



## Poudre School District Board of Education

2407 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521 • 970-490-3607

### Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Business/Work Session Meeting  
September 26, 2017

#### **DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Nate Donovan, Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, Carolyn Reed, and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

**ABSENT:** Assistant Superintendent Jinger Haberer

#### **1.0 District Issues / Board Member Updates**

President Kipp and Director Gutowsky will work with Executive Director Danielle Clark and the communications department to review how the district does Board meeting Recognitions and Awards. The department has new ideas and would like guidance from the Board.

The Board discussed upcoming conferences. Executive Director Dave Montoya noted costs associated with them and how each would impact the Board's budget. There was discussion about the conferences' agenda topics. Director Donovan is interested in going to the national conference. The Board will look at the others and make decisions on those during an October dinner session.

#### **2.0 Median Growth Percentile**

PSD's Director of Research and Evaluation Dr. Dwayne Schmitz gave an informational presentation to the Board regarding the Colorado Growth Model.

Director Schmitz discussed why the growth model is important and explained in detail how the district and state measure growth. He discussed the distribution of student scores and their association with educational environments and student groups. Actual student growth reports were used to explain each section of those reports.

Director Schmitz explained median growth percentiles; how that looks when you compare school sizes. There was discussion about the smallest district's student growth percentile (SGP) distribution and the largest district's SGP distribution.

It was noted that the Colorado Department of Education is talking about changing their current growth measurement. Superintendent Smyser noted that the district and Board should work together to advocate against this move to ensure the state doesn't flow resources to the wrong areas.

### **3.0 Agenda Planning**

There was no discussion on this item.

The dinner session ended at 6:27 p.m.

### **BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION - (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM**

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, Carolyn Reed, and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

LATE ARRIVAL: Director Nate Donovan

ABSENT: Assistant Superintendent Jinger Haberer

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Kipp called the work session meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

### **2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

There were no community comments.

### **4.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **4.1 Personnel Action**

#### **4.2 Revisions to Governance Process Policy 3.3, Agenda Setting**

#### **4.3 Legislative and Lobbying Services**

Director Febvre noted that the Board would like to take item 4.3 off the consent agenda. It becomes Action Item 5.1. Discussion Item becomes 6.0 and all subsequent item numbers adjust accordingly.

Director Gutowsky moved to approve and adopt the recommended actions for items on the amended consent agenda.

Director Febvre seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Febvre, Gutowsky, Kipp, Petterson, Reed, and Trask

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Donovan

Motion passed 6-0.

## **5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **5.1 Legislative and Lobbying Services**

President Kipp noted that there were minor typos in the contract that was in the Board's meeting packet. Corrections have been made to the contract. The latest version varies slightly from the version in the packet.

Director Febvre moved to approve the legislative and lobbying services contract.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Febvre, Gutowsky, Kipp, Petterson, Reed, and Trask

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **6.1 2018-2019 Draft Calendar**

Calendar committee representatives at the meeting include Brett Larson, Boltz Middle School Principal and Melanie Mierzwa Principal, Riffenburgh Elementary School.

The Board had questions on the calendar approval timeline and the extra day added to the winter break schedule. The committee discussed how they weigh competing values and get information and feedback from staff and the community as the calendar is put together.

The proposed 2018-2019 school year calendar will return to the October 10, 2017 Board meeting on the consent agenda for approval.

## **6.2 CASB Resolutions and Legislative Discussion**

Director Donovan read each of the 24 proposed resolutions (as seen in tonight's meeting packet).

The Board discussed each one and agreed on the following:

The Board supports Resolutions: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 17, 20, 21, 24

The Board is neutral on Resolutions: 12, 23

The Board opposes Resolutions: 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 22

The Board will revisit Resolution 15 at the October 10, 2017 meeting.

Executive Director Danielle Clark will make copies of the finalized legislative agenda for the Board.

## **7.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS**

### **7.1 Expanding Graduation Credit Course Options**

PSD's Director of Curriculum and Instruction Robert Beauchamp began the presentation on this topic by reviewing the current graduation requirements and the number of courses offered in each content area.

Director Beauchamp discussed changes the district has made to concurrent enrollment including that the number of courses in this area has expanded significantly. Students in concurrent enrollment classes receive both high school and college level credit for them.

The district will continue to explore adding courses that align closely with students' interests and passions.

The Board recessed at 8:34 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

## **7.2 DE 1.0, General District Ends Update**

PSD's Director of Research and Evaluation Dr. Dwayne Schmitz presented this update on DE 1.0.

Some of the items discussed during the presentation included:

- PSD growth overall is good; PSD's math growth was slightly higher than language arts growth.
- This is an update on DE 1.0; there will be more information to come in the following months.
- Students who need additional levels of support report lower feelings of connectedness to their peers, classes, interests, teachers, etc.
- Noted that students who have the most unexcused absences report lower feelings of connectedness, as do students with a higher level of discipline incidents.
- New educators were given the connection's survey results, principals have it. This is something being talked about in the district with more clarity.
- Students who are involved in school sponsored activities feel more connected.
- When teachers are personally inviting, students feel connected.

Dr. Schmitz gave examples of schools and explained their growth by levels of support.

The next Connections survey will be out on November 23. Schools will have a chance to customize some items in the survey. Customization at the school level will continue to be an option for future surveys.

There is a new question on this year's Connections survey. It asks students about graduation (i.e. if they believe they will graduate from high school, why, and if they can be contacted).

The Board had questions.

Are there any new questions on the survey that ask about their after-school responsibilities? Not at this time. It may come out in some of the existing questions. The district wants to keep the survey as short as possible.

There was discussion about social emotional questions on the survey and how school leadership can act on certain items.

Are we incentivizing students, schools, or principals to take the survey? School staff are seeing the value in having information from last year's results, so hopefully because of that, response rates will be even higher this year.

The surveys are given in class and students have class time to complete them. It is also something they can do on their phone.

How do we use this data? The data goes back to the school sites and they use it to inform their site-based plans.

The Superintendent encouraged Board members to ask these questions during school visits. Ask the on-site administration about their school's improvement plans.

### **7.3 Technology Refresh Status Update**

Executive Director Dustin Reintsma presented an update on the technology refresh.

Reintsma noted that the Board will receive another update in December and then again in February 2018.

Information regarding the fiscal year 2018 purchase:

- Based on feedback from several resources, the district will not stray away from a 1:1 device to student ratio.
- Right now, the district is targeting education-focused, lower-priced Windows devices for elementary students. Financially, it makes a lot of sense. These devices are at a \$300 price point, versus \$500 for the same laptop being used by older students. These affordable options still work with the platforms elementary students need for school work.
- The procurement process schedule has been revised and is designed to allow for boarder and deeper PSD evaluation of the purchase.
- The district has worked on engaging teachers, classrooms, students, and ETAC (educational technology advisory committee). The decisions being made on technologically are more closely aligning with actual curriculum needs.

Executive Director Reintsma reviewed the device selection process and timeline.

- Request for information is ongoing from October through mid-November 2017. Continue to explore lower price point devices/needed capabilities.
- Run a pilot program in the classrooms from late November to mid-January and then get student and teacher feedback.
- Request for proposal in February 2018.
- Procurement in March or April of 2018.

The total purchase cost is estimated at \$4.2 million. This includes 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 9th grade 1:1 devices, as well as teacher laptop refreshes.

Is the budget driving the decision being made on the devices, or are we getting what we need? The budget is driving the decisions, but we are also ensuring we get what students need.

How are the students using the devices? Are they using them now? Yes. In the last couple of years, it has changed tremendously. Students are using laptops more now than ever before in the past. They are an essential part of a student's everyday learning experience.

What is the feasibility of bringing their own device to class? It's not out of the question, but it does complicate things. There are certain things devices are required by law to have for

mandated test assessments. It would be difficult to evaluate every device coming into a classroom to ensure it meets the standards and complies with state/federal laws. It is also very challenging for teachers to have to try to know every device a student brings to class and try to maintain them, troubleshoot issues, etc.

Technology changes quickly, do we keep up? It might not be possible to chase technology and keep up. Really, we just need devices that serve our district's needs.

Is there a possibility that we could wait a year or two to refresh the teachers' laptops? Yes, they were purchased at the same time as the students' laptops so they are all due for a refresh now. By waiting one year it would save money this year and then offset the cycle so that teacher and student laptops are not hitting the same refresh date.

## **8.0 AGENDA PLANNING**

There was no discussion on this item.

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Board meeting ended at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education