



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

February 14, 2017

DINNER SESSION - 4:00 PM

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors 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, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: Director Donovan

LATE ARRIVAL: Director Febvre

1.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Director Petterson moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss personnel matters related to the Superintendent's performance appraisal, annual evaluation and possible contract revisions. 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 Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Directors Donovan and Febvre

Motion passed 5-0.

The executive session started at 4:18 p.m.

Director Febvre arrived to the executive session at 4:47 p.m.

Director Gutowsky had to leave the executive session at 5:32 p.m.

The executive session ended at 5:42 p.m.

The Board recessed at 5:42 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 5:53 p.m.

Directors Febvre and Petterson will present information regarding a new Superintendent evaluation instrument during the Board retreat on February 20th, 2017. During this meeting, the Board will discuss in detail the rubric/specific goals and update the evaluation form. In preparation for the special meeting, Febvre and Petterson will email Board members information about the presentation.

Board members continue to reach out to organizations in the community. The goal is to talk with people where they are already meeting and have meaningful conversations.

The Small Business Development Center is looking at state data as it relates to students' skills (workforce readiness). The Board is welcome to meet with them. Meeting dates will be identified and one or two Board members will attend the committee's meeting.

There was discussion about parent engagement in the DAC (District Accountability Committee) and the SAC (School Accountability Committee). Are the policies in these committees effective? Are the committees functioning right now in a way that is conducive to input? Is the district intentional in how we engage parents? The Board should check in with the current parent engagement liaison.

One community member feels that the district does not give enough recognition to Veteran's Day. There was discussion about how various national holidays are recognized and how the calendar committee works hard to put together the school calendar each year.

The dinner session ended at 6:25 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Christophe Febvre, 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, Dustin Reintsma, and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: Director Donovan

LATE ARRIVAL: Director Gutowsky

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

Director Petterson moved that Item 10.0 Executive Session, become Item 11.0 so that the agenda planning item happens before the executive session.

Vice President Trask seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Directors Donovan and Gutowsky

Motion passed 5-0.

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Executive Director Danielle Clark introduced the recognitions for the evening.

4.1 MLK Essay and Poetry Winners

Four PSD students were selected as winners in the MLK Essay and Poetry contest. The students read their winning entries during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at Colorado State University in January.

Elementary K-2 Winner:

Ayslee Stone, 2nd grader, Timnath Elementary

Elementary 3-5 Winner:

Annie Jones, 4th grader, Riffenburgh Elementary

Middle School Winner:

Felix Yu, 8th grader, Kinard Middle School

High School Winner:

Milena Brown, 11th grader, Fossil Ridge High School Ridge High School

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

4.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smyser presented the Board report.

This month, the Superintendent visited several schools in the community, held an equity and diversity leadership team meeting, met with several committees and attended training sessions with the Board; attended cabinet, principal, foundation, and employee negotiation meetings, met with several members of the community and a representative from the Coloradoan.

Dr. Smyser discussed a partnership she and other PSD employees and Fort Collins community members viewed in Salt Lake City. The trip was funded by a grant from the Bohemian Foundation. They were able to look at how an entire community has rallied around their school children. The community created joint goals that they share with the school district to support the success of their students. It was a very interesting trip. Attendees continue to visualize this opportunity and plan to meet again to discuss how a similar collaboration could become a reality in the PSD community.

Other items discussed included:

- Middle schools and high schools are holding open house events.
- Kindergarten registration begins in February.
- October count numbers were released by CDE.
- QPR suicide prevention training is available for parents.
- PSD graduation rates were released by CDE.
- PSD released the new graduation requirements.
- PSD is keeping kids fit in school.
- Elementary schools are offering STEM programs for girls.
- Schools are working together to help students transition in the fall.
- Class schedules for fall are being determined for secondary schools.
- PSD offered workshops for parents to improve preschool literacy strategies.
- PSD held Career Exploration Night.
- High schools are offering college application process information for 11th grade students.

4.3 Board Report

Due to technical difficulties, the Board asked for Community Comments (Item 5.0) before the presentation of the Board report. After community comments, they began the Board report.

Director Petterson presented the Board report.

In the past month, the Board has visited several schools in the district, attended the Superintendent art show, participated in audit committee and district accountability committee

meetings, and have continued discussions with the PSD community regarding the topic of reintroducing the Medicaid reimbursement program in the district.

Board subcommittees are working on revising the Superintendent's evaluation instrument and focusing on improving community engagement.

Other events this month included:

- A full day of training on Board governance with Thomas Alsbury.
- Attended the National School Board Advocacy Institute.
- Attended Great Education Advocacy University.
- They continue to have informal Board lunches.
- Attended the early childhood self-assessment meeting.
- Held community engagement sessions and had several individual meetings with a variety of constituents.
- Actively meeting with legislators on a number of education-related issues.

The Board always welcomes community feedback; please consider attending upcoming community engagement sessions (dates, times and locations can be found on the PSD website).

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Mike Pruznick: Attended an audit committee meeting; noted the good data provided at that meeting and recommended that the district record and post those meetings online. Feels that choice options are displacing school growth in our district; affects charter schools. Questioned how the district handles staff insubordination; why isn't this topic on tonight's agenda? Regarding the long range plan – are the bonds delayed? Will the district/county refund our taxes?

Katie Kaup: Poudre High School student, representing the Student Think Tank. The majority of the PSD Think Tank are here at tonight's meeting to hear what is going on in the district. By attending the meeting, they also hope to bridge any communication gaps between the Think Tank and the Board.

Eric Sutherland: Citizen of Fort Collins, parent of PSD student, and a tax payer in the district communicated numerous financial and legal realities to the board for review including but not limited to: the district had a failure of due process and is blaming him for it. It does not set a good example for students. One financial reality is that the flawed long range plan will have a very negative impact on teachers and students. It will erode maintenance of effort and erode current neighborhood schools.

Elaine Holmes: Facilitator for the Student Think Tank and teacher at Fort Collins High School. She gave an update regarding the Think Tank's progress on their mental health work. The Board is welcome to attend their retreat next week. They will do training, work on special projects and spend time reimagining what their vision is for the Think Tank. She noted appreciation to the Board for providing feedback to the Think Tank.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Meeting Minutes from December 29, 2016, January 10, 2017 and January 24, 2017

President Kipp asked to pull the January minutes off of item 6.2; meeting minutes from January 10th, 2017 and January 24th, 2017 now become Action Item 8.2.

Director Febvre moved to approve and adopt the modified items on the consent agenda and the recommended actions for the remaining items on the consent agenda.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Directors Donovan and Gutowsky

Motion passed 5-0.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 2010 Bond Project Update

Tammie Knauer, Director of Planning, Design & Construction gave an update on 2010 bond projects, including work completed in 2016 and work scheduled for the summer of 2017.

Summer 2016 projects included 100 line items, major renovations at five sites (Bennett, Dunn, O’Dea, Lincoln and Polaris), roofing projects at five schools and other miscellaneous bond projects (irrigation systems, kitchen equipment, security systems, concrete flooring and waterproofing).

Director Knauer shared before and after pictures from the various projects and gave specific details on the work done at each site.

- Noted the extensive amount of work that happens before construction projects begin (preparing a site, storing items, etc.).
- Glazing the windows at Dunn elementary updated the building’s energy efficiency.
- Also at Dunn – replaced duct work to circulate air, explained how it makes the classroom more comfortable.
- At Lincoln Middle School, future modifications will be easier here due to the materials they used on site. Work included updating HVAC, abatement, lockers, overall facelift in the areas of flooring, ceiling tiles, paint, entry and kitchen.

In the summer of 2017, the department will complete:

- One more renovation at Barton.
- Roofing at O’Dea, Polaris, RMHS and ITC.
- Playground at Laurel.
- Asphalt projects at Dunn, Putnam, Cache La Poudre MS.
- Kitchen equipment, irrigation and security video systems.
- Secured entries at Centennial, Harris and Poudre Community Academy.

The department works on a lot of projects. Most of the projects noted here are just a sampling of the projects funded by the 2010 bond and mill. A complete list can be found at PSD Promises online. Community members can see at this site how the money was spent from the 2010 bond and mill.

The Board will receive 2017 construction contracts for review and approval at the February 28th, 2017 Board meeting. In the meantime, the department continues to work on project plans and meet with principals to review the projects and coordinate efforts to maximize efficiencies when contractors begin major work on May 30th, 2017.

The department projects that, including the concrete and asphalt projects that were delayed due to flooding, all 2010 bond and mill projects will be completed and closed out in 2019. They will continue to work closely with the Finance Department during the closeout phase to ensure projects are on budget.

The Board asked for clarification on the following:

- \$112 million represents what? It is the amount of money that is committed to date on projects.
- Will remaining projects reduce the district’s deferred maintenance costs? There is not a lot of cross-over from the 2010 bond projects to our current deferred maintenance items. It is a small impact.
- Is it correct that at the end of this summer, all of our school entries will be secure? Yes, that is correct.

7.2 Quarterly PWR Update

Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness Director Sheila Pottorf presented updates on concurrent enrollment, updating postsecondary and workforce readiness resources, ICAP and community and parent engagement.

Concurrent Enrollment:

- Campus Select – 62 students attended 113 classes at Front Range Community College. 90% passed with a “C” grade or better.
- High School Select – 914 students participated in high school select dual enrollment classes. 92% passed with a “C” grade or better.

- Ascent – 5th year students. 43 students attend 169 classes and 82 % or higher received a “C” grade or better.
- Campus select – 148 students are currently taking campus select classes. The district projects that over 200 students will be in these classes this spring.
- The numbers for these programs continue to rise; the community is embracing concurrent enrollment.
- The department has streamlined processes to meet students’ needs through registrations, class offerings and more.
- Registration begins on May 1st for fall campus select classes.

Updating Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness Resources:

- Support teachers better so they can access resources to connect PWR to classroom learning.
- Create electronic tools to support students in the PWR program.
- Work on bringing the real world into the classroom.

ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan) Update:

- Create a meaningful process for students to document their academic and career journey through PSD with the assistance of staff and parents.
- Work with IT department on tools that support ICAP goals.
- Increase internships/job shadowing opportunities for students.

Community and Parent Engagement:

- Working with local community colleges to look at pathway programs in our schools.
- Working with the Larimer County Workforce Center to help fill the need right now for skilled trade workers. How can the Workforce Center and the district work together to meet the needs of the community and the students by matching students’ skills with work needs in the community?
- Parents and the community have been very involved in numerous post-secondary workforce readiness events including expos, career fairs and more.

Director Pottorf noted continuing efforts to connect students to ICAP, ensure student data in ICAP is safe/meets privacy standards and is effect. Superintendent Smyser said the district is trying to flip the conversation with students to get them excited about a career. Identify their passion and then show them the ICAP tool where they can keep all the information.

Director Pottorf also noted they continue to work on increasing real world work experiences outside of the classroom (not relying mainly on online opportunity tools) and continue to gather statistical information on the program in general (what and how many students are taking advantage of these opportunities, etc.).

There was discussion about the extra staff needs the district may need at some point in the future to coordinate post-secondary and workforce readiness efforts.

7.3 Mathematics Implementation and Support

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Robert Beauchamp provided an informational presentation on the implementation and training supports of the new mathematics instructional materials.

Director Beauchamp presented a video of teachers from across the district sharing their experience with the new mathematics curriculum.

Numerous professional development and question and answer opportunities have been offered to teachers and paraprofessionals. The creation of common digital areas have allowed for teachers to share resources.

Teachers across the district seem to have embraced the new curriculum. The feedback on the math adoption has been positive.

The PSD family, including parents and community members, can be involved in picking out textbooks for the schools. In the lobby of the Johansen Support Services Center are textbooks the district is looking at for implementation. Feel free to look at them and provide feedback to the district.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Resolution in Support of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month

Director Febvre moved that the Board approve and adopt the “Resolution in Support of Career and Technical Education Month” as presented in the Board of Education’s February 14th, 2017 Business Meeting Agenda, Action Item 8.1.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Donovan

Motion passed 6-0.

Career and Technical Education Coordinator Kathy Hanson thanked the Board for passing the resolution. Hanson introduced Rocky Mountain High School teacher Kelsey Mauch and Principal Craig Woodall who talked about the importance of authentic experiences for students in the district.

Rocky Mountain High School student Molly O'Brien spoke about how her CTE class helped her to discover her passion and achieve success. O'Brien was selected to be part of the cast of Lifetime Channel's Project Runway Junior.

8.2 Minutes from the Approved Agenda

Minor changes were made to the January 10th, 2017 and January 24th, 2017 meeting minutes.

Vice President Trask moved to accept and approve the minutes as amended.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Donovan

Motion passed 6-0.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Medicaid Follow-up

COMMUNITY COMMENT:

Melanie Potyondy: School Psychologist at Rocky Mountain High School. Please vote no on Medicaid. Administrative duties already limit time with students; Medicaid paperwork will add to this problem. Worked hard to become DORA licensed and it's sad that now that extra license means more administrative work. Do not put a medical focus on the school model. Please weigh the negative impacts it will have on students.

Alissa Mullet: Speech Language Pathologist in PSD. Came from Cherry Creek School District where they used Medicaid funds. Strongly encourages the district to weigh the pros and cons of the Medicaid program. In her own experience with the new Medicaid system, it would take two to three hours a week in a .5 caseload. It was a significant portion of time; does not want to spend all of her contracted time on paperwork.

Patrick Reeves: PSD Employee. PSD is not a medical facility. We do not work on a medical model. The service delivery is different. The administrative work required would shift a significant amount of time to paperwork and take away from the students. Disputes a previous claim and believes student will not be able to get services from both the district and an outside provider. Urges the Superintendent and Board to not accept Medicaid in our district.

Trish Atherly: PSD employee. Urged the Superintendent and Board to carefully consider the ethical issues related to using Medicaid in our school district. Worried about the ethical billing questions that come with billing Medicaid through the school. How will the billing impact the students and the service providers? Keep the perspective of the would-be service provider in mind (the teachers in the district) when making this decision.

Renee Ostergren: 27 years working with students with disabilities in the district. Thanked the district for the time and consideration that has gone into this topic; looking at the program from all angles. Gives a voice to the small, but important part of our school district, special education students who have significant support needs. Our district advocates for all, and that means promoting inclusive behavior in the schools and minimizing paperwork.

Superintendent Smyser clarified for the audience that a decision on this will be made by the Superintendent. The decision will be made by the end of this month.

The Board noted that a lot of research has gone into this topic and the issue has been looked at from every angle. Community members seem to be in favor of it and within the district, there are people against it. It is a complex issue. It is appropriate that the Superintendent, who is responsible for day-to-day issues in the district, make the decision.

9.2 Long Range Facilities Plan Implementation

Superintendent Smyser spoke to the delayed bond projects. Litigation has delayed the implementation of the voter-approved 2016 bond program.

The district projects that a new southeast elementary school will open in 2019 as opposed to 2018. The addition to Zach Elementary School moves from to 2018 to 2019.

The district will continue to look at enrollment numbers and examine the impact of charter school growth.

Substantive changes to the long range plan are not being recommended at this time. We still see future growth in the community and the need to accommodate that growth. Delaying construction will increase expenses.

What is the district planning for now?

- The district is considering educational programming for the new schools (e.g. blended learning, career tech education opportunities, college credit opportunities and innovative curriculum).
- School designs that accommodate new and innovate programming.
- Community engagement for families residing within new school boundaries (i.e. naming schools, hiring school leadership, hiring staff, athletic programming etc.).
- Site preparation work.
- Land acquisition in Wellington.

- Project timeline development.
- Plan information technologies for new schools.
- Transportation planning (new bus routes for students, changes to existing bus routes, potential need to change transportation facilities).

The school district will continue to work through litigation. In the meantime, the community can expect to see frequent updates on the long range facilities plan.

COMMUNITY COMMENT:

Bill Werst: President of Citizens for Sustainable School Funding and Former Liberty Common Board Member. PSD has an opportunity to change the direction of its relationship with the community and taxpayers. Be transparent and open with taxpayers. Please consider bringing a new measure in front of voters that includes lower cost buildings, includes deferred and future maintenance in the plan, negotiate with the five TIF districts and treat charter schools fairly.

Board discussion followed regarding the opportunity, given the delay, to look at the schools' designs to ensure we are building them effectively for teachers and students and efficiently in terms of cost, construction and maintenance.

9.3 Policy Review: Board-Superintendent Relationship Policies

BSR 4.0 – the Board had no suggested changes or comments.

BSR 4.1 – no suggested changes or comments.

BSR 4.2 – no suggested changes or comments.

BSR 4.3 – no suggested changes or comments.

BSR 4.4 – the Board may decide to adjust the date(s) of the District Ends monitoring report at a later date.

BSR 4.5 – no suggested changes or comments.

Should the Board vote on the monitoring reports and policies rather than indicating acceptance with thumbs up or down? The Board will revisit this at a later time.

Should the Board look at comparable districts in the state for Superintendent salary comparisons? The Board will look at this in depth in June. CASB has noted that their current report is not completely accurate. It does not give the entire compensation package picture. The Board will ask Executive Director Vicki Thompson to reach out to comparable districts in the state for this information.

9.4 Legislative Discussion

The legislative subcommittee meets before each Board meeting. This subcommittee tracks bills related to education as they come up and decides which position, if any, the district takes on them.

One bill being considered – remove PARCC testing in 9th and 10th grade, focus on PSATs. There is bipartisan support for the bill. The testing burden on high schoolers is perceived to be too much at this point.

10.0 AGENDA PLANNING

Director Petterson explained a flow chart he designed that shows a potential process for effectively bringing agenda topics to meetings.

Future Proposed Agenda Items:

- Innovation Schools Act.
- Broader discussion on PSD's school choices.
- Relationship with existing charters schools. Is it the most successful? How does the district ensure success of schools and most importantly, students?
- Employee group joint statement on diversity.

11.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Real Property Acquisition

Vice President Trask moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss matters concerning the acquisition of real property, to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations concerning the real property acquisition, to develop strategy for those negotiations and to instruct the negotiators, all as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a) & (e). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are attorney Rick Zier, Assistant Superintendents Lambert and Nielsen, Executive Directors Hall and Montoya, Planning Manager Willits, Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb and Assistant Board Secretary Davis.

Directors Petterson and Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Donovan

Motion passed 6-0.

The Executive Session started at 10:09 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 11:05 p.m.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education