



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

January 8, 2019

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

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

ABSENT: Director Draper

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

Board members congratulated Director Kipp for her recent nomination to the Colorado State House of Representatives and spoke about the timeline for accepting her letter of resignation.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Petterson moved that the Board go into executive session to receive information regarding a teacher resignation and separation agreement, as authorized under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb; Assistant Superintendent Nielsen; Executive Director Thompson; and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Vice President Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Draper

Motion passed 6-0

Executive session began at 5:33 p.m.

Executive session ended at 5:47 p.m.

Director Petterson moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) & (e) for the purpose of receiving legal advice on issues concerning Liberty Common School and Fort Collins Montessori School charter renewal applications, to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations concerning charter renewal contracts and to instruct the administrators who will be involved in the charter renewal control negotiations. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb, Assistant Superintendents Lambert and Nielsen, Executive Directors Montoya and Hall, and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Vice President Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Draper arrived at 5:49 p.m.

Motion passed 6-0

Executive session began at 5:49 p.m.

Executive session ended at 6:20 p.m.

Board recessed at 6:20 p.m.

Board reconvened at 6:24 p.m.

2.0 DISTRICT INFORMATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Multiple vacancies exist due to the resignation of Director Kipp. Any members interested in filling vacancies are asked to inform the BOE secretary or appropriate parties.
- Questions regarding late start will be addressed at a future meeting.
- Vice President Gutowsky is running for City Council and may not be available to attend the Washington DC conference.

3.0 AGENDA PLANNING

- Questions surrounding late start will be addressed at a future meeting.

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no items discussed.

Dinner session ended at 6:25 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING - (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

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

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the business meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Febvre led the Board of Education and audience 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 2018 5A Marching Band State Champions

Director Meghan Munoz and Assistant Director Joey LeClerc spoke about the high level of achievement from students, parents and staff and thanked all for the hard work to ensure the success of the program.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Donovan congratulated the band and parents.

4.2 Colorado Department of Education Academic Achievement and Growth Awards

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen spoke about the great performances by many of the PSD schools and introduced the following award winners:

- John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award

Bacon Elementary School
Bennett Elementary School
Bethke Elementary School
Dunn Elementary School
Fossil Ridge High School
Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School
Kruse Elementary School
Liberty Common Elementary School
Liberty Common High School
Livermore Elementary School
McGraw Elementary School
PSD Global Academy School
Tavelli Elementary School
Traut Core Knowledge Elementary School
Werner Elementary School
Zach Elementary School

This award recognizes schools that demonstrate excellent academic achievement. On the school performance framework used by the state to evaluate schools, these schools exceed expectations on the indicator for academic achievement over three years.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Reed congratulated the award winners.

- High School Academic Growth Award: Liberty Common High School

This award recognizes high schools that show the highest levels of students' academic growth in state assessments.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Vice President Gutowsky congratulated Liberty Common High School.

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert spoke about schools showing strong growth and introduced the following award recipients:

- Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award

Harris Bilingual Elementary
Livermore Elementary
Red Feather Lakes Elementary
Traut Core Knowledge Elementary

This CDE award is given to schools that demonstrate excellent student growth. On the school performance framework used by the state to evaluate schools, these schools exceed expectations on the indicator related to longitudinal academic growth over three years.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Kipp thanked all principals, teachers, classified employees and those who contribute to doing great things for students every day.

- Colorado Centers of Excellence Award: Putnam Elementary

This CDE award celebrates schools with the highest rates of student growth in schools in which at least 75 percent of students are considered at-risk. Putnam was one of just 15 schools in the state to receive this award.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Draper congratulated Putnam Elementary School.

4.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smyser welcomed attendees to the 2019 calendar year and stated her resolve for the upcoming year is to commit to both hope and determination while working toward positive change in the District.

4.4 Board Reports

President Febvre congratulated Director Kipp on her recent election to the Colorado State House of Representatives and thanked her for service to Poudre School District as the Board President, Vice President and Director over the past seven years.

Director Kipp read a letter of resignation and thanked the Board, stating PSD is a phenomenal school district that continues to work for the best interest of students.

Board discussion included:

- Appreciation was expressed to Director Kipp for dedication to PSD students and the District, mentoring new members, showing up to every meeting prepared, asking hard questions, staying informed about important topics and educating the Board on the importance of monitoring education legislation.

Director Petterson provided an update on Board activity:

In the District:

- Werner, Liberty Common High School, RMHS, Leshar, Timnath, Bennett, Kruse, McGraw, Rice
- Cooper Home graduation
- Centennial Thanksgiving feast
- PSD art display at the Foothills Mall
- District Advisory Board
- District Accountability Committee
- Audit Committee Meeting
- New school design meetings
- Meetings with staff and Superintendent
- Futures Lab site visit
- PHS Spectrum Book Club
- ACE meeting
- PEA NEST event
- PEA AR meeting

Board Development:

- Board retreat
- CASB State Conference
- Innovation Center tour to St. Vrain and Cherry Creek
- Active Board subcommittees: Legislative

In the Community:

- Community engagement in Wellington
- McBackpack
- PFLAG meeting

- Las Posada at Museo de las Tres Colonias
- Liaison meeting with City and County
- URA meetings
- Imagine Zero quarterly meeting
- Behavioral Health in Colorado Symposium at UNC
- Information meeting for Montava Project
- Larimer County Commissioners meeting on Laporte gravel pit
- Subpoenaed in Timnath v. Sutherland
- Transgender Day of Remembrance at CSU Pride Center
- City of Fort Collins LBGTQIA team meeting
- Congressman Joe Neguse and other stakeholders on Federal Education Priorities
- Chalkbeat Colorado legislative session preview
- Great Education Colorado post Amendment 73: What's next meeting
- CASB Board meetings
- Colorado School Finance Project

Next community engagement session is scheduled for Saturday January 19, time and location to be determined.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

PSD parent Johanna Knudson spoke about the continued need for diversity and inclusion in schools with specific reference to anti-Semitic hate speech, and asked PSD for clear and consistent leadership.

PSD grandfather Peter Racz stated his grandchild has been bullied in school and requested PSD train staff to effectively recognize and manage bullying while educating students on diversity, inclusivity and respect.

PSD parent Peter Knudson conveyed dissatisfaction with the handling of his child's school bullying and asked PSD to ensure each student is protected.

PSD employee Ethen Solomon expressed concern that a student in his school was being bullied and stated educators and administrators are responsible for protecting students.

PSD parent Eric Sutherland stated Colorado law requires every governing body to announce where it is posting open meetings and PSD has never followed this law, specifically the executive session regarding URA.

Board discussion included:

- Future dialogue surrounding bullying prevention and staff response may occur.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2018 (Special Meeting) and December 11, 2018

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

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL2.0, General Executive Limitations

Director Donovan moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL 2.0 in her Internal Monitoring Report dated January 8, 2019, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Vice President Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

7.2 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL2.4, Financial Planning and Budgeting

Director Donovan moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL 2.4 in her Internal Monitoring Report dated January 8, 2019, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Budget Update

Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya provided an update on the 2018-19 budget.

Board discussion included:

- Adopted budget will be placed on the Consent Agenda for the next meeting.
- PPR is not finalized by the CDE but indicate an increase to 4.4%
- K-12 enrollment aligns with the budget.
- Staff will continue to assess need for revision.
- Current themes in legislation are enrollment assessment and statewide economic reports.
- PSD hired a consultant to help monitor legislation.
- PERA indicated school division will be fully funded in 30 years.
- PSD is a core funded district.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Directors Petterson and Draper will determine who will lead the Legislative Sub-committee in the absence of Director Kipp.
- 18 bills were introduced on the Colorado State floor and work begins immediately.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

10.1 Negotiations with Fort Collins URA regarding Allocation of TIF Revenues

Director Donovan moved that the Board go into executive session in the Superintendent's office/conference room to receive legal advice on issues concerning negotiations with the Fort Collins Urban Renewal Authority regarding the allocation of TIF revenues from the area west of the Drake and College intersection, to reevaluate positions relative to matters that are subject to those negotiations, to reevaluate the strategy for those negotiations and to instruct the negotiators, all as authorized under C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) & (e). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb, Executive Director Montoya and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Vice President Gutoswky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

Board recessed at 7:54 p.m.

Board reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

Executive session began at 8:03 p.m.

Executive session ended at 8:39 p.m.

Board recessed at 8:39 p.m.
Board reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

10.2 Superintendent Evaluation

Director Donovan moved that the Board go into executive session in the Superintendent's office/conference room as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss personnel matters related to the Superintendent's performance appraisal, goals, annual evaluation and possible contract revisions. Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Superintendent Smyser, Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

Executive session began at 8:43 p.m.
Executive session ended at 10:57 p.m.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education