



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
November 22, 2016

DINNER SESSION - 5:15 PM

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Nate Donovan, Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, and Rob Petterson; 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 ARRIVAL: Carolyn Reed

1.0 District Issues / Board Member Updates

President Kipp called the dinner meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Vice President Trask made a motion that the Board go into executive session to receive information regarding a teacher resignation and separation agreement, as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb; Assistant Superintendent Nielsen; Executive Director Thompson; and Assistant Board Secretary 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.

ABSENT: None.

Motion passed: 7-0.

Executive session began at 5:16 p.m.

Executive session ended at 5:29 p.m.

The regular dinner session meeting resumed at 5:29 p.m.

A December 15th lunch is on the Board's schedule. Tessa has set up the meeting at the Partnership Center.

Equity training for Board and Cabinet members is on Monday November, 28th.

Director Petterson reminded all Board members to complete the Alsbury survey that was sent out in preparation for the retreat.

The subcommittee for community outreach has been meeting and is working on reaching out to, and engaging, several new organizations (i.e. homebuilders associations, restaurant workers' union, skilled trade organizations, etc.). There was discussion about how to connect the needs of these groups with graduating seniors.

Board members attended the Health District meeting. It was observed that several community organizations are invited to these meetings; this is something the Board should consider doing (inviting outside groups into Board meetings for discussion).

The Board asked Superintendent Smyser for a grant application copy for their review. The Superintendent will get it to the Board.

President Kipp asked Board members if they received information about CASB conference breakout sessions. Everyone confirmed receiving the information.

The dinner session ended at 5:39 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION - (BOARDROOM) – 6:00 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

ABSENT: None.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Kipp called the work session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Director Reed shared a statement regarding the recent school bus incident in Tennessee. On behalf of the Board and PSD, we send our condolences to everyone affected by the tragedy.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Kipp moved to change the agenda due to legislative guests attending the night's meeting. Work session topics become items 5.0; the action item is now 6.0.

Vice President Trask seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion passed: 7-0.

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Mike Pruznick: Congratulated the district on passage of the bond and mill levy (tentative). Thanked the district and Board for some clarifications. Noted that the community will need to come together behind the bond and mill levy and urged bridging differences with charter schools. Asked the Board to discuss with elected officials any alternative education funding options.

Donna Boudreau: A speech language pathologist in the district with a different perspective on pursuing Medicaid funding for our schools. She is concerned about the paperwork requirements. When special education teachers have a lot of paperwork, it takes away from the job they were hired to do. Excessive paperwork in a special education teacher's daily routine makes it more difficult to recruit and retain quality teachers. She asked the Board to please consider these issues.

David Holloway: Freedom must be fought for and as a community, we must continue to raise the level of appreciation for our veterans. Please incorporate more recognition for veterans into the curriculum and observe Veterans Day on PSD calendars. Fossil Ridge High School did not celebrate Veterans Day. He offered to coordinate some kind of event at the school but never heard back from the Principal. He made a formal request to the Board and district to include veterans in the PSD culture.

Kaycee Headrick: Works for the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Collins; thanked the district for their support. Recently, a retired mini-bus was donated to the club. They now have the ability to transport more kids to their club afterschool. This is important because the club continues to grow. Thank you Poudre School District for all you do for the community and our kids.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Personnel Action

4.2 Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2016, October 15, 2016 (Special), and October 25, 2016

4.3 Support Vehicle Purchase

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

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

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

5.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS

5.1 High School Graduation Requirements Discussion

Assistant Superintendents Jinger Haberer and Scott Nielsen, along with Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Robert Beauchamp presented information on graduation requirements.

Director Beauchamp began the presentation and noted that the Board received four documents and three exhibits to review for the presentation.

He reviewed background information on the Colorado State Board of Education's graduation guidelines and the history of PSD's requirements. PSD graduation requirements must meet or exceed the guidelines established by the state.

Some of the specific information included in the presentation:

- One significant change for districts is a new state requirement to have a course in civil government of the United States.
- Gave a detailed review of some of the district's options for graduation requirements.
- Does not recommend adopting ACT Compass assessment for students in our district because it will not be relevant after this year.
- Recommends that the Board adopt the entire menu of Readiness Measures.
- Regarding credit requirements, the recommendation is to keep the existing 240 credit requirement. Do not change current local PSD graduation requirements. It is the right approach to continue this requirement in the new policy. It first applied to the class of 2015 so it is a relatively new requirement. They will look at changing them if the Board feels it is necessary.
- For middle school courses and endorsement categories, they recommend keeping the existing language in these two sections.

- Noted that they will update the Board when the State completes work on a post-secondary workforce readiness diploma endorsement; it could change district policies.
- Implementation timeline: On January 10th they will bring the first reading of the proposed graduation policy to the Board. On January 24th, they will do the second reading. In spring of 2016-2017, it will be brought to PSD families.

Following the presentation, the Board engaged in a question and answer discussion with the Assistant Superintendents and Director Beauchamp.

Discussion included:

- How are we defining readiness in these measurements? Readiness is defined as a student having the background knowledge and/or skills to continue at a level of higher education, receive certification in a particular industry, or is ready to go into a career. PSD has fairly rigorous requirements compared to the state requirements.
- What was the intention of the 20 extra credits that were added in 2010 (used to be 220 credits)? It is more a reflection of the breadth of knowledge they have gained in high school (to show they received a broad education). There is still a lot of room for elective classes. In the 2010 changes, it was noted that students would have more ways to get those extra credits and in a way that is relevant to students (special programs/classes, e.g. Geometry in Construction course).
- An annual report on changing course offerings would be helpful. "Broadening the buckets" (of class options) is something everyone would like to see in the district, but the courses also need to make sense to college admission offices.
- Do we have the staff to teach these specialty courses? It would be a huge assumption to think we have the staff to fulfill these roles.
- The district must be intentional in assuring all high schools broaden their class offerings with at least some opportunity in each school. It needs to be a district, system-wide movement.
- Do we need to create partnerships with Front Range Community College, other post-secondary workforce connections and higher education institutes (and apprenticeships)? Yes; the district must continue building these partnerships.
- How do students accrue credits in other places? Concurrent enrollment courses, summer school, and there are various opportunities for enrichment and for students to catch up if they fall behind.
- Discussion about eliminating the practice of classes not taken in our schools counting only as electives, thus forcing new students to retake classes.
- Superintendent Smyser noted that it is important that parents get good information on classes that count as graduation requirement credit.
- What kinds of accommodations are made for students with special needs? There is language in the requirements that accommodations are made for special needs students.

- It was noted that this process started over a year ago; meeting with teachers, principals, counselors, administrators, parents, higher education officials and employers. Please include in this process the District Advisory Committee. It is an important topic to them.
- The financial literacy/economics requirement is broad. Could we make some changes to this particular section of graduation requirements? Community feedback asked to keep the financial literacy requirements for students.
- There is complex work ahead to look at specific requirements as they would relate to pathways programs.

This is ongoing work; the panel will present on this topic at future board meetings.

5.2 Putnam Elementary Priority Improvement Planning

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert and Principal Steve Apodaca addressed Putnam Elementary School's assessment performance, noting successes are not always reflected in their test scores.

They are working closely with the district and have a plan to improve the school's test scores.

Schools that are on priority improvement planning have to fulfill and achieve certain obligations and milestones. Principal Apodaca explained how his school is meeting each of these requirements.

Right now, they are looking at the school's key systems and taking steps to support an action plan that includes an intervention system, behavior system and a learning system. They are trying new programs, looking at what is going well, what is challenging and gathering information and feedback from teachers, administrators and parents. Instead of waiting for the standardized test results (once a year), the school is monitoring progress throughout the year. Key data points are helping to drive their action steps. Right now it's hard to see a trend with just one year of results from a particular standardized test, but they are taking action in identified problematic areas and clarifying teacher expectations.

By December 13th they will present the preliminary Priority Improvement Plan to the Board of Education for review. In January, the finalized school improvement plan will be presented to the Board. They will submit a plan to the Colorado Department of Education no later than January 15th, 2017.

Assistant Superintendent Lambert reported that SAC meetings were well attended at the school and the feedback received at those meetings was valuable (i.e. daily communication from teachers on homework, more opportunities to work at home on certain skills, lack of access to technology at home impairs computer test-taking skills).

He also noted that our district is focused on the competency of students. There is not a tendency to "teach to the test."

Lambert explained PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), a comprehensive school-wide approach to teaching behaviors that is in practice at the school.

The Board had questions about the mobility rate at the school. Principal Apodaca reported it at 25 to 28 percent. There are several students who come in throughout the year. Their 5th grade class sometimes looks quite different than it did as an incoming kindergarten class. Kids move in and out of his school every week on a continual basis.

Board recessed at 7:28 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

5.2 Discussion with Legislators

Several federal and local legislators were invited and in attendance at the meeting. President Kipp welcomed them to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Legislators introduced themselves and took a few minutes to state their specific interests and the efforts they are putting forth as they pertain to the state of education in Colorado.

Legislators in attendance:

- James Thompson, Regional Director for the Office of Senator Michael Bennet
- Jamie Grim, District Representative for Congressman Jared Polis
- Dan Betts, District Representative for Senator Cory Gardner
- Angelika Schroeder, Colorado Board of Education
- Senator John Kefalas
- State Representative Jeni Arndt
- State Representative Perry Buck

Discussion included:

- Jamie Grim (Jared Polis) – passionate about fully funding IDEA.
- Dan Betts (Cory Gardner) – focused on working together for state education. Has concerns regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act, but there is a lot they work on together: Title I funds, charter schools, etc.
- Angelika Schroeder – hopeful this State Board will work together, improve schools that are struggling and seek teacher input (asked for help in organizing this feedback at a local level).
- John Kefalas – public access to digital database files, working on this bill draft (next meeting on this is December 2nd), state of the budget and its implications to education funding in the state, explained state of negative factor.
- Jeni Arndt – talked about a bill she submitted based on an email she received from a Rocky Mountain High School student, mentioned impact fees and its effect on students.

- Perry Buck – unfunded mandates are wrong, doesn't like PARCC, opt out of things that don't work at a local level for students.
- Clarification from Representative Buck – federal guidelines vs. state guidelines. Funding from the federal government with no strings attached.
- In review of state standards, how will the State Board get feedback? There isn't a significant difference between common core standards and Colorado standards. Under ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) the federal government does not mandate.
- Asked for clarification from Schroeder on what they do at a state level to intervene in struggling schools? The state may change staff at the school, switch it to charter school status, etc.
- Each item on the Poudre School District's State Advocacy legislative agenda was reviewed.
- School boards across the state are united together in efforts to raise state education funding. Did CASB members have other ideas to get money for school funding? The negative factor at the state level is an issue. Senator Kefalas urged citizens to experience the difficult task of trying to balance the budget with their own priorities online at www.abalancingact.com.
- Lots of discussion on unfunded mandates, prioritizing spending at a state level and updating/modernizing the TABOR formula.
- PARCC assessments (ESSA) – the state has more options on handling testing in our local schools. Look at using a test that students would be motivated to take (something meaningful to students). Student/parent ability to opt out of a test has negative repercussions; skews the data.
- Senator Kefalas urged the board/CASB to coordinate efforts – get analysis done for different CASB resolutions and show him the results in order for them to move forward.
- Why the switch from ACT to SAT? Schroeder noted three reasons: there is free SAT practice tests available for students on Khan Academy, the SAT package aligns really well with Colorado academic standards, and they were easy to work with.

President Kipp thanked the panel of legislators for their time and feedback, invited all legislators to the Board's subcommittee meetings and encouraged them to use the Board as a resource. President Kipp noted appreciation of their shared relationship.

The Board recessed at 9:13 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

5.3 Post-election Comments

President Kipp gave an update on the election results. The Larimer County Clerk, as of this morning, reported the bond is passing by 123 votes. The vote is close; therefore the county will conduct a mandatory recount. At the next Board meeting, we should know the results of the recount. A change is not expected, but we have to wait for the process to complete.

The mill did pass. The Board is appreciative of all community members who voted in favor of these measures.

6.0 ACTION ITEM

6.1 Kerr v. Hickenlooper Lawsuit

Director Donovan read and made a motion to approve the resolution titled, "Poudre R-1 School District Board of Education Resolution to enter as a plaintiff in the case of Kerr et al. v. Hickenlooper, case no. 1:11-cv-01350-RM-NYW, U.S. District Court for Colorado."

Vice President Trask and 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

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education