



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
October 23, 2018

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Susan Gutowsky; Directors Kristen Draper, 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: Executive Director Noblett

LATE: Director Donovan arrived at 5:56 p.m.

Dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 Executive Session

Director Reed 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 Lambert; Executive Director Thompson; and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Donovan

Motion passed 6-0

Executive session began at 5:32 p.m.

Executive session ended at 5:39 p.m.

Director Petterson moved that the Board go into executive session to receive legal advice on issues concerning the Fort Collins Urban Renewal Authority Plan for the area west of the Drake and College intersection and negotiating the allocation of incremental property tax revenue to help finance the Plan, to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to those negotiations, to develop 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.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None
ABSENT: Director Donovan
Motion passed 6-0

Executive session began at 5:39 p.m.
Executive session ended at 6:23 p.m.

Dinner session reconvened at 6:24 p.m.

2.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert reported on the Early Childhood open positions.

- November 2017 feedback from the Colorado Department of Education CPP Division indicated PSD should change calculation methods for student qualification.
- Students had previously been qualified through secondary factors.
- CPP guidance recommended student qualification through at least one legislative factor in addition to secondary factors.
- Administration was notified in mid-September 2018 that 70 slots were unfilled.
- 50 of the 70 openings were directly attributed to the recommended change.
- October count deadline of October 18, 2018 did not allow staff time to qualify students.
- PSD intends to return to the qualification model of secondary factors.

Board discussion included:

- Reversal of course will not allow PSD to collect lost funding.
- Policy required in the annual report could not be reversed midstream.
- Community notification was not conducive due to 14-day turnaround time.
- An update will be forthcoming at a future meeting.

3.0 Agenda Planning

There was no discussion on this item.

4.0 Committee Reports

There was no discussion on this item.

Dinner session ended at 6:35 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION - (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, Madeline Noblett, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None
LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the work session meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Kipp requested Agenda Item 7.0 Committee Reports be moved to Agenda Item 6.0, and Agenda Item 6.0 Executive Session be moved to Agenda Item 7.0.

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

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

There were no community comments.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Personnel Action

4.2 RB+B Architect Fee for Zach Elementary Addition

4.3 2019-2020 School Year Calendar

4.4 Bulk Fuel Provider

4.5 School-Based Student Fee Schedules

4.6 Colorado Department of Education Colorado Computer Science Education (CSed) Grants for Teachers Program Application

4.7 Dust Collection Systems Replacement

4.8 Cooperative Agreements for Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT

4.9 Workers Compensation

Director Donovan requested Action Items be added to the Agenda, and Consent Agenda 4.7 be moved to Action Items.

Director Reed requested Consent Agenda 4.2 be moved to Action items.

Director Donovan moved to approve the remaining recommended items on the Consent Agenda.

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

5.0 INFORMATION REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Connect First Partnership

Bohemian Foundation members Cheryl Zimlich, Jodie Riesenberger and Sara Maranowicz discussed the community-school district partnership Connect First and provided background information. Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen and Director of Research and Evaluation Dwayne Schmitz provided an update on the progress of three initiatives established through the partnership and confirmed the collaboration is designed to build strong relationships between local non-profits, funders and PSD to realize better outcomes for PSD students.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Student achievement and outcomes continue to improve.
- Leaders across sectors are speaking from the same script.
- Community partnerships continue to expand.
- Leaders are empowering data-driven action across our community.

Board discussion included:

- PSD can monitor progress from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.
- Partners dialogue with PSD regarding data interpretation and use, communication with students and best practices for student success.
- Participants align with PSD to share data for program improvement and bridge student gaps to gain credits.
- Parents are required to opt-in to facilitate sharing of student information between organizations.
- Community graduation rates are the main area of interest.
- Investment in training and assessment through TS Gold has been successful and determined to be a valuable assessment instrument.
- Grant applications benefit from using the data results and success rates.
- Current partnership includes the Fort Collins library.

5.2 Priority Improvement Plan Update

Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen provided an update on the Priority Improvement Plan requested by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for Stove Prairie Elementary School and Lincoln Middle School.

Schools in a Status Plan are required to take the following steps:

1. Parent/guardian notification of SPF status.
2. Public meeting to discuss possible additions to the school's improvement plan.
3. Board review and approval of preliminary priority improvement plan.
4. Early submission of preliminary Priority Improvement Plan to CDE for review on or before January 15, 2019.

Stove Prairie Elementary School Principal Tom Schachet spoke about the Priority Improvement Plan.

- An appeal was issued to the CDE for a status change and a ruling is expected by December 10, 2018.

- Need for improvement in specific content areas was identified prior to receiving the improvement plan.
- Small school population makes individual student impact large.
- Areas for improvement have been identified in Mathematics and Writing.

Strategy for Improvements:

1. Emphasis on vertical teaming.
2. Early intervention.
3. Focus on written expression in cross-curriculum work.

Lincoln Middle School Principal Penny Stires spoke about the Priority Improvement Plan.

- School improvement encompasses more than test data alone.
- 95% of Lincoln students completed the Student Connection Survey and feedback indicates students are engaged in more than education.
- Lincoln is applying for a grant to hire a process analyst.

Strategy for Improvements:

1. Emphasis on common course impact teams for Language Arts and Math.
2. Writing across the curriculum.
3. READ act.

Board discussion included:

- Growth data clarification was requested for Lincoln Middle School.
- Presently 101 Lincoln students are on the READ Act Plan and participate in a daily 50-minute literacy class.
- Writing and literacy skills are currently used as curriculum.
- Staff actively monitored testing and witnessed student participation, creating confusion surrounding zero grade results.
- Test scores are received from the state without supporting examples.
- Lincoln Middle School asked the state for and received a sample of student work for those receiving a zero score.
- Staff are aware of areas in need of improvement.
- Parents should be educated on the importance of testing.
- Messages regarding the importance of testing preparation will be placed on a dual-language marquis as well as in the school newsletter and parent callouts for Lincoln Middle School.
- Test scores may not be a true reflection of understanding the material.
- Test fatigue may impact results.
- Procurement of a \$25,000 grant would add an extra resource for learning.
- Requests for one full-time in-house substitute at both Stove Prairie Elementary School and Lincoln Middle School were requested.

Meeting recessed at 9:03 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:13 p.m.

5.3 Student Experience

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen and Director of Innovation Scott Elias provided an update on the Student Experience as well as work being done on the Futures Lab.

Board discussion included:

- Center aligns with the Workforce Development Board.
- Fort Collins business community has expressed interest in growing our own talent.
- Community businesses place value on students with soft skills such as entrepreneurial and global professionalism.
- Many positions in Fort Collins do not require a college degree and some companies will hire students directly from high school.
- Work on existing schools is equally important to work on new schools.
- Board members are invited to attend site visits.
- Community outreach is important.
- Existing schools are asked to capitalize on instruments in place and to think outside of the box on maker spaces.
- Student experience includes solving their own problems.
- New Prospect and Wellington sites are ahead of schedule.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Dust Collection Systems Replacement

Director Kipp moved that the Board allow the Executive Director of Finance to execute a Limited Scope Agreement and thereby approve and authorize the issuance of a District purchase order to Air Pro for the replacement of dust collection systems at the nine middle schools and five high schools in the amount of \$433,844.00, which will be offset by the Best Grant funding of \$130,885.12.

Director Petterson 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 discussion included:

- BEST grant was received for completion.
- Marijuana revenue is part of the funding.

6.2 RB+B Architect Fee for Zach Elementary Addition

Director Reed moved that the Board approve the contract with RB+B for architectural design and contract administration services associated with the Zach Elementary addition as authorized in the November 2016 bond election.

Director Petterson 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 discussion included:

- Beginning of District projects authorized by the bond is notable.
- PSD is fulfilling a promise to start building schools as soon as possible.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Sub-committee:

- Voters were reminded election day is in two weeks.
- Concern was expressed about Amendment 74 and Proposition 109.
- Amendment 74 involves ramifications that could negatively affect school finances.
- Proposition 109 places transportation above education.
- Board supports Amendment 73 which would improve funding for education in Colorado.

8.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Gutowsky 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 feedback on the Superintendent's job performance. Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Superintendent Sandra Smyser, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb and Assistant Board Secretary Jill Brunner.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

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 10:11 p.m.

Executive session ended at 12:20 a.m.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting adjourned at 12:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education