



## 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 25, 2025

#### **DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM Superintendent Conference Room**

PRESENT: President Kristen Draper; Vice President Jessica Zamora; Directors Jim Brokish, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, and Scott Schoenbauer; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile; Chief Officers Dr. Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, and Dr. Dwayne Schmitz; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Conor Duffy arrived at 5:32 p.m.; Director Carolyn Reed arrived at 6:01 p.m.

Dinner session began at 5:31 p.m.

#### **1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics**

- Board members were reminded to sign up for graduation attendance.
- Chief Institutional Effectiveness Officer Dr. Dwayne Schmitz provided Board members with an update on usage of the BOE Insight Dashboard.

#### **2.0 Executive Session**

Vice President Zamora moved that the Board enter executive session to develop the strategy of the school district for negotiations relating to the 2025-2026 collective bargaining agreement or employment contracts, as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e)(III).

Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Superintendent Brian Kingsley, Chief of Staff Dr. Lauren Hooten, Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile, Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya, and General Counsel Autumn Aspen.

Director Havelda seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 6-0

Executive started at 5:54 p.m.

Executive ended at 6:24 p.m.

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; Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile; Assistant Superintendents Julie Chaplain and Insoon Olson; Chief Officers Dr. Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, and Dr. 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 6:33 p.m.

### **2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **3.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Kingsley introduced a video highlighting the 2025 Peer Summit, spoke about recent school visits, thanked voters for the passage of 4A and talked about the charge to be stewards of district funds which may require uncomfortable reductions in staff, and discussed attendance at the State of the City event.

### **4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Grace Turnbull expressed frustration with a lack of transparency and accountability in the district and asked the Board to plant seeds of hope and support.

Paraprofessional Laci Nixon spoke about low pay and poor working conditions in her current position and asked the Board to pay paraprofessionals enough money to survive.

Sabrina Herrick conveyed concern about a lack of support or direction for parents who want to report child abuse by a staff member.

Eric Sutherland stated filling underenrolled schools with students from a nearby community is the solution to the enrollment problem in the district.

Paraprofessional Patricia Gudemann provided details about her position and asked the district to provide higher compensation for paraprofessionals.

Dani Lawrence expressed concern about a lack of growth for IEP students, said the population is being denied access to the vision the Board expresses, and asked the district to help disabled students.

## **5.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Director Duffy spoke about an email he received regarding the incredible food service workers at Bethke Elementary.
- President Draper and Director Havelda attended Harris Elementary School for a celebration of the custodial and kitchen staff and served lunch to students.
- Board Engagement sessions held last week were well attended; great way for community to share concerns.
- President Draper provided an update on the Grandparents and Parents Summit.
- Director Brokish spoke about the Lopez Elementary fundraiser for Respite Care.
- Gratitude was expressed to Colorado State University for inviting 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend a recent basketball game.

## **6.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Boiler Replacement – Kruse and Lauren Elementary (4a DFMLO)**
- 6.3 Tennis Court Replacement – Boltz Middle School (4a DFMLO)**
- 6.4 Video Scoreboard Replacements (4a DFMLO)**
- 6.5 School Bus Purchase**
- 6.6 2025-2026 Student & Staff Endpoint Refresh**

Director Schoenbauer requested Consent Items 6.4 and 6.5 be moved to Action Items.

Director Havelda requested Consent Item 6.6 be moved to action items.

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

Director Brokish 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 Video Scoreboard Replacements (4a DFMLO)**

Director Brokish moved that the Board approve expenditures for this project in excess of \$250,000, authorizing staff to execute a contract for \$1,237,795 with Digital Scoreboards for installation services.

Vice President Zamora seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- District of Athletics and Activities Brandon Carlucci said the State of Colorado will mandate shot clocks in all high schools in the fall of 2026.
- Staff continue to service current clocks to the best of our availability.
- General Counsel Autumn Aspen said Poudre School District is legally allowed to gain revenue from advertising.
- Staff anticipate \$250,000 per year in revenue; could pay off investment in 2-3 years.
- Educational opportunities exist, including sports broadcasting.
- Revenue could be used to provide financial assistance to other groups and activities that experience playoff status (such as music/theater/robotics/Science Olympiad/etc.)
- Life expectancy of the new board is 100,000 hours to half brightness, or about a 20-year life cycle with current usage.
- Timnath Middle-High School and Wellington Middle-High School will repurpose new boards that do not have shot clocks to auxiliary gyms and middle school gyms.
- Gratitude was expressed to the voters for approving the mill levy and allowing this upgrade to take place.
- Debt Free Mill Levy funds can only be used for operational needs and not for staffing.
- Gratitude was expressed to Brandon Carlucci for appearing at this meeting last minute to provide information.

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 2025-2026 Student & Staff Endpoint Refresh**

Vice President Zamora moved that the Board approve of estimated cumulative expenditures in excess of \$250,000 for the 2025-26 school year Student & Staff Endpoint Refresh.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Chief Technology Officer Bud Hunt presented an overview of the device refresh.
- Gratitude was expressed to staff for a thorough presentation, and to Board members who pulled this item off Consent to better understand the expenditure.
- District has more buying power when purchasing in larger quantities.
- Appreciation was expressed for the large amount of work that goes into making these decisions.

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

### **7.3 School Bus Purchase**

Director Brokish moved that the Board approve expenditures in excess of \$250,000, authorizing staff to execute purchase orders totaling \$2,535,551 for bus fleet replacement.

Director Duffy seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Vehicle Maintenance Manager Dan Weaver provided an explanation for the expenditure.
- Must replace buses in the fleet that are failing.
- Purchase of five buses can take place soon; are built and in the area.
- Goal is to have all seventeen buses in approximately ten months.
- Currently waiting on buses ordered 25 months ago from a different vendor.
- 12 of 17 buses identified as needing immediate replacement.
- CDE discourages operation of buses over 25 years old; 30% of the district fleet is over 20 years old.
- Poudre School District has 18 ADA buses.
- Average yearly mileage is 198,000 per bus; ideal replacement is 16 years old.
- Current fleet consists of 179 buses; currently have twelve that are decommissioned, eight are on a long off-line status.
- Gratitude was expressed to the voters for allowing this to happen.
- Thank you to staff who have been part of an appropriate disruption to the status quo to enhance the district and move it forward.

- Board members expressed gratitude for the magic performed by maintenance staff on such an old fleet of vehicles.

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 Update on District Unified Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan in PSD**

Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Amanda Kreiger, Timnath Middle-High School English Department Lead Tyler Arko, Director of Career and Innovation Tanya Alcaraz, Bolt Middle School Counselor Christy Chappel, Executive Director of Student Services Liz Davis, and DEI Coordinator Delhia Mahaney provided the update.

Board discussion included:

- Intentional disruption of proportionality is exceptional.
- CTE participation is increasing, especially from Juniors.
- Engaging students to learn about a personal passion is key.
- Gratitude was expressed for the hard work and depth of knowledge from all staff used to promote student success.

Board recessed at 9:01 p.m.

Board reconvened at 9:08 p.m.

### **8.2 Monitoring Report/Policy Review: DE 1.0, General District Ends (Part 1)**

Chief Institutional Effectiveness Office Dr. Dwayne Schmitz provided the update.

Board discussion included:

- Definition of 'chronically absent' was provided.
- Multiple automated communications are sent to families regarding absences.
- Chronic absences are a nationwide issue since Covid-19.
- Attendance letters are a gentle nudge to remind parents/guardians of the importance of attendance.
- Barriers to attendance were defined and explained.
- Gaps in IEP and 504 supported students were discussed.
- Neighboring districts tabulate graduation rates differently.

- Leveling the rate between IEP students and General Education students is an important goal.
- IEP students are getting access to higher level instructional materials, and it will take several years to see the benefit in results.
- IDEA is not adequately funded at the federal and state levels; PSD is trying to dedicate increased funding to this population.
- Community members have offered to call legislators on our behalf.
- Gratitude was expressed to Dr. Schmitz for the thorough report.
- Community is encouraged to explore the data on the website and become part of the conversation.

### **8.3 Continued Study of Bell Schedules**

Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya introduced First Student Consulting associate Colton Graham who provided the update. Attending in support of this item were Vehicle Maintenance Manager Dan Weaver, Transportation Operations Manager Laura Chandler, Rocky Mountain High School Principal Craig Woodall, Blevins Middle School Principal Joe Zappa, Lead Router Amy Carney, and Router Jessica Bard.

Board discussion included:

- There are no simple solutions to the problem.
- Suggestion was made to table the bell time topic until a boundary study is completed.
- Shifting bell times back creates as many problems as it solves.
- 123 routes last year versus 113 routes this year; district saved approximately \$700,000 and transportation staff experienced some relief.
- Recommendation was made to return the bus schedule to the previous version and apologize to the community for missing the mark.
- Important to think outside of the box for creative solutions.
- Suggestion was made to poll parents about current start time for each student and interest in moving the start time up.
- Staff in attendance provided their opinion of moving the start time back 15 minutes.
- Bus driver shortage is a reality.
- Appreciation was conveyed to transportation staff for wearing multiple hats by driving buses in addition to duties performed in their regular position.
- Every change in start times has a ripple effect and needs to be considered thoroughly and seriously.
- Consultant will provide more options that include out-of-the-box thinking.

### **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Secretary to the Board of Education