



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/Work Session
August 24, 2021

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen; Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Brett Larsen, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, and Dustin Reintsma, Legal and Policy Council Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

- Superintendent Kingsley introduced Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten and spoke about her role.
- Executive Director of Human Resources Brett Larsen provided an update on staffing vacancies in the district.
- Executive Director of Operations Matt Bryant talked about the current bus driver shortage.
- Assistant Superintendent Nielsen and Legal and Policy Council Autumn Aspen spoke about the School of Choice prioritization process and statute.
- Executive Director of Communications Madeline Noblett provided an update on the RFP and award for a new visitor/volunteer software.

2.0 Board of Education Student Advisory Group

Student Advisory Group representatives Kerem Gurkan and Robert Dortch provided an update.

Board discussion included:

- Question was raised about topics of discussion within the group.
- Meetings are scheduled a week before Board of Education meetings.
- Director Anderson will be the liaison between the Board and students; Director Draper will support this role.
- Gratitude was expressed to the students for leadership shown and participation with the Board.

3.0 Agenda Planning

- Director Reed will serve as the Board representative to the Early Childhood Policy Council until further notice.
- Clarification was offered about the Wellington High School delay.
- Director Anderson provided an update on the proposed Linkage Dinners.

Dinner session ended at 6:17 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen; Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Brett Larsen, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, and Dustin Reintsma, Legal and Policy Council Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Donovan moved that the Board delete *Work Session Topic 8.2 CASB Resolutions* from the agenda and add an Action Item for the approval of Poudre School Districts Board of Education Legislative and Policy Agenda and associated resolutions to submit to the CASB assembly.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-0

3.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Kingsley shared an update on the school year and introduced a video from the first day of school.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed for the direction the Superintendent is taking the district and the celebration of children and staff.

4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Parent Liz Hicks offered support of the mask mandate, said other school districts who started the year without mask mandates are experiencing an increase in COVID cases, and shared masks are a small thing to ask to offer a normal school year.

Parent Lisa Potts stated the lack of consistency over the past 18 months has been detrimental to children and listed various germs found on masks after wearing.

Parent Jenny Hay shared that COVID restrictions are affecting the mental health of children and said the suicide rate has gone up over the COVID years due to mask mandates.

Parent Sarah Coleman said the Board is not listening and submitted multiple examples of communication with district staff.

Parent Tony Lipscomb expressed gratitude to the Board for listening to local experts about COVID instead of Facebook researchers who do not understand the virus.

Parent Cari Ratazzi said she is the expert on what her children need and appreciated enforcement of masks to keep children and community members safe.

Principal Kristin Stolte spoke on behalf of ACE, PASE and PEA who support mask wearing to help keep students and staff safe while maximizing in-person learning with a focus on social-emotional development.

Heather Lahdenpera asked for the science behind the back-to-school data and suggested the district is using forced masking to push a fundamental change to distanced learning and a year-long calendar schedule.

Jessica Kraus stated masks did not keep students in seats last year and will not keep them in seats this year either.

Nicky Galbraith expressed concern about vaccination clinics being held at PSD schools during school hours without parental consent or background checks on attendees.

Teacher Kristin Rust spoke about the loss of performing arts events and asked why band is considered high risk but sports are not.

Teacher Kelly Holdridge read a letter on behalf of another teacher that said while they do love teaching, they do not want to wear a mask and are being forced to compromise their belief.

Alumni Murry McMurry read quotes to support his position against wearing masks and said masking is child abuse.

Teacher Amy Healy thanked the Board for a mask mandate that keeps students and staff safe and shared that in-person learning allowed a return to normalcy with community, relationship-building and experiences many students missed last year.

5.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Director Anderson provided a Legislative Subcommittee update and explained Initiative 31.
- President Febvre spoke about a recent school visit to Timnath Middle/High School and invited all Board members to visit the new Wellington school site.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Temporary and Permanent Easement Agreements for the Timnath 50 Acre Site

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve and adopt the recommended actions for the items on the consent agenda.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-0

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Authorization of the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Plan (ARP ESSER)

Superintendent Kingsley explained the American Rescue Plan and introduced the team.

Director of Finance/Controller Kera Badalamenti, Executive Director of Communications Madeline Noblett, Partnership and Grants Administrator Beth Higgins, and Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen provided the ARP ESSER report.

Director Donovan moved that the Board of Education approve the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Plan (ARP ESSER) budget as presented in the board agenda.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Contact Tracers will be hired for one fiscal year.
- Designated site-substitute positions were born out of the pandemic but may be long lasting.
- Important to fund mental health needs that are sustainable.
- CDE is the oversight manager of the PSD budget.
- Clarification was requested regarding District Charter Schools versus State Charter Schools.
- DAC and DAB are valuable stakeholders that can participate as resources.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-0

8.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS

8.1 Covid-18 Update

Covid Coordinator Corey Henry and Executive Director of Communications Madeline Noblett presented a COVID-19 update.

Board discussion included:

- Four sets of data are considered: National, State, County and District.
- Contact Tracers will take the burden off school leaders so they can focus on teaching students.
- PSD does not require students or staff to get vaccinated.
- Non-PSD staff will administer vaccines at PSD clinics
- Parental consent for vaccination will be required for students under 18 years old.
- PSD will work to identify protocols for non-athletic performances.
- Impossible to eliminate all risk but need to attempt to mitigate risk.
- Vaccination clinics that occur during school hours will take place in remote areas of the school with external access; no unauthorized individuals will be inside the school.

8.2 CASB Resolutions

This item was removed.

Board recessed at 8:17 p.m.
Board reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

9.0 BOARD VACANCY INTERVIEWS

9.1 Interviews with Applicants for Director District G Vacancy

Candidates Jill Mason and Jessica Zamora were introduced and interviewed.

Board recessed at 8:48 p.m.
Board reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

10.0 ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Action to Appoint an Individual as a Board Member for Director District G

Vice President Petterson moved that the Board appoint Jessica Zamora to the District G seat for the remainder of time until the November election.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to both candidates.
- Opportunities for participation exist in multiple areas of the district and candidates were encouraged to continue support and leadership.
- Appreciation was expressed for two highly qualified candidates willing to serve.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Petterson and Reed
Those voting NO: None
ABSENT: None
Motion passed 6-0

10.2 Approval of Board Legislative and CASB Agenda

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve the Poudre School District Board of Education Legislative and Policy Agenda and the associated resolutions to submit to CASB.

Director Draper seconded the motion

Board discussion included:

- Director Donovan submitted a draft resolution dated 8.23.21 to the Board prior to the meeting.
- Legislative Subcommittee composed the document.
- Resolution regarding Superintendent selection required clarification.
- Clarification of Executive Session law may encourage other districts to announce multiple finalists for Superintendent and offer guidance.
- Level of transparency expected by the State law is too large and hinders the hiring process of a Superintendent.
- State of Colorado Funding 1B was discussed.
- Director Anderson is the Board delegate for CASB.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Petterson and Reed
Those voting NO: None
ABSENT: None
Motion passed 6-0

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education