



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

April 24, 2018

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre and 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 6:16 p.m.

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

1.0 DISTRICT INFORMATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS

Discussion included:

- Superintendent Smyser will read a statement regarding teacher walk out on Friday.
- Board members will read a resolution in support of teachers.
- Most recent count indicates 1,100 out of 1,800 teachers plan to take Friday off.
- Teacher contracts end May 31; making any change to accommodate for the absence could extend or violate contracts. PSD must follow the leave policy in the employee agreement. Some staff are out of leave time which is unavoidable. Another staff email regarding time off, requirements and contract will go out this week. Teachers utilizing sick time must provide a doctor's note.
- Some Board members will attend the event in Denver on Friday.
- Student think-tanks are primarily at Rocky Mountain High School and Fort Collins High School. Need to decide if best option is a diverse group of students at separate high schools with one representative reporting to the Board, or one large think-tank including representatives from each high school. Varying school climates should be considered.
- One strong option for think-tanks is a high school principal advisory group managed on-site, informing the Board of outcomes.
- Board members will set up and manage a Board of Education Facebook page to increase communication with the community. No PSD staff will be involved.

2.0 AGENDA PLANNING

Discussion included:

- Request for future agenda items or retreat subjects was issued. Updates on Career Cruising from Naviance, discipline information and effective ways to address concerns from the community were presented.

3.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

The dinner session ended at 6:24 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 6:31 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Petterson moved to add an Agenda Item to address a resolution of the Board with respect to Friday's action.

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

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent Smyser read a statement regarding the planned teacher activity on April 27 in Denver which stated in part:

Message to community:

- Strongly supports the cause of funding for public education.
- Agree with what teachers are lobbying for.
- Action is a logical result of underfunding of public education year after year.
- Current funding is not enough.
- PSD consistently one of the lowest funded districts in the state.
- Grateful to local voters for funding PSD.

Message to teachers:

- Thankful for activation, passion and willingness to throw collective weight behind cause.
- Tone of community letter never intended to be hurtful.
- Thankful for dedication to children.
- Admire teachers and appreciate work every day.
- Must balance needs of staff, parents, children and follow structures in place.
- Advocacy on Friday is important.

Message to the Board:

- Thankful for advocacy of increased funding and fighting for public education.

3.1 Board Resolution

Director Gutowsky moved to adopt the Resolution Supporting Day of Action.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Additional advocacy options include contacting legislators through email, phone and tweet. Can also carry and sign petitions. Hold legislators accountable through voting in an election year.
- Several Board members will be in attendance in Denver on Friday.
- Important to keep the momentum going to get items on the ballot.

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

4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Todd Forkner, teacher at Fossil Ridge High School stated he intended to address Dr. Smyser regarding the uncomfortable tone of her email but her response tonight answered his questions. Mr. Forkner requested Dr. Smyser share her statement with the teacher community.

Beth Michieli-Grote, teacher at Bauder Elementary thanked the Board for their support of teachers through the years and the hard work surrounding funding. Colorado funding has diminished and it is a struggle to hire new teachers because the pay is so low.

Tom Noel, teacher at Harris Bilingual stated he was surprised to hear support from the Board and Administration regarding the Friday walk-out and appreciates it.

Maggie Haynes, PSD teacher cadet thanked the Board for the opportunity to learn what it is like to be a teacher and for supporting cadets.

Jeff Coleman, PSD parent stated the Board Resolution took care of what he was here to talk about. Thank you for your support of teachers.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.1 Personnel Action**
- 5.2 Non-Renewal of Employment Contracts**
- 5.3 Second Addendum to Second Revised Superintendent Contract**
- 5.4 Confirmation of Board of Education Committee Assignments**
- 5.5 2018-19 Technology Device Refresh Initiative**
- 5.6 Colorado Department of Education Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project Grant**
- 5.7 Architect Selection for New MS/HS at both the Prospect and Wellington Sites**
- 5.8 Colorado Department of Education Colorado Computer Science Education (CSed) Grants for Teachers Program Application**
- 5.9 Quarterly Financials 3/31/2018**
- 5.10 Traut Core Knowledge Elementary School Re-roof Capital Project**

Director Petterson requested Consent Agenda items 5.4 and 5.5 be moved to Action Items.

Director Donovan requested Consent Agenda item 5.7 be moved to Action Items.

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

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 2018-19 Technology Device Refresh Initiative

Board discussion included:

- Teacher, administrator and student expectations of technology use should to be clear.
- Formulation of a vision and mission statement surrounding technology requested for next Board meeting.
- Important to think beyond machines when considering technology; think in terms of student experience and thereby what machines are necessary to make that happen.
- Equity consideration is important.

Director Petterson moved to approve the proposed contract.

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

6.2 Confirmation of Board of Education Committee Assignments

Board discussion included:

- Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee does not evaluate the superintendent but rather evaluates and makes revisions to the instrument to perform the evaluation.
- Due to completion of work on the evaluation instrument, wording is no longer necessary.

Director Petterson moved to amend 'Superintendent Subcommittee' in Committee Assignments.

Director Donovan 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

Director Petterson moved to approve the revised BOE Committee Representation Revised December 2017 document subject to the amendment just passed.

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

6.3 Architect Selection for New MS/HS at both the Prospect and Wellington Site

Board discussion included:

- Contract will be executed but does not go into effect until bond money is issued
- PSD will not incur additional requirements to pay out-of-pocket if bond money is not issued

Director Donovan moved to approve the Architect Selection for the new middle school/high school at both the Prospect and Wellington sites.

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

7.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS

7.1 Community Engagement: School Safety

Superintendent Smyser provided an update of work on security which included:

- Safety and security of students is priority; continually evolves over time. PSD actively involved with experts at building level.
- Design of new buildings to include law enforcement input.
- Working to improve process for at-risk students.
- Safety and security focus areas include addition of campus monitors and defined spaces within secondary buildings.
- Exterior security and protocols to include door locks, door monitors, fencing, intercom/buzzer functionality, movement of students/staff/public through PSD facilities and sign-in policies.
- Interior security and protocols to include crisis communication through intercom systems/speakers, cellular improvement, radio, lockdown procedures, evacuation protocols, drill notifications to students/families and collaboration with local authorities.
- Training and drills will continue.
- Thankful for local law enforcement/SRO continued interest in collaboration and problem solving within PSD.

Board discussion included:

- Board will provide additional opportunities for community feedback.
- Increased mental health support is a critical part of student success.

7.2 Preliminary Budget FY2018-19

Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya presented information regarding the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2018-19. Current data includes assumptions due to continued legislation and will be revised as information becomes available. Final budget will be presented at the May 22, 2018 Board meeting and adopted in June.

Key Assumptions:

- 3.4% official inflation rate and 1.11% district funded pupil growth are the biggest pieces of the budget.
- Negative factor buydown may increase to \$150 million, or \$733.09 per pupil.

Anticipated costs:

- 1 million dollars for student-based budgets.
- 2.9 million dollars to support contracted charter school allocations.
- 1.5 million dollars to schools for teacher capacity (from JSSC restructure).
- 1.9 million dollars for a 10% increase in health and 7% increase in dental contributions.
- 1.3 million dollars for retirement differentials.
- 1.2 million dollars for operating, utilities and risk management budgets (insurance premiums, SROs, IS behavioral and line-of-site, 2 FTE for title funds, etc.).
- Preliminary budget includes steps, lanes, market adjustments.
- Not included: Cost of Living increase (COLA) and additional PERA costs.

Reserves:

- Steps taken to increase unassigned reserves to compliance with DBAA have been a success.
- Anticipate ending 2017-18 unassigned reserve balance of 8.3 million; 3.3% of expenditures.
- FY2017-18 reserves would have been 9.3 million excluding modular purchases.
- Reserves for modular used in FY2017-18 will be restored in FY2018-19.
- FY2018-19 preliminary budget estimates unassigned reserves at 10 million dollars.

Board discussion included:

- Consideration of additional mental health professionals.
- Request for restoration of Board reserves.
- Potential Innovation Center and school start-times may require one-time money.
- JSSC restructuring fund usage determined by Principals.
- 1% COLA equals 1.6 million dollars.
- PSD buying 4 modulares next year; \$150,000 each includes placement, utilities and other expenses.

The Board recessed at 8:18 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

7.3 Long Range Planning Update

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen and Executive Director of Operations Pete Hall presented the Long-Range Planning Update.

- Appreciation was expressed for community support passing bonds.
- Working on growth management, ongoing facilities improvement, planned new construction (2016 bond) and the Innovation Center.

- Growth management includes placement of modular classrooms in 2018-19 at Bethke Elementary, Eyestone Elementary, O’Dea Elementary and Wellington Middle School.
- Ongoing facilities improvements include approximately 500 million dollars in school-based requests and facility-based projects as well as 150 million dollars in other categories.
- Items are added, modified or completed on an ongoing basis.
- Approved 2016 bond includes an 1800 seat middle school/high school with an athletics complex at the Prospect site, a 1400 seat middle school/high school in the Wellington area, an elementary school on the east side of I-25, an addition to Zach elementary, transportation maintenance facility and 40 million dollars in ongoing facilities improvements at existing schools.
- Facilities scheduled to open in 2021 are the Zach elementary addition and the new southeast elementary school.
- New middle school/high school at Prospect scheduled to open in 2022.
- PSD exploring ideas for centralized CTE-oriented innovation center serving all PSD high school students.
- Next steps include ongoing monitoring of growth and implementation of interim measures to manage growth, ongoing monitoring and completion of facility improvements and continued work on new school design (physical space as well as curriculum).

Board discussion included:

- Wellington will soon have more students inside modulares than inside the school.
- PSD honors all requests but not enough funds to complete all requests.
- Conversation surrounding priorities and order of building have occurred.
- Buildings have not been designed.
- Several community businesses expressed interest in collaboration surrounding Innovation Center.

7.4 Legislative Discussion

Director Kipp discussed current legislation and the impact to education.

The Board holds the following positions:

- HB18-1379: support
- HB18-1412: oppose
- SB18-242: oppose
- SB18-264: oppose
- State BOE issue: new civics test, oppose

Board discussion included:

- PSD uses state-guided social studies curriculum that promotes deep knowledge of material; proposed civics curriculum supports memorizing data.
- 15 days left in legislative session and 402 bills still in discussion.

- Colorado only legislature in the country that cannot raise levy tax.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education