



## 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  
October 9, 2018

### **DINNER SESSION - 5:30 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

ABSENT: Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Director Draper moved the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(a) & (b) for the purpose of receiving an update from staff and legal advice concerning property acquisition and title matters related to the southeast elementary school site. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are attorney Darryl Farrington, Executive Directors Montoya and Hall, Planning Manager Willits and Board Secretary Brunner.

Vice President Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: Director Donovan

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-1

Attorney Darryl Farrington joined the executive session via telephone conference call.

Executive session began at 5:34 p.m.

Executive session ended at 5:50 p.m.

### **2.0 DISTRICT INFORMATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- District staff will continue URA/IGA negotiations with the City of Fort Collins and updates will be presented at future meetings.
- PSD recently completed another fuel bid and vendors did not meet the requirements. PSD will return to state pricing and save 10% on fuel equaling approximately \$100,000 a year.

### **3.0 AGENDA PLANNING**

- Approval for Director Petterson to participate remotely in the December meeting will be placed on a future agenda.
- Directors Kipp and Petterson expressed interest in attending the NSBA Advocacy Institute trip to Washington, D.C. in January.
- Members will receive a report regarding educational technology reorganization by the end of the semester.
- Requests were made for an update on the softball coach situation.
- Fort Collins IGA will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Consent Agenda Item 6.9 will be pulled to allow for further discussion.

### **4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen provided an update on student think-tank feedback, stating Principal Advisory groups recently gathered information from Fort Collins High School and Fossil Ridge High School. Two additional schools are scheduled to provide feedback this week.
- Legislative Subcommittee recommends strong endorsement of Ballot Issue 1A and requested Proposition 109 and Amendment 74 come before the Board for discussion at a future meeting.

Board discussion included:

- Requests were made for student think-tank members to present at an upcoming meeting.
- Cabinet and Board members are invited to attend the PSD Foundation Excellence in Education awards October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel.

Dinner session ended at 6:26 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, Madeline Noblett, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson

ABSENT: Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

LATE: None

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

President Febvre called the regular business meeting to order at 6:33 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**

Director Petterson moved to amend the agenda and add a resolution in support of Ballot Issue 1A.

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

### **4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS**

#### **4.1 CDE Promising Practices**

Director of Language, Culture and Equity John McKay spoke about the LCE Family Liaisons recently recognized by the Colorado Department of Education's Office of Family-School Partnerships for promising practices. PSD liaisons consist of 18 Spanish speaking and two Arabic speaking members. October is Family and School Partnership Month.

Honored recipients in attendance were:

- Veronica Carrillo
- Karina Autenrieth
- Marcela Santamaria
- Laura Dusbabek
- Aloha Arceo
- Amany Elkahwagy
- Aracelli Green
- Manal Hafiz

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Draper thanked the liaison members for making all students feel welcome.

#### **4.2 Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Smyser provided an update on District Happenings since the last meeting.

- Recognition of the PSD Family Liaison group
- School solar gardens
- Conversations regarding fees, school start times, student safety and bullying prevention
- New building processes
- Lobbying
- Recognition of Classified employees
- Community partnerships

- Support of blended learning in schools
- Instruction driven by 'in-the-moment' student data

### **4.3 Board Reports**

Director Petterson provided an update on Board activity since the last meeting.

In the District:

- Ribbon cutting ceremony for Laurel's Learning Garden
- Bauder 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration
- PSDs late school start-time Community Engagement sessions
- PSD Insight meeting
- District Advisory Board
- District Accountability Committee
- Shepardson Partnership breakfast
- Compass grand opening celebration
- Poudre High School conversation with the International Space Station
- Meetings with staff and Superintendent
- Signed paperwork for the bonds approved in 2016

Board Development:

- Retreat
- Legislative sub-committee

In the Community:

- Poudre River Library District Master Plan committee
- Poudre River Library Strategic Visioning workshop
- McBackpack
- PFLAG meeting
- Leap Coalitions community conversation starts on 'checking our biases'
- Tour PSD student programs at Front Range
- ABCs of LGBT lunch-and-learn with the City of Fort Collins
- Alliance for Suicide Prevention breakfast
- Grannies for Kids rally in Old Town Fort Collins
- Coloradoan's First Class scholarship luncheon
- Individual meetings with constituents
- BOE community engagement session
- PSD/City/County discussions
- Urban Renewal Authority
- CASB Board of Directors
- CASB fall regional meeting (Susan Gutowsky: 2018 McGuffey Award Winner)
- Amendment 73: presentations, handing out literature and answering questions

- Meeting with education stakeholders in CD2 with Joe Neguse

Information regarding the next community engagement session will be published on the website when details are confirmed.

## **5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Rocky Mountain High School students Beatrice Ashcraft and Alexandra Luna expressed concern about school safety and asked the Board to consider various forms of protection.

## **6.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes: September 11, 2018, September 24, 2018 (Special Meeting), and September 25, 2018**
- 6.3 Oak Leaf Solar Gardens Contract**
- 6.4 Authorizing Resolution Regarding Southeast Elementary Site**
- 6.5 Approval of Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) 2018-19 Renewal Grant Application for Compass Community Collaborative School (CCCS)**
- 6.6 School Accreditation and Request to Reconsider**
- 6.7 Legislative and Lobbying Services**
- 6.8 School-Based Student Fee Schedules**
- 6.9 Colorado Department of Education Bullying Prevent and Education Grant**

Director Petterson requested Consent Agenda Item 6.9 be pulled and placed under the Action Items agenda category.

Director Donovan moved to approve and adopt the remaining recommended actions on the Consent Agenda.

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

## **7.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Resolution in Support of Classified School Employees Week**

Director Donovan read a resolution in support of Classified School Employees Week October 8-12, 2018 and moved that the Board approve the resolution.

Vice President Gutowsky seconded the motion.

President of the Association of Classified Employees Tony Rowland spoke about the many ways classified employees support students and staff across the district and thanked the Board for noting the importance of this week.

Board discussion included:

- Classified staff are an integral part of the PSD family.
- Thank you to all classified employees for their devotion to students and making a difference every day.
- Classified employees are educators in their own way and greatly impact students.

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 Support of Initiative 1A**

Director Kipp moved that the Board take a position of support for Ballot Issue 1A.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Several Board members attended a breakfast for the Alliance of Suicide Prevention and learned there is great need for a mental health facility. Ballot Issue 1A would help provide funding.
- Improvements in mental health will positively affect the entire community.

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

## **7.3 Colorado Department of Education Bullying Prevention and Education Grant**

Director Petterson moved to support the Colorado Department of Education Bullying Prevention and Education Grant.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Bullying prevention will be added to a future meeting agenda to facilitate in-depth discussion.

- Grant would provide \$400,000 a year for three years.
- Data included in the grant is concerning.

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 2019-2020 SY Draft Calendar**

PSD Calendar Committee co-chairs Brett Larsen and Melanie Mierzwa reported on the proposed 2019-2020 calendar.

Three proposed calendars are being considered:

- Template
- Aligned days
- Aligned levels

Three goals were identified:

- Align as many days as possible across levels.
- Align start of school and transition days.
- Attempt to place more work days for staff throughout the calendar year instead of up-front.

Board discussion included:

- Calendar committee members expressed a preference to work on the calendar in the Spring.
- Support for the aligned-days schedule was unanimous but cannot be implemented due to staffing requirements set forth in the PSD Employee Agreement.
- An ideal calendar would benefit students, parents and staff.
- Calendars are not a negotiated item.
- Longer school-year options create an additional expense for the District.
- Passing of Amendment 73 could provide funding for creative calendar options.
- Proposed calendar version will be brought forward on the consent agenda at the next board meeting.
- Eliminated transition day on draft calendar is due to the requirement for contact days.
- Contact day requirements vary between levels and thereby present obstacles:
  - 173 contact days for elementary schools
  - 175 contact days for middle schools
  - 178 contact days for high schools
- Community participation on the committee is needed.

- Allowing a full week break for Thanksgiving would require placement of extra days at the beginning of the school year.
- Spring break continues to align with CSU.
- Proposed calendar has elementary grading day embedded.
- Aligned calendar is designed so 1<sup>st</sup> semester will end before holiday break.

Board recessed at 7:48 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

## **8.2 Strategic Action and Data Informed Leadership**

Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen and Director of Research and Evaluation Dwayne Schmitz provided an update regarding data-informed leadership at the District, school, team and individual levels. Specific examples were shared to demonstrate how principals and teachers take advantage of the data tools available to promote growth and achievement with students.

Meeting attendees were invited to participate in an exercise that demonstrated live question and answering, allowing the opportunity to see how quickly administration can access data through the Power BI software.

Board discussion included:

- Immediacy of data allows administrators the ability to identify at-risk students earlier.
- PSD developed this software and modifications continue based on staff requests for specific information.
- Principals and Assistant Superintendents spend a large amount of time looking at this data.
- Data informed leadership means PSD is using this data to inform leaders about their individual site.
- Software refreshes every night.

## **8.3 Safety and Security Update**

Superintendent Smyser provided an update on safety and security in Poudre School District.

- Safety and security remain a District priority.
- Informing the community about security updates must be balanced with the need for confidentiality.
- Security is an ongoing process and PSD continues to be hyper-aware.
- Thank you to all community members and organizations who currently provide resources.
- Community input continues to be taken seriously.
- Three areas of focus began in April:
  - improvements to emergency communication
  - preparedness
  - strong relationships with local authorities



- Appreciation was expressed for cabinet, administration and staff moving forward with improvements quickly.
- Recent allocation of two million dollars allowed for immediate improvements.
- Staff and student training have been offered.
- Prioritizing improvements continues.

Board discussion included:

- Staff have prioritized security needs but can go out of order if necessary.
- Proactive systems should be in place for bullying prevention and mental health.
- Cyber-bullying is an important part of the conversation.
- Students were encouraged to download the Safe-to-Tell application and asked not to open school doors for others.
- Parent and student notification of drills can be beneficial to improved communication.
- Student leadership teams are important for informing solutions.

## **9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- District Advisory Board meeting attendance was high due to school start time discussion and a conclusion or statement will be provided at an upcoming meeting.
- Legislative subcommittee will address Amendment 74 and Proposition 109 at an upcoming meeting.

## **10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education