



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

April 11, 2017

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, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

1.0 DISTRICT ISSUES/BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

President Kipp called the dinner session meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Executive Director Pete Hall gave an update on the Prospect site. PSD's Planning, Design and Construction department provided information about the future expansion of Prospect Road, specifically ditch design that affects the school's property. They explained the new ditch location and importance of the easements on that property.

There are three items that will need Board review/approval soon:

- Deeds and Easements (explained how these affect the property)
- Construction Estimates
- IGA for maintenance of the ditch (If the district moves the ditch, it will own the maintenance of the ditch.)

This project will use a significant portion of the district's "payment in lieu of land" fund. PSD is coordinating on this project with the City of Fort Collins, the Town of Timnath, Larimer County and the New Cache ditch companies out of Lucerne, Colorado.

There was discussion about the district-owned ditch/maintenance at Fossil Ridge High School. The district has had one maintenance issue at that site that involved removing a barrel from the ditch.

Superintendent Smyser asked the Board if they have any questions about the current budget situation. Executive Director Montoya will talk about the budget during tonight's business meeting. There was no further discussion.

As a follow up to a question the Board had at a previous meeting about the district's ASCENT students, Assistant Superintendent Jinger Haberer presented information on WUE (Western Undergraduate

Exchange program). Haberer handed out a packet about the program. The program is set up more like a scholarship fund. Each participating WUE school has different admission requirements and that is what affects the admission of ASCENT students.

The Board set a date for the retreat. It will be on Thursday, June 15th at 4 p.m.

The Board had a discussion about the future of the student Think Tank. A letter from the Think Tank was passed around to Board members.

The consensus of the Board, at this time, is to look for alternate designs for a Board-sponsored student voice. Superintendent Smyser and other district staff will discuss and get ideas before the April 25th BOE meeting. A Board member will meet with and discuss these items with the student Think Tank advisor.

The dinner session ended at 6:32 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, Dustin Reintsma, and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Kipp called the regular business meeting to order at 6:35 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

Executive Director Danielle Clark introduced the recognitions for the evening.

4.1 PSD Spelling Bee Champion

The PSD Spelling Bee District Champion is Haley Kendall, a sixth-grader at Ridgeview Classical School.

To earn a spot in the district spelling bee, students had to win their school bee and take a written test. Haley competed at the state spelling bee on March 11, 2017.

Nine other top PSD spellers also had the opportunity to compete at the state bee. They include: Sophia Dellota (Bethke), Jackson Dryg (Zach), Ben Grumbles (Webber), Wolfgang Jeckel (Ridgeview Classical Elementary), Mira Juniper (Lincoln), Amber Kranz (Liberty Common MS), Danny Rinchioso (O'Dea), Thomas Stroyan (McGraw), and Nick Vancil (Riffenburgh).

Director Febvre presented a certificate of recognition to Ms. Haley Kendall on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.2 State Wrestling Champion (138 lbs.)

Jacob Greenwood from Poudre High School is the Colorado 138 lb. State Wrestling Champion.

Director Donovan presented a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Board and PSD to Poudre High School's Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Kendall Wilson who accepted on behalf of Mr. Jacob Greenwood.

4.3 2017 Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) Performance

Leshar Middle School's Advanced Chamber Orchestra and Preston Middle School's Symphonic Band were selected to perform at the annual Colorado Music Educators Association Conference in January. Each were selected to perform through a highly competitive audition process. The annual CMEA concert is considered the musical equivalent to a state championship athletic event. Only a limited number of music ensembles are selected by recorded audition to perform.

Additionally, longtime music educator Linda Hall — who taught at Irish Elementary and Webber Middle School — was inducted into the CMEA Hall of Fame.

Director Petterson presented a certificate of recognition to Leshar Middle School's Advanced Chamber Orchestra, Preston Middle School Symphonic Band and Linda Hall on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.4 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smyser discussed several events and activities she has been involved with since the last Board meeting including:

- Visited 1st graders at Harris Bilingual Elementary School
- Attended community engagement session with Holy Family Church
- Met with Board members
- Attended Rice Elementary's 10-Year Celebration
- Participated in negotiations
- Attended the National School Board Association (NSBA) annual conference in Denver
- Held an equity and diversity leadership team meeting
- Quarterly meetings
- Attended a Denver Area School Superintendents' meeting
- Held interviews for new school principals
- School visits
- PSD Knowledge Bowl competition
- Attended student scholarship celebrations being held in the community and at the schools.
- Noted the PSD Foundation's annual breakfast event is Thursday, April 20 at 7:30 a.m.
- 1st annual student-organized Environmental Leadership Conference being held in April
- Dunn Elementary named their cafeteria for their retired custodian.
- Staff appreciation and awards ceremonies are being held in the community and throughout the district.
- PSD celebrates new retirees
- Graduation preparation
- Negotiations are wrapping up
- Mental Health Matters community event
- Four PSD schools were named Healthy School Champions

4.4 Board Report

Director Petterson presented the Board report.

The Board has been busy between meetings, some of their work included:

- Visited several schools (Board members visit every school once a year)
- Attended PSD's Foundations Excellence in Education awards
- Read to students at Laurel Elementary for Read Across America Day
- Attended several events in the district (PEA Putnam teacher appreciation event, elementary Honor's Choir concert, Little Kids Rock, and several other school events)
- Board development is ongoing and included work this month in subcommittees and in a February Board retreat that focused on the Superintendent evaluation process.
- Attended CASB Winter Legislative Conference

- Attended the National School Board Association Conference in Denver
- Informal board lunches
- In the community, the Board has been busy with regular community engagement sessions, including two sessions reaching out to the Hispanic community with the help of Holy Family Church and district staff.
- Participated in individual meetings with a variety of constituents
- Attended Wellington Rotary
- Attended Lew Gaiter community engagement
- Attended the League of Women Voters forum on homeless youths
- Met with Coloradoan reporter on school finance issues
- Worked through Bond/Mill Levy issues
- Attended Workforce Development Council, Early Childhood Policy Council, participated in city liaison prep meetings, and multiple legislative work (including testifying on behalf of the district at the state level)

The next community engagement session is Saturday April 15th from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Old Town Library.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Catherine Pawlikowski: Coordinator of Odyssey of the Mind and PSD parent. Odyssey of the Mind is a program offered in our community that “provides opportunities to develop creative problem solving, teamwork, and leadership skills.” It is a hands-on program for kids. District students participating in this program are having great success. The district should be very proud of the students’ accomplishments.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2017**
- 6.3 First Revised Superintendent Contract**
- 6.4 Re-Naming of Lopez Elementary School**
- 6.5 Migrant Education Program 2017-2018 Grant Application**
- 6.6 FY18 Technology Refresh**

Director Donovan noted that the Board would like to pull two things off of the consent agenda. Item 6.5 Migrant Education Program 2017-2018 Grant Application and item 6.6 FY18 Technology Refresh become action items 8.2 and 8.3, respectively.

Director Donovan moved to adopt and approve the remaining 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
ABSENT: None
Motion passed 7-0.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 Graduation Rates Update

Assistant Superintendent Jinger Haberer presented this report on graduation rates. Detailed information from the D.E. 1.0 Monitoring Report is included in the Board of Education's meeting packet.

Graduation rates are affected by multiple factors. Tonight's report focuses primarily on the actions the district is taking in high school (the early warning system) to monitor students who get behind and help them get back on track for graduation.

The district has been looking in detail at Dashboard to study when students take classes (credits) to better understand how they get the credits they need, or how/when they are missing them. By utilizing available Dashboard data, the district and schools identify those students who are at risk of not graduating.

Dashboard works at a high level to identify at-risk students, but Assistant Superintendent Haberer noted all the other ways the district monitors student progress:

- Frequent one-on-one meetings with students to problem solve and provide support to ensure their success.
- Credit recovery and necessary classes are scheduled for students who are "off-track."
- Monitor students' progress towards meeting benchmarks.
- Act at a district and individual school level to put resources and interventions in place to increase growth and achievement.
- Use Connectedness Survey data to develop strategies that increase student engagement.

Concurrent enrollment classes are helping some students recognize their passion, realize that they do have an interest in and an ability to pursue higher education.

All the work the district is doing in high schools, working together, creates a safety net to ensure that all students graduate from high school.

The Board had questions.

What are the percentage differences on the "Foundations for Success 4-Year Graduation Rates" slide? Director of Research and Evaluation Dr. Dwayne Schmitz explained and clarified some figures on this slide, noting that the district and state calculate ASCENT students differently. The

state is working on legislation to change how they calculate ASCENT students in graduation rates. PSD is hoping they will change it so that ASCENT students are included in the state rate.

Will some students be able to make up credits their senior year? How can we keep refining Dashboard so that it is very clear which students need to make up credits? Is the tool sophisticated enough to track that information? Dashboard is real-time data. 14.1% of PSD seniors (not including charters) are off-track. 86% of PSD students are on track to graduate this spring if they successfully complete their current course. The district can breakdown the number of off-track students to see what credits they are short. The district has a data system that did not exist a year ago, and can now implement ways to act on available information.

How does credit recovery work? It varies. Some students do it through online programs. Other students could do it through Blackboard (teacher guides them through it, like through summer school).

Can an 11th grader take an online class over the summer to get it out of the way? This isn't the norm.

Are we waiting until it's too late (11th grade) to see they are off-track? It's different at each school. In the future, because we have data that might show where students are falling behind, we will be able to catch these students earlier.

It was noted that some course tracks are not as linear as students might think; there might be several options to complete required credits. The district also aims to have all students complete their high school career (and that may not always look like a high school diploma). The district goal is a 100% graduation rate.

Should we have a system in place across all schools? The district should "norm" the process across all schools in case a student changes schools mid-career.

7.2 Innovation Schools Act

Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb began the presentation on this report.

There are two ways that innovation can be implemented under the Innovation Acts policy:

- The Board may seek from the State Board the designation of PSD as a District of Innovation based on an innovation plan or plan for an Innovation School Zone.
- If designated as a District of Innovation, the State Board shall waive statutes and regulations specified in PSD's innovation plan. The PSD Employee Agreement shall specify provisions waived, if any, as to the Innovation School or Innovation School Zone. Waiver requires approval by secret ballot vote of at least 60% of collective bargaining unit employees at the Innovation School.

The Board's role in all of this:

- The Board must review plans submitted by schools and approve or not within 60 days.
- The Board may initiate the creation of innovation plans and plans for Innovation School Zones through collaboration with one or more schools.
- The Board may approve or create a plan for an Innovation School Zone that includes all PSD schools.

The Board had questions.

How close are we to creating an Innovation School plan? There are no plans in place.

Superintendent Smyser doesn't feel like there is any need to have the Innovation Act in PSD's schools. We are already in a position to be innovative in our schools.

Why does Denver Public Schools have so many Innovation Schools? The Colorado State Education Department said most who choose to use this Act are schools that need to be turned around. In PSD's case, the Act may actually take away some of the district's authority to innovate.

Could we open a high school where students get diplomas while they get an Associate's degree? We could already do that and are looking at ways to do this in our current capacities. Our principals and schools are looking at this innovation.

Charter schools. Is innovation one of the reasons that parents are wanting to start new charters in the district? One thing the district needs to work on is getting the information out that we are doing great things within the district and there are choices in the district that may already meet their need.

The district is doing surveys to gain more information and continue to look at transforming schools by offering personalized learning options.

Is there a perception that we are not doing enough? What do we do about that?

There was discussion about charter schools. Is the district not offering what they are looking for, or do they just want independence? There are opportunities to work together and also independently.

How do we get the charter community interested in talking to the district and Board and consider running their ideas through the district, instead of independent of it?

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Resolution in Support of National Volunteer Appreciation Week

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 23-29, 2017.

PSD has over 22,000 volunteers made up of parents, community members, college students, former teachers, business leaders, employees, members of civic organizations, committee members, and senior citizens who annually donates more than 72,000 hours of time. This is an in-kind contribution of over \$1.6 million to our school district.

Our volunteers make an important contribution to the learning community in PSD and we are grateful for their service to our students.

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve and adopt the “Resolution in Support of National Volunteer Appreciation Week” as presented in the Board of Education’s April 11, 2017 Business Meeting Agenda, Action Item 8.1.

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.

Beth Higgins, PSD’s Partnership and Foundation Coordinator thanked district volunteers for their work. Our district relies on volunteers and are so thankful for them.

8.2 Migrant Education Program

John McKay, PSD Director of Language, Culture and Equity answered questions the Board had about the Migrant Education program application.

Why has the cost of the program gone down? We are reducing staff because of the unfortunate cuts we have to make to our program. Our budget has been cut. Our allocation as a state is based on a formula, our number is not a frozen. It is an externally driven factor that is causing reduced program funding.

What does OSY stands for? “Out-of-School Youth”

Director Petterson moved that the Board approve the grant application for the Migrant Education Program.

Director Gutowsky and 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.

The Board recessed at 9:04 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:12 p.m.

8.3 FY18 Technology Refresh

Director Febvre moved that the Board accept the Fiscal Year 2018 Technology Refresh as provided.

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.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 State and District Budget Update

Executive Director Dave Montoya presented this report.

Montoya explained state budget challenges, the plan for restoring unassigned funds and an update to the district's financial priorities.

The state is facing a \$700 million gap. To face this gap, the state has several proposals (as noted in recent Board meetings).

Executive Director Montoya noted some of the state-level modeling assumptions such as inflation, increases or decreases in per pupil funding, the K12 negative factor increase, etc.

He then discussed the state's budget forecast for the year.

PSD could be one of the first districts to be funded at the base (potentially 2019-2020). At some point in the future (potentially 2021-2022), the current formula that is pushing districts to their base will be considered “broken.”

Montoya talked about plans to restore PSD’s reserves and the work the district has completed so far, such as sweeping carryover funds.

Executive Director Montoya reviewed the key budget assumptions for the district (as previously discussed in the March 21, 2017 BOE meeting).

In the weeks since the last Board meeting, they have targeted (ongoing) reductions of \$800,000 to help balance the 2017-2018 budget and to restore the district’s unassigned reserves. Cabinet has reviewed the reduction plan. Once a few minor adjustments are made, they will communicate the plan.

Montoya summarized the year’s budget numbers, key legislation and the budget process timeline.

The department will continue to focus on restoring unassigned reserves, keeping the district ends in focus as the budget is planned. Montoya noted that some additional budget considerations are the district’s long-range plans and the district’s need to maintain competitive salaries and benefits.

The Board of Education must approve the budget before June 30, 2017.

9.2 Policy Review: Governance Process Policies

President Kipp led a review of the Governance Process Policies.

Policy 3.6 – This policy needs to be rewritten to reflect the current committees. There are three things that need to change on the policy. The Board is okay with President Kipp doing a rewrite and bringing it back to the Board for their okay.

Policy 3.3 – This policy outlines an agenda planning process that is not reflective of the current practice. President Kipp will get together with Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb to do a rewrite of the policy and bring it back to the Board for their okay.

Policy 3.8 – Self-Monitoring. Let’s revisit this policy during the June retreat.

9.3 Legislative Discussion

The Board is focusing on House Bill 1181 to reduce testing by taking PARCC out of high school.

The Board is tracking House Bill 1294 to include ASCENT students in graduation calculations.

The Board is opposed to Senate Bill 61.

The district and Board are following the Long Bill; keeping close tabs on school financing.

10.0 AGENDA PLANNING

Suggested items for future meetings:

- Charter Schools, have a broader conversation on innovation in our schools and how that relates to new charter school requests/Innovation Act (June retreat).
- Work session about community engagement.
- IEP's – information session on understanding them and our district's IEP numbers, trends, etc.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education