



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
November 27, 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

Due to a power outage, the dinner session was held in the Board conference room.

Dinner session began at 5:40 p.m.

1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

- Action Item regarding School Start Times will include time for discussion. Interest was expressed from at least one Board member to postpone the vote.
- Clarification was requested regarding Roberts Rules protocol for amending the agenda and discussion or removal of action items.
- Power outage update: 4,000 people affected by power outage stemming from the Dixon Creek Substation at Overland Trail and Drake. Meeting proceeded as scheduled.

2.0 Agenda Planning

- Director Draper will compose resolution language to object to limitations for the rights of the LGBTQ community and present the resolution at a future meeting.
- Request was made to recess after Legislator discussion.

3.0 Committee Reports

Legislative Committee:

- Committee members will make a motion at a future meeting to remove legislation from the agenda.
- Legislators in attendance at the meeting will be given PSDs legislative agenda. Dialogue with legislators was anticipated.

Power returned at 6:08 p.m.

Dinner session ended at 6:09 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION - (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 work session meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Community member and parent Johannah Knudson spoke about anti-Semitism and hate speech in schools and stated her children have experienced derogatory statements in school for four years.

Community member Charlie Vollmer addressed School Start Times and asked the Board to consider the impact on elementary students.

Laurel Elementary School District Advisory Board Representative Michael Werner complimented the Board, PSD staff and the School Start Times Committee for the work involved and acknowledged the impressive detail involved.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Personnel Action

4.2 Electronic Attendance and Participation of Director Petterson at December 11, 2018 Board Meeting

4.3 School-Based Student Fee Schedules

4.4 Employee Self Insurance Expenditures (in excess of \$250,000)

Director Petterson requested Consent Agenda 4.4 be moved to Action Items.

Director Donovan moved to approve the remaining recommended items 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

5.0 ACTION ITEM

5.1 Employee Self Insurance Expenditures (in excess of \$250,000)

Director Petterson moved that the Board of Education approve expenditures for: (1) Standard Insurance Company in the amount of \$864,000; (2) Poudre Valley Health Care in the amount of \$1,196,400; (3) UC Health EAS Claims in the amount of \$598,300; (4) UC Health Plan Administrators in the amount of \$1,011,400 (including ratification of 8/1/18 agreement); (5) VOYA Financial in the amount of \$1,581,000; (6) Optum RX in the amount of \$5,341,900; (7) MetLife Dental Claims in the amount of \$2,409,229; and (8) UC HealthPlan Claims in the amount of \$25,800,000.; all as presented in the November 27, 2018 agenda item regarding Employee Self Insurance Expenditures (in excess of \$250,000).

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Initial report omitted a recommendation.
- Dollar amounts include claims for employee services and not administrative services.

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

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee:

- Legislative agenda will continue to include the social studies exam.

Board meeting recessed at 6:50 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

7.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS

7.1 Discussion with Legislators

President Febvre welcomed legislators and stated the meeting format would be question and answer.

Legislators in attendance were:

- Perry Buck, State House District 49
- James Thompson for Michael Bennet, United States Senate
- Dan Betts for Cory Gardner, United States Senate
- John Kefalas, State Senate District 14
- Angelika Schroeder, State Board of Education

Legislators spoke about accomplishments within their District, current issues and future goals.

Board discussion included:

- Thank you to legislators for attending.
- Based on legislation approved 40 years ago, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) should be government funded at 40 cents on the dollar instead of the current 16-17 cents on the dollar.
- Legislators would appreciate assistance with an IDEA funding request through a proposal that includes legislative language with a number or action recommended to close the gap.
- Most of school district obligations under IDEA come from the courts, who interpret the IDEA Act and if the act does not specify the court must decide intent.
- Financial shortfall is \$21.5 billion nationally and approximately \$255 million in Colorado.
- Budgetary constraints continue to go up.
- Federal mandates frequently lack federal funding for implementation and school districts must incur associated costs.
- State of Colorado will need to backfill education \$300 million if residential rates drop as anticipated.
- State Constitution declares school boards should have local control over their school districts, but interpretation of state guidelines varies by district.
- State Board of Education provides training to struggling districts.
- Narrowing the definition of gender by the current administration will negatively impact the LGBTQ community and increase the need for mental health support for students.
- Appreciation was expressed for \$225 million to keep PERA alive and affordable for employees.
- Colorado is in the bottom 10 states for per-pupil funding and districts continue to be expected to do more with less.
- Specific asks, proposals and information help representatives move forward.
- Status check was requested on 'Every Student Achieves' Act and Title I funds used for concurrent enrollment.
- Bi-partisan opioid action passed to help youth with substance abuse.
- Senate passed an education act for a grants program to identify and support innovative CTE programs.
- Goal is to create upward mobility through federal funding.

Board recessed at 8:36 p.m.

Board reconvened at 8:46 p.m.

8.0 ACTION ITEM

8.1 School Start Times

Director Kipp moved that the Board adopt Modified Option B as the plan for later School Start Times going forward.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

Vice President Gutowsky moved the Board postpone the decision to vote on the later start option until the December 11 meeting.

Director Donovan seconded the motion:

Board discussion regarding postponement of the vote to December 11 included:

- Original vote was scheduled for December 11, 2018.
- Gaps in information needed to make an informed decision exist.
- Delaying the vote would allow an opportunity to focus on real concerns presented by community members.
- Change of this magnitude with 17% of stakeholders responding to the survey is concerning. 17% response participation indicates 83% did not respond.
- Unintended consequences will likely lead to additional costs.
- School districts that implemented later start times are in the 1st or 2nd year of change and cannot give conclusive data supporting change.
- Costs outweigh the benefits.
- Current trend is toward later start times.
- Family, students, staff and community will incur significant disruption.
- Individuals interested in the topic have taken the time to respond through surveys and community engagement sessions.
- School districts in 46 states have successfully implemented the later start time change.
- Positive benefits include improved mental and physical health of students.

Director Petterson called the question to end the discussion.

The voting to end the discussion 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

The voting to postpone the decision to vote until the December 11 meeting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Febvre and Gutowsky

Those voting NO: Directors Draper, Kipp, Petterson and Reed

ABSENT: None

Motion failed 3-4

Director Donovan moved to amend the main motion to specify that the implementation date of any change to later School Start Times in the Poudre School District is the 2020/2021 school year.

Vice President Gutowsky seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Specific concerns referenced as a reason to delay the vote will not likely change over the next year.
- Fear of change and fear of the unknown are possibly causing the concern.
- Biological and medical benefits to students are positive.
- Large District projects will continue over the next few years and delaying implementation will not change the scope of projects.

- Thank you to staff for the hard work on this issue.
- Benefits can be derived from allowing everyone more time to prepare for the change.
- Disruptions will occur regardless of timing of implementation.
- Voting now will allow staff and public time to adjust to the change.
- Mental health of our students should remain at the forefront of any change.
- Director Reed read a letter from a parent in another school district in support of later start times.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan and Gutowsky

Those voting NO: Directors Draper, Febvre, Kipp, Petterson and Reed

ABSENT: None

Motion failed 2-5

Director Petterson moved to amend the original motion to say that the Proposed Modified B schedule be implemented for the 2019/2020 school year.

Director Kipp 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 passes 7-0

Voting for the original motion to adopt Modified Option B as the plan for later School Start Times going forward was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passes 7-0

Board discussion for the original motion to adopt Modified Option B included:

- Educators in districts that implemented later start times are in general agreement of approval.
- PEA members were asked three times to submit comments for School Start Times to the Board.
- Mill levy money allowed PSD to address some mental health issues this year.
- Later start times for high school students will be a proactive measure and will provide the best opportunity for students to learn.
- Thank you to community members, staff and students who attended community engagement sessions as well as completed the on-line surveys.
- Studies have cited benefits of sleep from alertness to fewer automobile accidents, improved student mood and overall health.
- Benefits of additional sleep based on research is undeniable, but the timing is in question.
- Healthy discussion is beneficial to best outcomes.
- When the majority supports an issue, all members support the issue. Board members will all support the School Start Time change.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education