



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
October 10, 2023

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM Information Technology Center Training Room

PRESENT: President Rob Petterson; Vice President Kristen Draper; Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Julie Chaplain, Traci Gile and Insoon Olson; Chief Officers Jeff Connell, Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dwayne Schmitz and Erich WonSavage; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Nate Donovan arrived at 5:38 p.m.

Dinner session began at 5:32 p.m.

1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

- President Petterson reminded those in attendance that important business items need to be discussed in the dinner session and regular meeting despite the presence of protesters.
- Assistant Superintendents Dr. Julie Chaplain, Dr. Tracy Gile, Dr. Insoon Olson and Senior Executive Director of Student Services Liz Davis provided an update on Attendance and Engagement.
- Board members volunteered to present certificates for Recognitions.
- Director Anderson provided an update on the CASB delegate assembly
- October 24, 2023, dinner session may be catered by Board members with a potluck.

2.0 Agenda Planning

- Heat discussion to be continued at a future meeting.
- SummitStone annual fundraiser is tomorrow, October 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
- Center for Family Outreach masquerade ball is Saturday, October 21, 2023.

Dinner session ended at 6:13 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Rob Petterson; Vice President Kristen Draper; Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Julie Chaplain, Traci Gile and Insoon Olson; Chief Officers Jeff Connell, Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dwayne Schmitz and Erich WonSavage; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Petterson led the Board of Education, staff, and community members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

4.1 Yale Educator Recognition Program

Fort Collins High School Assistant Principal Rob Larsen spoke about the Yale Educator Recognition Award and congratulated teacher Kate Sherrill on the honor.

Vice President Draper congratulated Kate on behalf of the Board of Education.

4.2 Paraeducator of the Year

Harris Bilingual School Principal Norma Huerta-Kelly spoke about the Colorado Association of Bilingual Schools Paraeducator of the Year Award and congratulated teacher Michelle Baum for receiving the award.

Director Reed congratulated Michelle on behalf of the Board of Education.

4.3 2023 Co-Cabe Federico Pena Community Service Award

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Insoon Olson spoke about the award and congratulated Harris Bilingual School Principal Norma Huerta-Kelly for receiving the honor.

Director Zamora congratulated Norma on behalf of the Board of Education.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Resolution in Support of Blindness Awareness Month

Vice President Draper moved that the Board approve a resolution in support of Blindness Awareness Month, October 2023.

Director Zamora seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Director Brokish read the resolution aloud.

- Orientation and Mobility Specialist Ericka Stubbert introduced Boltz Middle School Student Gage Roth, who spoke about his experience being visually impaired since the age of five.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

5.2 Resolution in Support of LGBTQIA+ History Month

Vice President Draper moved that the Board approve a resolution in support of LGBTQIA+ History Month, October 2023.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Vice President Draper read the resolution aloud.
- Fossil Ridge High School Teacher Todd Forkner spoke about the resolution and introduced student Neo Shaffer, who talked about the experience of growing up confused and receiving clarity and comfort from peers in high school.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

5.3 Resolution in Support of Bullying Prevention Month

Vice President Draper moved that the Board approve a resolution in support of National Bullying Prevention Month, October 2023.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Director Donovan read the resolution aloud.
- Senior Executive Director of Student Services introduced Behavior Prevention and Intervention Coordinator Leah Hager, AP/Dean of Students at Boltz Middle School Stacey Souders, and Project AWARE Coordinator Leah Jones who spoke about the resolution.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Kingsley spoke about the *Facility and Program Changes* scheduled for vote tonight and asked the Board to consider postponing the vote to better dialogue with the community, while making no plans for change until the 2025-2026 school year. The Superintendent presented a slideshow detailing the need for future changes in the district.

7.0 AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA

Director Zamora moved to amend the agenda by removing Action Item 9.1, Resolution Regarding Facility and Program Changes, and moving Item 10.0 Board Reports to after Community Comment.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

8.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Parent Hillary Condit expressed frustration the Superintendent did not seek input from the community before announcing changes, which undermined trust that needs to be rebuilt.

Parent Jay Anstine conveyed concern about how the restructuring was handled and said the public is losing trust in the Board.

Parent Megan Molin stated schools are united and capable of better compromise than the Board gave them credit for and said the poorly crafted and rushed plan is not the PSD that she knows.

Parent Jessica Hamilton thanked board members for meeting with parents this week and shared her belief that community engagement means parents have a chance to ask questions and collaborate.

Parent Ashley Schorsch said the data on decreasing enrollment is inaccurate and more research is needed.

Parent Derek Everett conveyed dissatisfaction with bombshell news of radical changes and stated institutions cannot be reorganized like shuffling a deck of cards.

Student Cailin Mitchell shared that her school helped her face significant challenges successfully in part due to the small size and questioned the decision to merge with larger schools.

Arwyn Grindel said a delay of the vote indicates a desire to understand and conveyed the district should not cut Polaris in half and expect propagation.

Parent Ariana Friedlander stated that while she empathizes with the predicament of the District, change of this magnitude requires stakeholder voice and engagement.

Parent Christopher Leck stated the Board has harmed the communities it now wants to work with and invited members to get humble, curious, build understanding and collaborate with parents.

Parent Celeste Warf read a message on behalf of an Olander Elementary parent.

Cynthia Reffler read a statement on behalf of a Blevins Middle School parent.

Student Aniston Forkner said Polaris helped them with depression through acceptance and said the school makes being different easy and is a safe place for transgender students.

PSD staff Galynn Cormia asked for public transparency with budgeting and financial decisions to ensure equity and said mistrust and skepticism exist.

Ash Gaston expressed frustration with the decisions made by district leaders and feels betrayed by people who are supposed to have students' best interest in mind.

PSD staff Andie Cobb conveyed appreciation for postponing the vote and stated it is hard to understand why alternative schools were the first to be targeted when they are growing.

PSD staff Alex Dziaba said the lack of transparency on the decision-making process and lack of stakeholder voice inclusion caused a massive amount of distrust.

Teacher and parent Kim Donegan asked the Board to proceed with caution and use a trauma-informed approach because some of the proposals do not make sense, such as ignoring fundamental successes like small class sizes that foster personal relationships.

BJ Miller said the waitlist at Polaris indicates parents sign up not only for EL but for the community and asked the District to engage teachers, parents, and students in problem-solving.

Toni Degennaro read a letter on behalf of a Polaris alumni.

PSD staff Elizabeth Rypma expressed understanding of the big-picture thinking and asked the district to slow down, be transparent, allow time to build programs, and consider the most vulnerable students.

Student Kami Mosher shared her struggles in school and life, said the acceptance she received at Centennial saved her life, and asked the district not to rip away the only place that wanted her.

Student Alexander Acosta revealed a history of challenges in school and said he found hope at Centennial, where they have a distinct learning curriculum for multiple learning styles and are a tight family.

9.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board members spoke individually about recent events surrounding the Facility and Program Changes.

Board recessed at 9:55 p.m.
Board reconvened at 10:04 p.m.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Personnel Action

10.2 Meeting Minutes: September 12, 2023, and September 26, 2023

10.3 Grant Opportunity – Nurse Professional Development

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

Director Reed seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

11.0 ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Resolution Regarding Facility and Program Changes

This item was removed from the agenda under 7.0, Amendment of the Agenda.

12.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

12.1 Board Consideration of Revisions to Policy JICDE – Bullying Prevention and Education (First Reading)

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Insoon Olson, General Counsel Autumn Aspen, and Senior Executive Directors of Student Services Liz Davis provided the update.

Board discussion included:

- Distinction between “teasing” and “bullying” was explained.
- Request was made to rearrange wording in the definition of bullying.
- Question was raised about who determines if teasing is “hostile”.
- Guidebook will be the key to success; may take time to educate and change minds.
- Perpetrators of bullying should receive guidance as well.
- Policy will come back at the November 14, 2023, BOE meeting.
- Members were invited to review material in packet and provide feedback for consideration.
- Guidebook is still in process.
- Clarification was requested regarding annual staff training.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Secretary to the Board of Education