



## 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  
June 13, 2023

### **DINNER SESSION – 5:00 PM Information Technology Center Training Room**

PRESENT: President Rob Petterson; Vice President Kristen Draper; Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora; Assistant Superintendents Traci Gile and Scott Nielsen; Chief Officers Jeff Connell, Lauren Hooten, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, and Erich WonSavage; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Nate Donovan arrived at 5:10 p.m.

Dinner session began at 5:00 p.m.

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

- Project AWARE Coordinator Leah Jones and Student Safety Coordinator James DiPilato provided an update on the Truancy Grant & SEL/MTSS Approach.
- Assistant Superintendent Traci Gile, Chief Officers Jeff Connell and Dave Montoya provided an update on progress at the Eyestone construction project.

#### **2.0 Agenda Planning**

There was no discussion on this item.

Dinner session ended at 5:32 p.m.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 5:30 PM**

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

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

#### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Petterson called the business meeting to order at 5:35 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 Odyssey of the Mind – Beattie Elementary**

Beattie Elementary Odyssey of the Mind Site Coordinator Angela Heckart and Coach Chris Henry spoke about the 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls State Champion team.

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

#### **4.2 CHASA Esports Champions**

Rocky Mountain High School Esports Coach Chance Mazza spoke about the introduction of Esports at RMHS and congratulated the winning teams for Mario Kart and Smash Brothers.

Directors Donovan and Zamora congratulated the group on behalf of the Board of Education.

#### **4.3 School Nutrition Association Director of the Year for the Mountain Plains Region**

State of Colorado and Mountain Plains Region Director of the Year Craig Schneider said the recognition belongs to the kitchen teams and expressed excitement for the implementation of free lunch for all students next year.

Director Anderson congratulated Mr. Schneider on behalf of the Board of Education.

#### **4.4 National Assistant Principal of the Year**

National Assistant Principal of the Year winner Amanda Pawelski spoke about her role and experiences at Laurel Elementary and thanked first year teachers, Principal Tommi Sue Cox, and stated the future of the district is in good hands.

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

#### **4.5 Additional Recognitions**

Chief Information Officer Madeline Noblett announced additional recognitions:

- Colorado State Champions in Colorado State Spanish Spelling Bee
- State Science Olympiad Competition and National Tournament
- ROTC Scholarships
- Academy Appointments
- Boettcher Foundation Scholarship
- Daniels Fund Scholarship
- National Hispanic Scholar

- National Merit Schola
- Poudre Association of School Executives Scholarship
- Poudre Retired School Employees Scholarship
- Elks Vocational Scholarship
- Quest Bridge Scholarship
- Coca Cola Scholarship
- Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship
- National Indigenous Award
- Full Tuition Scholarships (RMHS)

## **5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **5.1 Resolution in Support of Juneteenth**

Director Donovan moved that the Board of Education adopt a resolution in support of Juneteenth, June 19, 2023.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

- Director Donovan read the resolution aloud.
- Director of Language, Culture and Equity David Autenrieth introduced recent FCHS graduate Adrianna Wesley, who spoke about the importance of Juneteenth and support for the resolution.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to Adrianna for speaking and to her mother for inspiring the next generation.

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 Pride Month**

Vice President Draper moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of Pride Month, June 2023.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

- Vice President Draper read the resolution aloud.
- Director of Language, Culture and Equity David Autenrieth introduced students Rin Duong and Mazi Blair, who spoke about their experiences as LGBTQIA youth.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to students for bravely speaking their truth and sharing their authentic selves.

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**

Assistant Superintendent Nielsen spoke about the importance of recognizing and celebrating increased academic outcomes and student achievement while remaining focused on educational output, and expressed appreciation to staff who help students identify areas of passion. Gratitude and thanks were conveyed to many including law enforcement for partnerships with the district, groups involved with negotiations, cabinet members for pushing him to get better over the years, previous and current superintendent for strong leadership, Board members for giving their time and expertise for the betterment of students, and to the district for the opportunity to learn and lead for 27 years.

## **7.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Erin Rose said that special-need students need to be protected, asked the Board to add video and recording devices to all classrooms, and requested emergency pull cords be placed in every bathroom.

Jeff Aufderheide expressed concern about multiple items including allegations of abuse by a school bus paraprofessional.

Kelly Notarfrancesco indicated the most vulnerable students are being treated poorly by district leadership, said teachers are routinely arrested on sex abuse charges, and expressed concern the district promotes the *Trevor Project* that connects vulnerable children with chat rooms that teach children to be witches and to lie to parents.

Taylor Unwin spoke about the bus paraprofessional charged with child abuse, asked what controls exist to protect children, and requested policy and procedures be changed to routinely review video tapes.

Priscilla Muller asked the Board to review hiring policies so anyone with prior convictions will not be around children and asked for security footage of new staff to be periodically checked.

Gina Forcatto demanded an investigation be conducted to find out why abuse by the bus attendant took so long to discover and why school personnel did not report abuse immediately.

Gretchen Haley thanked the Board and staff for balancing the voices of a diverse community, said children who routinely hear ignorance and hatred in the world find value and safety through compassion and understanding from the school district, and asked PSD to continue modeling a safe space for students.

Jane Everham thanked Board members for continued dedication to the vision and mission of PSD and for allowing trans and LGBTQIA students to learn who they are meant to be just like every other child.

Jim Winebrener expressed concern that the Colorado Education Association endorses candidates for school boards, asked members seeking reelection to decline support from CEA, and said any union endorsement is an admission the member is against parents.

Gary Chevalier encouraged Board members to allow telepresence robot use for students who cannot attend school.

Sabrina Herrick asked for policy and workplace culture change surrounding abuse reporting.

Debra James made recommendations for improvement in the paraprofessional field in the district and said turning a 'paraprofessional' role into a 'professional para' role would be beneficial.

Dani Lawrence expressed concern for disabled children in the district, asked for oversight of the Integrated Services department, requested policies be amended, and care be provided for the traumatized students and parents.

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen acknowledged the traumatizing events surrounding the arrest of the bus paraprofessional, stated the situation is appalling, heartbreaking and infuriating and does not represent who we are as a school district or as educators, said an external third party is conducting an independent review of PSD process and policies, and shared that staff continue to work with Fort Collins Police Services on the investigation.

## **8.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Director Donovan emphasized the importance of the Employee Agreement on Consent.
- Community Engagement Sessions may be restructured for next year.
- Gratitude was expressed to Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen for stepping in tonight, and for many years of service to PSD.
- Submissions for CASB resolutions are due earlier than normal due to the fall conference date.

## **9.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 9.1 Personnel Action**
- 9.2 Meeting Minutes: May 9, 2023 and May 23, 2023**
- 9.3 2023-2024 Commercial Insurance Renewal**
- 9.4 Interfund Borrowing Resolution (submitted annually)**
- 9.5 Investment and Wire Transfer Authorization (submitted annually)**
- 9.6 Check Issuance and Facsimile Signature Resolution (submitted annually)**
- 9.7 Supplemental Budget for Food Service FY2022-23**
- 9.8 2023-2024 Federal Programs Consolidated Application**
- 9.9 District Accountability Committee Recommendation for 2023-24 New Membership**
- 9.10 Custodial Supplies Contract**
- 9.11 Contractor Selection for the CLP MS Tennis Court Construction Project**
- 9.12 Addendum to Ridgeview Classical Schools Fourth Charter School Renewal Contract**

- 9.13 CDE Stronger Connections Grant – Mountain Sage Community School**
- 9.14 Second Amendment to Lease Agreement**
- 9.15 Microsoft Licensing Renewal for 2023-2024**
- 9.16 2023-2024 Memorandum of Understanding**
- 9.17 2023-2024 Employee Agreement**
- 9.18 Employee Self Insurance Expenditures (in excess of \$250,000)**

Director Donovan moved to amend the Consent agenda to remove Consent Agenda Item 9.11 Contractor Selection for the CLP MS Tennis Court Construction Project.

Vice President Draper 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

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

Vice President Draper 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

## **10.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **10.1 IMR EL 2.1 (Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians, Public)**

Director Donovan moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL 2.1 in his Internal Monitoring Report dated June 13, 2023, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Vice President Draper seconded the motion.

- Community Engagement process may be restructured to facilitate opportunity for dialogue between community members and Board.
- Student Advisory Council members presented interesting and valuable concepts; several ideas were implemented.
- Many community commenter items resulted in effective changes for betterment of students; Board members are listening.
- Board members shared frustration at inability to dialogue with the community during Board meetings.

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

## **10.2 2023-2024 School Resource Officer Contracts**

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve the agreements between Poudre School District R-1 and the following entities: City of Fort Collins, Larimer County Sheriff's Office, and Town of Timnath Police, for the School Resource Officer Program and authorize the Board President to sign the agreements attested by the Board Secretary.

Director Zamora seconded the motion.

Chief Operations Officer Jeff Connel and Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen spoke about the SRO contracts.

Board discussion included:

- Communication surrounding a credible versus non-credible threat is critical and must follow specific protocol within the district.
- Gratitude was expressed to Fort Collins Police Services for committing to more contact days with PSD.
- Appreciation conveyed to law enforcement and the district for working together on the SOP and contracts in support of children.
- Board members are looking forward to the co-responder model.

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 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **11.1 Proposed Budget for FY2023-24**

Budget Director Brian Gustafson provided an update on the budget.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed for outstanding articulation, presentations and information sharing throughout the budget process.
- Budgeted transportation expenditures and Student Services increases were explained.
- Appreciation was expressed to all associations for hard work during negotiations.

## **12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Secretary to the Board of Education