



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
August 27, 2024

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM Information Technology Center Training Room

PRESENT: President Kristen Draper; Vice President Jessica Zamora; Directors Jim Brokish, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, and Scott Schoenbauer; Superintendent Brian Kingsley

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:31 p.m.

1.0 Board Norming

- Facilitator Megara Kastner coordinated the board norming exercises.
- Board members participated in multiple discussions and defined group priorities for the next three months.

Dinner session ended at 6:24 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

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 Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, and Dwayne Schmitz; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Draper called the regular business meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Kingsley spoke about the first few weeks of school and introduced a video that included multiple schools and students, conveyed pride in students and staff for starting the school year with joy and optimism, spoke about his recent school visits, and expressed gratitude for community members who elevate their voice to move the district forward to a sustainable future.

4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Tory Pappas spoke in support of Beattie Elementary and provided multiple reasons.

Dani Lawrence expressed frustration with a lack of access to information on board meeting agendas and on the PSD website.

Sabrina Herrick shared her concern about Superintendent Kingsley's first day of school visits.

Amy Healy requested German and French teachers receive the bilingual stipend.

Aaron Green conveyed dissatisfaction with the SEAC committee.

5.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Board members shared information and stories from school visits the first week of school.
- Vice President Zamora provided an update on the first Student Advisory Committee meeting of the school year.
- Director Schoenbauer spoke about the first District Accountability Committee meeting.
- Appreciation was expressed to staff who organize and facilitate committees.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 School Based Fee Schedules

6.3 ESS Classified Substitute Staffing Solution Renewal

Director Brokish moved that the Board approve and adopt the recommended actions for the items on the Consent Agenda.

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

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 CASB Resolutions

Vice President Zamora moved that the Board approve the proposed Poudre School District Board of Education resolutions to be submitted to the Colorado Association of School Board for the upcoming legislative session, as presented.

Director Duffy seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- President Draper provided information about the New Teacher Mentoring Program and Rural School Funding.
- Preferable to fund rural schools within metro districts.
- Clarification was requested on rural funding in the School Finance Act modification.
- Consistent messaging from community and board to maintain rural schools in the district.

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

7.2 Ballot Issue for 2024 Coordinated Election

Director Havelda moved that the Board approve the resolution, as presented in the Board agenda packet, calling an election on November 5, 2024 authorizing a ballot issue for a debt free schools mill levy; setting the ballot title and content for the ballot issue; and providing other matters relating thereto.

Vice President Zamora seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Chief Financial Officer Dave Montoya explained school finance and mills, bonds, and traditional debt-free mill levies.
- Mechanisms created by the State have created inequities across school districts.
- Clarification was requested on definition of 'floor-funded stream.'
- Six voter-approved traditional mill ley overrides have occurred in Poudre School District since 1988.
- On-going maintenance in the district will be required indefinitely.
- Staff explained why PSD is supporting a debt-free mill rather than a bond.
- Poudre School District is a floor-funded district and the lowest funded district in the State.
- Funds from property tax increases go to the State and not to Poudre School District.
- Funding is required to cover decades of need and lack of repairs.
- PSD website contains detailed information on how funds will be utilized in the first five years.
- Cutting services to students is no longer sustainable.
- If funding does not come through the mill levy, potential consolidation and closure talks will be a necessary conversation.
- Community asked the Board to slow down and explore all options; mill levy is needed to buy us time to plan the future.
- Important to communicate often with the community to rebuild trust.
- Apologizing to community is important.

- District has produced incredible results with too little funding for years.
- Current bond cycles are reaching the end of the process.

Director Schoenbauer moved that the Board amend the resolution by striking the word “support” in the first bullet on page three, so that the first bullet reads “Attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers and staff by maintaining competitive salaries and providing necessary classroom materials.”

Vice President Zamora seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Suggestion was made to change wording in the resolution from ‘support staff’ to ‘staff.’
- All employees are currently under market pay regardless of position or title.
- 85% of Poudre School District budget goes toward staff.
- Staff funding will be included in expenditures from mill levy.

The voting on the amended language 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

The voting on the resolution as amended 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

7.3 Career Tech Center Contract with GH Phipps

Vice President Zamora moved that the board approve the CM/GC agreement with GH Phipps to begin pre-construction services.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Chief Officers Dwayne Schmitz and Dave Montoya provided an update on the Career Tech Center.
- Bohemian and Larimer County grant distribution was explained.
- Data indicates students who take four CTE courses have a 98% graduation rate.
- Gratitude expressed to many staff members for advocating for programs and partnering with community partners to ensure success.
- Internal and external bids were solicited.
- Estimated one-year timeline for completion.

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

8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Community Committees Overview

Assistant Superintendents Julie Chaplain, Traci Gile, and Insoon Olson presented the committee overview along with Chief Officers Dwayne Schmitz, Lauren Hooten, and Dave Montoya.

Board discussion included:

- Seven different committees were introduced and discussed.
- Potential changes to SEAC committee protocol and structure will be reviewed.
- Request was made for a permanent long-range planning committee.
- Lack of consistency in membership applications among committees was discussed.
- Helpful to provide a web page for each committee for public access.
- Important to balance the needs of the committee members with the needs of the districts.
- Comprehensive Planning Committee would be all encompassing.

9.0 ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Strategic Plan Update/Unified Improvement Plan

Director Havelda moved that the Board approve the Unified Improvement Plan as presented.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed for the hard work required to obtain significantly improved district results.
- UIP is centered on the needs of the students.
- Appreciation was conveyed to staff for taking ownership of areas in need of improvement.
- Bullying data supports the need for enforcement of cell phone policy.

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

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 Legal Advice

Director Havelda moved that the Board enter executive session to receive legal advice on specific legal questions relating to an investigation by the Office for Civil Rights regarding Liberty Common School as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b).

Individuals invited to join the Board in the executive session are Superintendent Brian Kingsley, Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten, and General Counsel Autumn Aspen.

Vice President Zamora seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

Executive Session began at 11:31 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 12:24 a.m. on August 28, 2024

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 a.m. on August 28, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Secretary to the Board of Education