgeview Classical School Chess Team are the Colorado State Chess Association Scholastic State Champions. Principal Derek Anderson introduced former Coach Mark Luce and current Coach Gunnar Anderson. Mr. Luce thanked the Board for the recognition and stated Ridgeview has consistently maintained excellence in chess tournaments since 2010.

Chess team members in attendance were:

- Alexander Marsh
- Jack Nauman
- Aiden Sirotkine
- Damian Yanez
- Daniel Yanez

Director Reed congratulated Coach Gunner and the Ridgeview Classical School Chess Team on behalf of the Board of Education.

4.3 Superintendent Report

Superintendent Smyser presented her monthly report.

PSD continues work on community safety and areas for improvement through monitoring safety procedures and relying on resources from Ft. Collins Police Department, Larimer County Sheriff's Office and Poudre Fire Authority to guide us.

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

- Attended Regional safety forum with local law enforcement agencies and area school districts
 - Met with student coordinators of school walkouts
 - Met with curriculum design team
 - Conducted elementary Principal finalist interviews
 - Conducted PSD Foundation Executive Director finalist interviews
 - Participated in employee negotiations
 - Partnership celebration with CSU
 - Spoke with purchasing and warehouse staff about district business
 - Attended Principal Levels meeting
 - Quarterly check-in meeting with Cheryl Zimlich of the Bohemian Foundation
 - City/County/PSD Liaison meeting
 - Met with members of the Manhattan, Kansas school district, Manhattan city leaders, KSU and Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
 - Attended PSD Foundation annual community breakfast

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

Other things happening in the district included:

- Career exploration at Futures Night
- District and State Assessments
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- National Volunteer Week April 15-21

Dr. Smyser stated PSD still in need of PSD bus drivers.

4.4 Board Reports

Director Petterson outlined Board member activities over the past 2 months.

In the district:

- Visited several schools in the district
- Dunn Elementary IB review
- Head State Review for Early Childhood Grant Program
- District Accountability Committee
- District Advisory Board
- Audit Committee
- Early Childhood Policy Council
- PSD Foundation Meeting and Breakfast
- PSD Foundation and HS Principals' Strategy Meeting
- Employee negotiations
- Family/Consumer Science Advisory Council
- Excellence in Education dinner (FCHS Feeder)
- Blevins MS "Ban the R Word" event
- Respite Celebration Lunch at Lopez
- Read Across America Day at Laurel
- PHS Spectrum Club
- Mental Health Matters at PHS
- RMHS Summit group
- PHS theater
- Rice Science Night
- Global Village Immigrant Exhibit
- Civil War Re-enactments
- SuperArt show

Board Development:

- Informal Board lunch
- Board Retreat
- Community Outreach
- National School Board Association Conference
- CASB Winter Legislative Conference
- Active Board Subcommittees
 - Superintendent evaluation instrument
 - Outreach
 - Legislative

In the Community:

- Student Organized School Safety March and Rally
- March for our Lives Rally
- Individual meetings with constituents
- PSD/City/County Discussions
- Early Childhood Council of Larimer County

- McBackpack
- Boys & Girls Club Breakfast
- PSD/CSU Partnership Celebration
- Center for Family Outreach Open House
- Empty Bowls
- Museo de Las Tres Colonias Board
- Larimer County Workforce Development Board
- Senate and House Education committees
- Joint Budget committee
- Lobbying and testifying on several bills and increased education funding
- CASB day at the Capitol
- Legislators' Town Halls
- CASB Board activities (convention focus group, BoD meetings)
- CDE focus group of CASB Board members
- CADB Legislative Resolutions committee
- Colorado School Finance Project Advisory Committee

Next Community Engagement Session scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2018 from 5:30-6:30 at Island Grill in Ft. Collins.

Director Gutowsky attended Rocky Mountain High School Westerner Civil War Reenactment which teaches 21st century skills in 19th century style and praised Kurt Knierim for the event.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Tom List, President of PEA requested Board and community members show support of public education by wearing red every Tuesday until legislation passes. Colorado educators are frustrated with the state of education and stand with educators in other states striking for higher pay. PEA is working closely with administration regarding planned days of action.

Erica Daniell, parent of two elementary students currently attending CLP is a member of "No Laporte Gravel" advocating against gravel mining in Laporte. Concern was expressed regarding the health effects to children due to particulates, emissions and increased traffic on Overland Trail with an estimated 300 trucks per day on a road where many students board busses and cross the street.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Non-renewal of Employment Contract**
- 6.3 Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2018**
- 6.4 Centennial High School 2018-2019 Application/Renewal for Alternative Education Campus Designation**
- 6.5 Poudre Community Academy 2018-2019 Application /Renewal for Alternative Education Campus Designation**
- 6.6 Colorado Department of Education Colorado Student Wellness Grant Program**

- 6.7 MSCS Charter School Renewal Contract**
- 6.8 Modular Purchase**
- 6.9 Participation in Xcel Community Solar Garden**
- 6.10 District-Wide and School-Based Student Fees and Other Select Charges**

Director Donovan requested Consent Agenda item 6.10 be moved to Action Items.

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

Director Donovan 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 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL2.0, General Executive Limitation Policy

Director Gutowsky moved the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL 2.0 in her Internal Monitoring Report dated January 9, 2018, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

- Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb noted the dates on the previous motion should be amended from January 9, 2018 to April 10, 2018.

Director Draper moved to amend the date on the previous motion from January 9, 2018 to April 10, 2018.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Lack of documentation exists to fully inform the Board that staff receive training. Processes are in place for staff training and communication of those processes will be improved.

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

7.2 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL2.6, Asset Protection

Director Draper moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL 2.6 in her Internal Monitoring Report dated April 10, 2018, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Gutowsky 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

7.3 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL2.8, Communication and Support to the Board

Director Gutowsky moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL 2.8 in her Internal Monitoring Report dated April 10, 2018, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Communication between the Superintendent and the Board needs improvement.

Voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: Directors Donovan and Reed

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 5-2

7.4 Extension for Payment In Lieu Of Land Dedication Agreement

PSD is currently negotiating an extension of a prior agreement to December 31, 2018.

Director Donovan moved that the document titled ADDENDUM BETWEEN CITY OF FORT COLLINS AND POUUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR EXTENSION OF TERM, Section 9 is hereby amended by adding the following sentence: Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term of this Agreement shall be extended through December 31, 2018.

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

7.5 District-Wide and School-Based Student Fees and Other Select Charges

Board discussion included:

- PSD is still gathering information.
- Consideration of equity is important.

Director Donovan moved to adopt the recommended actions.

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

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 School Start Times

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen presented information regarding the school start times survey.

- PSD exploring possibility of changing school start times for the 2019-2020 school year.
- American Medical Association (AMA) recommends high school start times of 8:30 or later. Current PSD start times are 7:25-8:15.
- Survey distributed to eight different constituent groups consisting of 58,406 people with 10,163 people responding (17.4%).

- Goal was to identify community values.
- 85% of all respondents said later start times are somewhat important/very important. Optimal start times were 8:00-8:30 with end times between 2:45 and 3:50.
- 49% of students report having after-school activities (46% athletics).
- 325 staff members who responded help with extracurricular activities (195 PSD athletics).
- 26% of high school students report being responsible for child care after school. 19% of elementary parents use childcare before school and 28% use childcare after school.
- 32% of elementary school parents prefer later start times, 85% of middle school parents prefer later start times and 87% of high school parents prefer later start times.
- Comment portion of survey was strong and indicated general support of changing start times across all levels of respondents.
- General themes included: students do better when they get more sleep, elementary students are awake earlier and could start school earlier, students will stay up later if they get out of school later.

Key findings included:

- End times are a concern for high school students. PSD may look for opportunities to increase flexibility within the day to minimize the end time difference due to a delayed start.
- Maintain time for homework completion and extracurricular activities and jobs.
- Potential impact to parents work schedules/family schedules are an important factor.
- Research-based data needs to be considered.
- Staggered bussing is an option.
- Many staff members have second jobs and meetings take place before and after school.

Applications are being accepted for a School Start Times Scenario Committee.

PSD will release another survey in August/September 2018.

Board discussion included:

- Goal of the initial survey was to acquire general information.
- Respondents should be given information surrounding flexibility as well as research data to ensure a fully informed response.
- School Start Times Committee will be a strong resource for PSD.
- Current dismissal times are approximately one hour earlier than proposed end times.
- PSD should consider child care options, family and District costs as well as impact to current employees.
- Other school districts in the State have adopted later start times including Cherry Creek. Thompson School District is implementing next year.
- Four comprehensive high schools within PSD are currently utilizing flexible schedules.
- Impact to athletics and sporting start times are an area of concern and PSD will attempt to mitigate negative effects.

The Board recessed at 8:32 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

8.2 State and District Budget Update

Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya presented the budget update.

Outstanding legislation continues to prevent finalization of the budget. Items of importance since the last Board meeting include:

- Inflation rate originally forecast to be 3%. Final inflation rate is 3.5%.
- Senate removed employer contributions from the PERA bill; anticipated the House will reinstate the 2% employer contribution.
- Salary adjustment recalculated with a significant cost to the district.
- Negative factor buydown was forecast to be 2.8 million dollars; now predicted to be 3.3 million dollars.
- COLA and other program needs will have 3.9 million dollars, an increase from last projections.
- Revenue to offset upcoming costs is speculation since much will change with final legislation.
- Budget priorities identified have not changed since last meeting presentation.

Board discussion included:

- Addition of three or four mental health employees listed under one-time expense column due to initial expenditure but will be ongoing positions and costs.
- Interest in hiring a School Planner.

8.3 Policy Review: Governance Process Policies

Board discussion included:

- Confusion expressed regarding policy 3.6, number 5 and the need to deal with one set of committee liaison documents.
- Policy 3.8, Board self-monitoring process does not happen. Changes to wording and policy should be discussed at retreat.

8.4 Legislative Discussion

Director Kipp spoke to legislation and developing bills, stating the legislative session is nearing the end and bills will be processed quickly prior to dismissal on May 9, 2018. Last minute advocacy is important. All bills must be processed by the end of the session, and legislators are way behind. PSD Board takes the following positions:

- SB18-225: support

- HB18-1232: no vote yet and teachers may take action
- Initiative 93: support

9.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

9.1 District Security and Details Regarding Security Arrangements

Director Gutowsky moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(d) to discuss matters concerning District security and details regarding security arrangements. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb; Assistant Superintendents Lambert, Nielsen & Haberer; Executive Directors Thompson, Montoya, Hall, Reintsma & Clark; 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 9:20 p.m.

The executive session ended at 10:12 p.m.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education