



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 23, 2024

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

PRESENT: President Kristen Draper; Vice President Jessica Zamora; Directors Jim Brokish, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, and Scott Schoenbauer; Assistant Superintendents Julie Chaplain, Traci Gile, and Insoon Olson; Chief Officers Jeff Connell, Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, Dwayne Schmitz, and Erich WonSavage; General Counsel Autumnn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:31 p.m.

1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

- President Draper invited members to utilize themes from a previous retreat during the meeting.
- Superintendent Kingsley spoke about student data surrounding mental health services.
- Senior Executive Director of Student Services Liz Davis was recently awarded the Partners Mentoring Youth 'Live the Mission 2024' award.
- RMHS Counselor Chris Lindsey was recognized for winning the Colorado School Counselor Association award.
- Chief Operations Officer Jeff Connell introduced members of his team and provided a presentation about the Operations Department.

2.0 Agenda Planning

There was no discussion on this item.

Dinner session ended at 6:32 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; Assistant Superintendents Julie Chaplain, Traci Gile, and Insoon Olson; Chief Officers Jeff Connell, Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, Dwayne Schmitz, and Erich WonSavage; General Counsel Autumnn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Draper called the regular business meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice President Zamora moved that the Board remove Action Item 3.1, Resolution in Support of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, and place it on the May 14, 2024, meeting 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

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

3.1 Resolution in Support of Arab American Heritage Month

Vice President Zamora moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of Arab American Heritage Month, April 2024.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Director Havelda read the resolution aloud.
- Gratitude was expressed to student Mohammed Khamiss for speaking on behalf of the resolution.

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

3.2 Resolution in Support of National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month

Director Brokish moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month.

Director Duffy seconded the motion.

- Director Brokish read the resolution aloud.
- Gratitude was expressed to student Alex Zumarraga for speaking on behalf of the resolution.

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

4.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Kingsley spoke about recent school visits, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with students, staff and community members, talked about strong high-quality schools within the district that allow for robust learning for every child at every school, stated data shows a 13% increase in literacy scores from fall to winter, discussed some reasons for considering school closures, and addressed misconceptions circulating in the community.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Dani Lawrence shared concern that school consolidations will segregate ILS students.

Student Kate Green spoke about the financial deficit and said the board creates its own problems due to a lack of integrity.

Jeff Aufderheide expressed apprehension regarding the proposed State of Colorado CORA bill and said the bill is meant to harm those who want transparency.

Priscilla Muller said the consolidation process is rushed, opaque and provides no tools necessary for the committee to provide informed outcomes.

Kelsey Sutliff spoke about the success of the 30-year-old Olander ILS program and the integration of special education students into classrooms daily.

Shelly Wells said school consolidation discussion has sparked apprehension and fear and recommended the board address concerns about the rushed and flawed process using skewed data.

Sara Bartel shared that narrow short-term consolidation processes may have broad long-term consequences; strike a better balance between current costs and long-term investments by gathering return on investment data and offered possible options.

Lisa Trimmer asked the Board to provide data regarding the financial savings versus expenditures for consolidation and said the public has too little information.

Kasey Reyling stated consolidation will have long term effects on students, parents, and the community.

Jeni Luetke expressed concern talks with community members about consolidation are just a formality and asked the Board not to turn over our vacated buildings to charter schools.

Corey Cinabro and guest expressed concern about the Liberty Common Charter School renewal and cited an incident with their child at the school.

Dr. Marybeth Rigali-Oiler stated cell phone use has a negative impact on learning and said the district cell phone policy contains strong language but lacks consistent implementation across the district.

Heather Syltie advocated for the preservation of Lopez Elementary School and asked the Board to consider the potential for overcrowding after consolidation.

Erin Grace Turnbull expressed concern about school closures or consolidations and posed multiple questions for consideration.

Neely Makhdoom spoke in support of Lopez Elementary and said she has been grieving the potential loss of the school and community.

Sabrina Herrick talked about a recent video by Superintendent Kingsley and disputed multiple statements made.

Kate Bedford said equity is the most important issue to be considered in the consolidation process and is worried equity is not a high priority.

Laura Ray stated data used for consolidation scenarios is based on covid years and provided suggestions for cost saving measures.

Aaron McGrew spoke about the unintended impact of closing Dunn elementary and asked the Board to slow down the process and work with community.

6.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Director Havelda spoke about a recent school visit.
- President Draper expressed appreciation for those who attended the listening session and invited all to continue communication with Board members.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Personnel Action**
- 7.2 Non-Renewal of Employment Contracts**
- 7.3 Quarterly Financials March 2024**
- 7.4 Approval of Fort Collins Montessori School Charter School Renewal Contract**
- 7.5 Early Literacy Assessment Grant**
- 7.6 Applicant Verification Form for Liberty Common School Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) Grant 2024 Performance Incentive Year**
- 7.7 2024-25 Renewal Applications for Alternative Education Campus Designation for Centennial High School and Poudre Community Academy (PCA)**
- 7.8 Recommendation for External Audit Services for FY2024-25**

Director Havelda requested Consent Item 7.6 be moved to Action Items.

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

Vice President Zamora 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

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 Approval of Agreement of Purchase and Sale of Real Property between the Poudre School District R-1 and the City of Fort Collins**

President Draper recused herself from the vote.

Director Brokish moved that the Board authorize staff to finalize negotiations on the Agreement of Purchase and Sale of Real Property between the Poudre School District R-1 and the City of Fort Collins and authorize the Board President or Vice President to execute the Agreement, as long as the Agreement is in substantially the same form attached in this agenda item, with such additional terms and conditions as District administration determine to be necessary and appropriate to protect the interest of the District and only after final review by the District's General Counsel.

Director Duffy seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 6-0

8.2 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.6, Asset Protection

Director Schoenbauer moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL2.6 in his Internal Monitoring Report dated April 9, 2024, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusion stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- History of cabinet pay schedule was explained.
- Board may discuss potential for reorganizing cabinet pay classification distribution at the June retreat.
- Long-term oversight and procedures need to be established.
- Request was made for a cabinet member succession plan.
- Important to support student and staff transitions when disruption occurs next year.

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

8.3 Applicant Verification Form for Liberty Common School Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) Grant 2024 Performance Incentive Year

Director Brokish moved that the Board approve Liberty Common School's CCSP incentive year assurances form as presented.

Director Schoenbauer seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Poudre School District has minimal involvement/control over charter schools.
- Liberty Common has fulfilled the State requirements.
- Frustration due to missed deadlines was expressed.

- Director Havelda asked multiple questions about the contract with Liberty Common.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Carolyn Reed, and Scott Schoenbauer

Those voting NO: Directors Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, and Jessica Zamora

Motion passed: 4-3

Board recessed at 9:35 p.m.

Board reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

9.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Facilities Planning Steering Committee Update: Community Engagement Feedback Synthesis

Josie Plaut from the CSU Institute for the Built Environment and Steering Committee members Micah Nielsen and Amy Hoseth provided an update.

Board discussion included:

- Committee would appreciate input from Board members and will send questions soon.
- Scoring rubric will be used to compile data for community.
- Committee is comfortable with quality and quantity of data provided by district.
- Upcoming timeline was discussed.
- Difficult to assign data to a non-objective item like the culture of a building or value of neighborhood schools.
- Next round of information will contain more robust details and scenarios.
- Committee members feel process and timeline are moving at appropriate speed, and prolonging or postponing would not provide better outcome.
- Gratitude was expressed for demanding work performed by committee members.

9.2 Cell Phone Policy Discussion

Assistant Superintendents Dr. Julie Chaplain, Dr. Traci Gile and Dr. Insoon Olson provided an update on cell phone policy. Also attending to speak to the topic were Principal Jesse Morrill, Principal Don Kotnik, and Dean of Students Jaelyn Manzanares.

Board discussion included:

- Cell phone policies vary in schools across the district.

- Unsafe student driving habits are reported by staff and community at high schools and include texting while driving.
- Data indicates cyberbullying drops during the school day when cell phones are not allowed.
- Cell phone usage can contribute to discipline data.
- Cyberbullying outside of school cannot be controlled by the school but can spill over into school.
- Student mental health would benefit from a break with cell phones.
- Cell phone use is a management skill that can be taught.

9.3 Preliminary Budget FY 2024-25 (revenue focused)

Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya and Budget Director Brian Gustafson provided an update.

Board discussion included:

- Budget can be revised until January 31, 2025.
- Multiple opportunities to review budget prior to June exist.
- Request was made to provide Excel spreadsheets to the public.
- Maintenance items are generally covered by bonds.
- Possible to explore the debt-free mill levy override.
- General Fund will be used first, then Unassigned Reserves.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 Negotiations

Vice President Zamora moved that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of developing the strategy of the school district for negotiations relating to the 2024-2025 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 the executive session are Superintendent Brian Kingsley, Chief Officers Jeff Connell, Lauren Hooten, Dave Montoya, and Erich WonSavage; 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, Carly Reed, Scott Schoenbauer, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

Executive Session began at 12:13 a.m. on April 24, 2024

Executive Session ended at 12:47 a.m. on April 24, 2024

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 a.m. on April 24, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner

Secretary to the Board of Education