



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
November 13, 2018

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Susan Gutowsky; Directors Nate Donovan, 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, Madeline Noblett, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 DISTRICT INFORMATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Superintendent Smyser and Assistant Superintendent Lambert attended the Blue Ribbon Schools award celebration in Washington D.C.
- PSD received awards for Academics, Closing the Achievement Gap and Rookie Teacher of the Year.

2.0 AGENDA PLANNING

- District participation in Medicaid will be decided at an upcoming meeting.
- Staff will present at the CASB conference and are completing presentations.
- School Start Times will be addressed at the next three meetings with a Board decision at the December 11 meeting.

Board discussion included:

- Smaller school districts benefit from close student and staff interaction and do not need to measure connections, allowing for measurement in other areas.
- An early decision on Start Times would allow staff more time to initiate steps.

3.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee:

- Governor-elect Polis is organizing a transitional team and accepting volunteer applications through Thursday.
- Legislators will attend the next Board meeting.

Audit Committee:

- Appreciation was expressed to the Finance team and school staff for putting processes and procedures in place for spending.

District Advisory Board (DAB):

- Focused on School Start Times at the last meeting. Equity is expected to be the discussion topic at the next meeting.

PSD Foundation:

- Thank you to Board members in attendance at the Excellence in Education dinner.

Community Outreach:

- Potential collaboration between a CSU Computer Science employee and PSD was discussed. Emphasis would be placed on professional development and computer science in schools.
- Concern was expressed regarding the high cost of building schools.

Board discussion included:

- Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) provided options for restructuring and will allow the trade of a legislative factor for a local factor. Increased student acceptance is expected.
- Transparency regarding school construction expenses may assist community members in understanding the process.
- Design process for the new school is anticipated through 2019. Bids are anticipated to go out early 2020.
- Appreciation was expressed for DAB feedback on Start Times. Meetings are held the first Monday of the month and future topics will include equity, fees, social/emotional and mental health.
- Transparency from the Finance Committee regarding contracts is appreciated.
- Lack of data from Charter schools has delayed the audit process in past years. Current Charter school data has been provided in a timely manner allowing PSD to stay on schedule.
- Board members requested an update on CPP within the next two weeks.

Dinner session ended at 6:22 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Susan Gutowsky; Directors Nate Donovan, 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, 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 regular business meeting to order at 6:30 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 National Blue Ribbon Schools

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert spoke about attending the United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon awards celebration in Washington, D.C. to honor Tavelli Elementary School for student achievement and Zach Elementary School as a high performing school.

Zach Elementary School Principal Aisha Thomas was recognized as the leader of a Blue Ribbon School for High Level of Achievement, where leadership combined with a coordinated system operating at the highest levels of efficiency create high expectations and the resulting performance.

Tavelli Elementary School Principal Christine Hendricks and Assistant Principal Shirley Woods were recognized as leaders of a Blue Ribbon School for Closing Achievement Gaps, where they are the masters at short cycle assessments and turning results around quickly to create students who are truly empowered capable learners.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Reed congratulated Principal Thomas and presented her with a certificate.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Draper congratulated Principal Hendricks and presented her with her certificate.

4.2 2018 Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert spoke about Zach Elementary School Principal Aisha Thomas and stated she was one of 11 principals out of 300 nationwide presented with the award that honors school leaders for their commitment to education and improving outcomes for all students.

Principal Thomas thanked the Board for the recognition and stated the success of Zach Elementary is a direct result of all those staff who came before her and she feels lucky to be a part of the school.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Vice President Gutowsky congratulated Principal Thomas.

4.3 CASE 2018 Reba Ferguson Memorial Rookie Principal of the Year

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert introduced Shepardson Elementary School Principal Alissa Poduska and stated she was recognized by the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) as the Rookie Principal of the Year.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Petterson congratulated Principal Poduska.

4.4 SHAPE Colorado 2018 Administrator of the Year

Leshler Middle School Physical and Health Education teachers Jo Dixon and Matt Moeller nominated Principal Tom Dodd for the award due to his belief physical education is vital to the educational process and his support of innovative thinking surrounding physical education.

On behalf of PSD and the Board, Director Donovan congratulated Principal Dodd.

4.5 Superintendent Report

Superintendent Smyser thanked those individuals who dedicated time and money to campaign for Amendment 73.

4.6 Board Report

Director Petterson provided an update on recent Board activities.

In the District:

- Lincoln, Stove Prairie, Community Connections, Project Search, Liberty Commons Elementary, Fort Collins Montessori
- District Advisory Board
- District Accountability Committee
- Early Childhood Policy Council
- Career Pathways at FRCC
- Shepardson Family STEM Night and Read-a-thon
- Poudre High Spectrum Club
- PSD Foundation Excellence in Education Dinner
- Poudre High Theater – James and the Giant Peach
- Colorado Supreme Court at Fossil Ridge
- PSD Early Childhood Health Advisory Board
- Meetings with staff
- PSD kids cooking celebration

Board Development:

- Active Board Subcommittees
 - Outreach
 - Legislative

In the Community:

- Individual meetings with constituents
- Community engagements in Fort Collins and Wellington
- McBackpack
- Larimer County Workforce Development Board
- PFLAG meeting
- Urban Renewal Authority
- Bohemian annual gathering
- ARC breakfast
- Center for Family Outreach masquerade ball
- Project Smile fundraiser
- Front Range 50th anniversary celebration
- State playoffs for softball and football
- Presented to CSU Local Government class
- CASB All-Conference and Delegate assembly
- CASB Board activities
- Amendment 73 campaigning
- Election judge

Next community engagement session coming in January – stay tuned for details.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed for all those involved with Amendment 73. Community members were given an invitation to communicate concerns about the amendment to Board members.
- Acknowledgement was given to educators who felt disrespected by the failure Amendment 73. Board members remain supportive of educators and hope to find a long-term solution for funding.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

There was no community comment.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes: October 9, 2018 and October 23, 2018**
- 6.3 School-Based Fee Schedules**
- 6.4 Colorado Department of Education Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) Exploration Supports Grant for Lincoln Middle Schools**
- 6.5 Child Nutrition Dairy Purchase**
- 6.6 Child Nutrition USDA Commodity Purchases**
- 6.7 Quarterly Financials (CAFR 6/30/2018 and 9/20/2018)**
- 6.8 External Audit Service Engagement for Data Reported to Colorado PERA**

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

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

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Resolution in Support of School Psychology Awareness Week

Director Draper read a resolution in support of School Psychology Awareness Week and moved that the Board approve the resolution.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Director of Integrated Services Sarah Belleau introduced Lead Psychologist Brittany Hudson and Rocky Mountain High School Psychologist Melanie Potyondy who thanked the Board for proclaiming school psychology week. 35 psychologists serve every school every day from preschool through high school including transition programs.

Board discussion included:

- Recognition was given to the need for school psychologists.
- Clarification was requested regarding differences between school counselors and school psychologists.

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 Enrollment Update

Planning Manager Brenden Willits, Data Analyst Anne Ligon Harding and IT Applications Support and Data Team Coordinator Betsy Westbury provided an update on the 2018-2019 preliminary enrollment for K-12 and stated final enrollment numbers will be available in January.

PSD projected enrollment is 27,058 and indicates a growth of 199 students from the 2017-2018 school year. Charter school enrollment is not included in the total. Final enrollment numbers are expected to be higher.

Board discussion included:

- Falling enrollment projections are concerning with respect to building new schools.
- Both new schools are designed to open as middle/high schools allowing time to adapt to growth as well as offer flexibility for fluctuations.
- Larimer County projected a growth of 2% over the next 5 years, with the City of Fort Collins projecting an addition of 100,000 people over next 20 years.
- Enrollment projections are determined by viewing historic trends and placing the data in a mathematical computer model to determine projections. Other data is included, principals review the information and submit recommendations to the project team for review.

8.2 Student Experience Update – Educational Options (Graduation Requirements)

Director of Curriculum and Assessment Robert Beauchamp provided an update on the Student Experience with specific focus on providing options for students to align their passions while accruing graduation credits.

Providing Education Options: Recent Work

- Expand course credit options.
 - Humanities
 - Social Studies
 - Concurrent enrollment courses and credits
 - Connect first (credit counts collaboration)

Providing Educational Options: Current/Future Work

- Expand mathematics to include computer science.
- Review career pathway courses to content credit.
- Explore allowing for 'split credits' among select elective courses.

Board discussion included:

- Increased student options are important.
- Soft skills such as communication and problem-solving are an important component of learning.
- Concurrent enrollment with Front Range Community College will continue.
- Each high school has at least one teacher credentialed to teach high school and college level courses.
- High school principals understand the benefit of having Front Range classes on campus.
- Credit can be accrued if the college class aligns with high school content.
- BOE members are invited to attend an upcoming visit to St. Vrain, Warren Tech and Cherry Creek school districts.

Board recessed at 8:10 p.m.
Board reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

8.3 School Start Times

Superintendent Smyser stated the Board initiated interest in School Start Times to closer align with medical data provided by the American Medical Association regarding the benefits of sleep for children. Staff compiled data and community input through multiple surveys as well as several community engagement sessions. PSD formed a committee to analyze the information and consider impacts including schedules, staffing, athletics and more.

Assistant Superintendent Nielsen provided an update on School Start Times.

- Feedback was provided by the District Advisory Board.
- PSD has been exploring this topic for over a year.
- Community input involved an initial survey surrounding interest with 10,000 responses. 85% of respondents indicated a shift in start time is important.
- Second survey contained 13,548 responses.
- School Start Time scenario committee includes parents, staff and community members.
- Four community engagement sessions occurred in September.
- Feedback was also provided by the District Advisory Board, student focus groups and principals.
- Committee narrowed data down to four possible scenarios:
 - 1) Current start times remain in place.
 - 2) Scenario A with a start time of 8:30 a.m. for high school.
 - 3) Scenario B with a start time of 9:00 a.m. high school/8:05 a.m. middle school/7:45 a.m. elementary.
 - 4) Scenario C with a start time of 9:00 a.m. high school/8:35 a.m. middle school/7:45 a.m. elementary.
- Scenario C contained the least amount of community interest.
- Second survey results do not present a clear mandate of strong preference for change nor for maintenance of status quo.
- Additional considerations for changing start times include field and court lighting, sports and student employment.
- Scenario B could be modified to remove late-start Wednesday for high schools.
- Board members will have an opportunity to ask staff questions at the November 27 meeting.

Board discussion included:

- Board members appreciated staff modification of scenarios based on feedback.
- Lowest survey response group was high school parents, staff and students.
- Scenario B may contain a perception of loss of late-start but students gain a late-start every day.
- Modified Scenario B may allow principals to utilize 20 extra minutes a day as they deem appropriate and could potentially maintain late-start Wednesdays.
- Major conversations regarding specific details will take place when a decision is made.
- Changes will require re-evaluation yearly.

- 2/3 of the survey respondents want change but differ on end times.
- If approved, coaches will need to become more efficient and possibly stack practices.
- Lighting of fields is a community issue and concern.
- Middle school sports would be relatively untouched. Dismissal 20 minutes later than current schedule would allow for maintenance of current schedule.
- Board should decide before involving scenarios.
- Medical community states change in sleep-needs happen around puberty, and middle school students can be considered in puberty status.
- Importance of sleep should be emphasized.
- Schools are a crucial part of the community, from educating children to lighting up neighborhoods, putting teens into the workforce, traffic impacts in neighborhoods and more.
- Beneficial to inform and educate the community as soon as possible once a decision is made.
- Concerns involving childcare, athletics and community are real and should be considered seriously.
- Current school districts who have adopted a later start time are seeing better mental health outcomes as well as improved preparedness for learning.
- There may be unknown costs incurred with any change.
- Later start time change is proactive instead of reactive.
- Board members will discuss possibility of moving the vote to the November work session.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee:

- Thank you to the Finance Team for moving PSD from a medium-sized finance model to a large-sized finance model.
- Benefits are evident in cost savings and purchasing has indirect benefits to teachers and schools.
- Thank you to the staff in schools for willingness to work with the finance team. Students are reaping the benefits of hard work.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education