



Poudre School District Board of Education

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

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Special Meeting
May 20, 2024

DINNER SESSION – 6:30 PM Johannsen Support Services Center Boardroom

PRESENT: President Kristen Draper; Vice President Jessica Zamora; Directors Jim Brokish, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, and Scott Schoenbauer; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Julie Chaplain, Traci Gile, and Insoon Olson; Chief Officers Jeff Connell, Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dwayne Schmitz, Erich WonSavage; and General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Draper called the special meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1 Addition of Action Item

Director Duffy moved that the Board add an agenda item, would be the new 3.2, to discuss general matters pertaining to scheduling, process status, and unresolved items from Tuesday, May 14th, Board of Directors meeting. The discussion will encompass but is not limited to the following:

1. Long-range Planning and Steering Committee deliverables and a policy outline for data retention.
2. Scheduled meetings and close-out procedures for that Long-range Planning Committee.
3. Board overview of what we have on the docket prior to July 1, 2024.

Director Havelda seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, Scott Schoenbauer, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

3.1 Board Consideration of Ending Current Long-Range Planning Process

Director Reed moved that the Board end the current process regarding long-range planning, which includes ending the Facilities Planning Steering Committee and its work, and any planned school closures or consolidations for the 2025-2026 school year.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to the Facilities Planning Steering Committee for the enormous amount of time spent working laboriously in support of the district and students.
- Committee members volunteered to better the PSD community; speaks to their integrity.
- Community has been in turmoil over consolidation/closure possibilities; healing needs to begin.
- Issues in district still must be addressed; cannot sustain the current path indefinitely.
- Pausing is necessary because the Board does not have a clear path forward.
- Hard decisions are the work of the board; school closures will be a last resort.
- Community should continue to be engaged in the process; challenges ahead will require working together.
- Citizens with expertise in varied areas will be utilized to assist with issues.
- Community support of a mill levy override will be critical.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, Scott Schoenbauer, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

3.2 Discussion of Unresolved Items from May 14, 2024, BOE meeting

Director Duffy moved that the Board take up agenda item 3.2 pertaining to long-range planning deliverables policy outline for data retention, scheduled meetings and close-out procedures for the Long-range Planning Committee, and a quick board revue of items that need to be resolved prior to July 1, 2024.

Director Schoenbauer seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Steps needed for steering committee close-out were discussed.

- Format of June 4 listening session may change.
- Question was raised about secure status of district data in relation to board member access.
- June 11, 2024, Board of Education meeting is still scheduled, but consolidation and closure announcement will not occur.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, Scott Schoenbauer, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

3.3. Board Consideration of Moving the Transitions Pathways/Programs to a New Location with the District

Director Reed moved that the Board direct District administration to determine the feasibility of moving the transitions pathways programs to a new location within the district beginning no later than the 2025-2026 school year and bring a proposal back to the Board in an upcoming Board meeting.

Vice President Zamora seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Transitions Pathways programs were listed and their current status described.
- Request was made for future presentation to include multiple options and include school leaders.
- Co-habitation/co-housing is being considered, not a blending of programs.
- Students deserve better facilities.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, Scott Schoenbauer, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

3.4 Board Consideration of Moving Poudre Community Academy (PCA) to a New Location within the District

Director Brokish moved that the Board direct District administration to determine the feasibility of moving Poudre Community Academy to a new location within the district beginning no later than the 2025-2026 school year and bring a proposal back to the Board in an upcoming Board meeting.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Request was made for discussions to include school leaders.
- Community members were invited to show support for everyone and refrain from hurtful language.
- Approximately 200 students attend PCA.
- Important to explore multiple options for all programs/schools.
- PCA houses fabulous teachers and students, but the building is not up to expectations.
- Clarity was requested about the timeline for presenting options.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, Scott Schoenbauer, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

4.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Board Discussion with Elected Officials

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to elected officials Andrew Boesenecker, Cathy Kipp, Jody Shaddock-McNally, John Kefalas, and Kristin Stephens for attending in support of the community and students.
- Affordable housing remains a challenge in northern Colorado; Fort Collins is short 100,000 housing units and young people are priced out of the community.
- Senior Homestead Exemption means individuals over the age of 65 in a home for over 10 years can deduct \$100,000 off property taxes.
- BS factor will be gone next year and a new finance formula for school funding implemented.
- Officials conveyed appreciation to the school board for taking time to meet with legislators for robust conversation and community.
- Elected officials expressed gratitude to staff and parents for advocating for your community with the best of intent; collaboration in the community is at an all-time high and is encouraging.
- Important to thank the steering committee for hard work completed and the Superintendent for beginning the healing process.
- County can serve a role as a convener and facilitate conversations to help the district.
- Social safety net support is the role of the County; lots of room for collaboration between social safety net and schools.

- Increased funding for rural schools is critical; legislation should be written and passed.
- Effective advocacy is important; be truthful, be gentle, and be fearless.
- 30,000 people commute to Fort Collins for work every day due to lack of affordable housing.
- Middle Income Housing Authority is looking for ways to build more middle-income housing so people can have families and live in the area.
- Childcare is a big piece of affordability.
- 93% of adults in Wellington commute out of town to work.
- Community members have been effective with advocacy; new journey begins to pass the ballot initiative.
- Need adequate funding for schools to thrive.
- Intersectionality between school district, county, and state are real and necessary to move forward successfully.
- Request was made for quarterly meetings with elected officials to continue engaging in informed decisions.
- Officials stated conversation and collaboration is valuable for all stakeholders.
- Special Education funding has been ramping up the last several years; state level commitment made to increase funding for integrated services students.
- PSD is a floor funded district and does not receive additional funding for rural schools or Special Education funding.
- Legislation needed to level the playing field with charter schools; should make rules the same for both.
- Community needs to stay active; all who emailed the board with requests are going to get emails back asking for help.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Secretary to the Board of Education