



## 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  
October 11, 2016

#### **DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM**

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Nate Donovan, Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, Carolyn Reed, and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Jinger Haberer, Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, and Victoria Thompson; Interim Executive Director Dustin Reintsma, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

#### **1.0 District Issues / Board Member Updates**

Board members reviewed several items, including national anthem protests (if they were to occur, a policy discussion would be handled at a district level as opposed to at a school level).

They also looked at how the State Board of Education has rescinded the diet soda ban. District does have discretion on how to handle this issue at their level. It is not part of nutrition in the schools; they are in separate vending areas. Wellness is looking at this issue.

There was discussion about changing the school calendar based on certain events (e.g. a solar eclipse), excused/unexcused absences, whether there should be political figures making appearances at our schools and the decreasing amount of school choice in our district.

The dinner session ended at 5:50 p.m.

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING - (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM**

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Nate Donovan, Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, Carolyn Reed, and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Jinger Haberer, Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, and Victoria Thompson; Interim Executive Director Dustin Reintsma, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

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

President Kipp called the regular business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

## **2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Kipp led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

## **4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS**

Danielle Clark introduced the evening's recognitions.

### **4.1 2016 Mathematics Teaching Award**

Amanda Manley, teacher at Rocky Mountain High School has received the Colorado Council of Teachers (CCTM) 2016 Mathematics Teaching Award.

Director Petterson presented a certificate of recognition to Ms. Manley on behalf of the Board and PSD.

### **4.2 Fort Collins Rotary Clubs**

The three area Rotary Clubs (Breakfast Club, Downtown Club and Foothills Club) are much appreciated as they support PSD students and staff through several programs.

Vice President Trask presented a certificate of recognition to the clubs on behalf of the Board and PSD.

### **4.3 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Smyser talked about recent meetings she has had with cabinet members, other area Superintendents, school executives and state councils. She attended several meetings with cities, counties, advisory boards, foundations and school principals.

The Superintendent briefly touched on current happenings in the district including parent-teacher conferences, Eco Week and Adventure P.E.

### **4.4 Board Report**

Director Reed gave the Board Report (a review of what the Board is doing between meetings).

Recent events and activities by the Board include: school visits, webcasts, meetings with constituents, legislators and counties, Chamber of Commerce meetings and extensive work throughout the community on behalf of the bond and mill levy November ballot issue.

Information for the next community engagement session was discussed; dates and location details are published on the PSD website.

## **5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Mike Pruznick: Thanked the district for putting retreat and other subcommittee meeting information on the website. Thanked Superintendent Smyser and Vice President Trask for an honest conversation he heard at a recent meeting. He addressed the importance of being forthright and honest about topics rather than trying to sell or promote information. In the Board's request for proactive legislation, please consider assigned bonding capacity.

Averil Strand: Director of Larimer County Community Health Services and is on the Wellness Advisory Council. Director Strand asked PSD to look very seriously at the Colorado Department of Education Medicaid health services program; a program that has the potential to bring in revenue to support school health costs (mental health counseling, nurses, etc.). There is a council that helps districts efficiently run the program. Other large districts in the state participate and bring in approximately \$1 million to support their health services. Please look at this opportunity for PSD.

Eric Sutherland: Expressed disappointment in the district's priorities. Feels the school district charged more tax than it was allowed to; district should not make fraudulent promises to the community. One cannot guarantee a mill levy in terms of property assessment. He discussed his concerns about tax increment financing and over-taxation.

Director Petterson addressed Mr. Sutherland's comments. Director Petterson takes strong exception to what Mr. Sutherland has said and to the misrepresentations he wrote into the TABOR notice for the ballot. Mr. Sutherland believes tax laws around tax increment financing are unjust and should be changed. He has been unable to gain traction in the State House where such changes have to be made. Now, he is unjustly smearing the excellent fiscal reputation of the district and its personnel and falsely claiming that PSD is in violation of the law. Director Petterson noted that there is no district wrongdoing and Mr. Sutherland is only hurting students in his attempt to gain the attention of the State.

President Kipp then recognized PSD students in the audience.

## **6.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**6.1 Personnel Action**

**6.2 Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2016 and September 27, 2016**

**6.3 Restorative Practices Grant Application**

**6.4 Bullying Prevention and Education Grant**  
**6.5 Office of Head Start (OHS) Duration Amendment Request 33% - Required Reduction Approval from Board of Education**

Director Donovan made a motion to approve and adopt the recommended actions for the items on the consent agenda.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed 7-0.

**7.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**7.1 Municipality Partnership Update**

Executive Director of Operations Pete Hall and Planning Manager Brendan Willits spoke to the partnerships PSD has with many local municipalities, including the fire department, state patrol, etc. The organizations work together to support the school district.

These partnerships are crucial for many reasons (i.e. working together on school construction and maintenance, traffic management and road construction, natural resources, shared public spaces, trail system expansions, transportation systems and much more).

Meetings happen on a regular basis so that everyone is kept in the loop on current projects and events (for example new developments, annexations throughout the city, etc.).

**7.2 Language, Cultural & Equity Family Engagement Update**

Culture and Equity Director John McKay gave an update on how the department is engaging families from all walks of life in the district.

The department is responsive to specific needs in the community. It supports families through four major themes; developing programs and workshops in those areas (PSD School System Navigation, Cultural Assimilation, Post-Secondary Readiness and Special Circumstances).

Director McKay discussed several of their programs, partnering committees and reviewed events they have planned for the year.

Director McKay answered questions from the Board.

### **7.3 Mental Health and Social/Emotional Update**

Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement Jinger Haberer presented an update on mental health and social/emotional learning work happening in the district.

Haberer discussed how schools have different cultures and communities so the social/emotional learning program looks different at each school. However, the overall goal at each school is that students acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to succeed.

Assistant Superintendent Haberer introduced several people who work on this initiative. The Board had questions for the panel (e.g. the specifics of the programs, effective work in prevention, the teaching/learning framework, how teachers are being supported in this role, etc.).

### **7.4 DRAFT 2017-2018 School Year Calendar**

Co-chairs of the district's calendar committee Marc Ryby and Brett Larsen presented the draft calendar for Board consideration.

There was discussion about the complexities that are involved in putting together the calendar.

Future calendars are placed on the PSD website early so that the community has the opportunity to give feedback prior to adoption. Additionally, the Calendar Committee would like to change the calendar adoption timeline to October (from November).

They asked the Board to adopt and approve the proposed calendar at the next meeting.

The Board had questions for the committee members. The Board encouraged parents to get on the calendar committee and give their feedback.

## **8.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Resolution in Support of Classified School Employees Week**

Director Reed read the resolution from the PSD Board of Education in support of Classified School Employees Week October 17-21, 2016 and moved to approve and adopt the resolution.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Association of Classified Employees President Katy Montoya accepted the resolution and then showed a video highlighting the great work the district's classified employees do every day. She gave them recognition and kudos for doing their superhero work.

On behalf of all classified employees, thanked the Board for the resolution and their support.

## **8.2 CASB Resolutions**

Each school district in Colorado gets one delegate to send to the delegate assembly to vote on behalf of their school district. Vice President Trask is PSD's delegate at the assembly. President Kipp proposed to read through the resolutions and discuss and confirm the Board's vote for each item.

Director Donovan moved to adopt the decisions on the resolutions that were just discussed.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed 7-0.

## **9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **9.1 Legislative Discussion**

The main thing discussed during legislative subcommittee meetings was the CASB resolutions that passed in the above action item.

### **9.2 Revisions to Policy EL 2.6, Asset Protection**

Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb discussed House Bill 1013 which allows employees who hold district funds to be covered either by a bond or by insurance. A proposed revision brings the policy into line with what's provided by law and within the district's practices.

There was no discussion on the item. This policy revision will be on the October 25<sup>th</sup> consent agenda for Board approval.

## **10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Director Febvre moved that the Board go into Executive Session in the Superintendent's office conference room as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-4024 (f) to discuss personnel matters related to feedback on the Superintendent's job performance. Individuals invited to join the Board in Executive Session are Superintendent Sandra Smyser, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb, and Assistant Board Secretary Kyla Davis.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed 7-0.

## **10.1 Superintendent Performance Written Feedback**

The Board was in Executive Session.

## **11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Board meeting ended at 11:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education