



# Poudre School District Board of Education

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

## Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Special Business Meeting

September 24, 2018

### **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING – 5:30 p.m.**

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 Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Director Dave Montoya; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

#### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Febvre called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **2.0 ACTIVITY**

Superintendent Smyser distributed excerpts from PSD school-board meeting minutes dating back to the 1930s and described minutes she saw at the Frisco, Colorado museum from 1902.

#### **3.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **3.1 Student Fees**

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen referenced the fee document Board members received prior to the meeting. Mr. Nielsen indicated that team members recommend school fees remain site-based.

Board discussion included:

- Schools may appreciate an earlier fee approval cycle so fees can be published prior to start of the school year. Fee transparency could help parents plan for expenses.
- Spending caps could limit creativity.
- Teachers cannot waive fees.
- There is a primary interest of equity in fees.
- Free and reduced lunch status provides information regarding school-based financial needs.
- Student participation in the Connections Survey can provide valuable information.
- Board approval of fee schedules prior to the start of the school year was requested by administration. Current practice of retroactive approval after fees are in place is not ideal.
- Demographics vary by school. Some fees are universal and other fees are site-based to respond to the need of the community. Principals are tasked with budgeting for individual school needs.
- Appreciation for staff taking a thorough account of the fee issue and ensuring equity throughout the system.

- Connections survey is one tool used to acquire data on equity. Questions may be added to gain student perspective on equity in specific content areas.
- Reimbursement of AP class fees could encourage participation.
- Colorado Statute allows PSD to charge 150% of student athletic fees for out-of-district athletes.
- Discussion surrounding philosophical values is the foundation for moving forward with practical application.
- Community members should know the Board and administration are exploring the concept of fee equity and attempting to consider all students.
- Administration requests direction and recommendations from the Board regarding fees.
- There was general approval for the current position on fees.

Board recessed at 7:14 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:21 p.m.

### **3.2 Executive Session: URA Board Update**

Director Reed moved the Board go into executive session to confer with the District's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on issues concerning the Fort Collins Urban Renewal Authority Plan for the area west of the Drake and College intersection, to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations concerning that Plan, to develop strategy for those negotiations and to instruct the negotiators, all as authorized under C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) & (e). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb, Executive Director 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

Executive session began at 7:24 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 8:28 p.m.

Board recessed at 8:29 p.m.

Board reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

### **3.3 Internal Monitoring Process Related to Board Policies**

- Current policy evaluations are effective.
- Board member engagement with community and staff may be added to BSR Item 4.4 as a fourth option for information procurement.
- Policies are read in advance of meetings.
- Discussion around possibility of bringing in outside consultation for policy review.

### **3.4 Board Self-monitoring**

- Charter school process was reviewed.
- Professional communication with charter applicants is important.
- Per Colorado Statute the charter school application timeline date “shall not be any earlier than August 1 and not later than October 1’. PSD encourages applicants to submit an early draft.
- Charter applicants have access to feedback and reports prior to the official Board meeting.
- PSD Board of Education is tasked with making decisions in the best interest of students and community. A charter application not deemed to be a viable choice for parents could be turned down.
- Directors Donovan and Petterson volunteered to sit on a charter sub-committee designed to invite charter members to meet and collaborate. Superintendent Smyser volunteered to sit on the sub-committee if necessary.
- Board members expressed interest in out-of-district school tours as well as reading educational books for group discussion.
- Director Donovan stated he may pull the legislative agenda at the next Board meeting to discuss transportation.

### **4.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education