



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
April 23, 2019

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Rob Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Naomi Johnson 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

Items to be discussed tonight include an update on the Lincoln Middle School sidewalk, status of the Futures Lab and agenda planning.

Executive Director of Operations Pete Hall provided an update on the proposed trail connection running through Lincoln Middle School property.

Board discussion included:

- Fencing on the west side of the path will separate students from pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-students.
- Proposed easement language will allow the City to cross school property.
- Students utilizing the trail will access Lincoln Middle School at the corner of Lancer Drive and the school parking lot.
- Rangers will monitor the trail.
- Anticipated open of the easement section is summer of 2019.
- Further information will be provided at the May 28 Board meeting.

Other items:

- Negotiations were productive and a tentative agreement exists. Next meeting to finalize is May 8.
- Preliminary budget reflects everything up to the COLA.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Johnson moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss matters concerning the acquisition of real property for a Futures Lab site and other purposes, to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations and to instruct the negotiators, all as authorized under C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(a) & (e). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal &

Policy Counsel Crabb, Assistant Superintendents Nielsen and Lambert, Executive Directors Hall and Montoya, Director Bryant, Planning Manager Willits; and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

Executive session began at 5:39 p.m.

Executive session ended at 6:02 p.m.

3.0 AGENDA PLANNING

- Future report on Student Based Budgeting (SBB) was requested.
- Mental Health Matters seminar at RMHS was amazing.
- Request was made for a future agenda item regarding the status of health centers in schools as well as potential inclusion into the new buildings.

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative subcommittee:

- Appreciation was expressed for work by Assistant Superintendents Lambert and Nielsen on the Read Act.
- Requests for Board members to represent PSD in Denver may be forthcoming.
- Amendments to the Read Act specify accountability. PSD likes the intent but the proposed campaign does not feel appropriate.
- Read Act is designed to identify struggling readers and bring them up.

Dinner session ended at 6:25 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION - (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Rob Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Naomi Johnson 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 6:32 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Petterson moved that the Agenda be amended to add a new Action Item 5.2, entitled "Termination of Contract to Buy and Sell Real Estate (Commercial) dated February 22, 2019 with a mutual execution date of February 25, 2019 for the District to purchase a building and grounds located at 4862 Innovation Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Director Johnson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

PSD parent and local farmer Jeff Randall stated he appreciated the article in the Coloradoan regarding the need to charge more for District property and expressed interest in farming and grazing the properties.

Association of Classified Employees President Tony Rowland spoke about the recent staff negotiations and asked the Board and community to support a mill levy override to allow classified staff to make a living wage.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Personnel Action**
- 4.2 Non-renewal of Employee Contracts**
- 4.3 Instructional Materials Adoption for Early Childhood Education**
- 4.4 School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP) Contract**
- 4.5 Colorado Department of Education McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Grant**
- 4.6 Early Literacy Grant**
- 4.7 Centennial High School 2019-2020 Application/Renewal for Alternative Education Campus Designation**
- 4.8 Poudre Community Academy 2019-2020 Application/Renewal for Alternative Education Campus Designation**
- 4.9 Infant Toddler Childcare Services Contract at Poudre School District Global Academy**
- 4.10 Quarterly Financials 3/31/2019**
- 4.11 2019-20 Student and Staff Technology Device Refresh**

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

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Farming and/or Grazing of Poudre School District Owned Land at Mountain Vista and Cherry Heights

Director Johnson moved that the Board Education approve and properly execute the Annual Lease for Farming and/or Grazing of Poudre School District Owned Land with M. Gaffield and the Annual Lease for Farming and/or Grazing of Poudre School District Owned Land with Schnorr Farms, Inc. as presented in the Board Agenda.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Important to understand individuals currently on the land are not in question ; the process used to lease the land is in question.
- Concern was expressed leases were returned as written from the prior year.
- Local farmer recently communicated willingness to meet requirements and double the asking price to Board members.
- Staff fulfilled the Board request from previous meeting to investigate fair market value and return to current occupants with a contract for the increased price.
- Concern was expressed regarding the lack of an official bidding process.
- Recommendation made to allow current occupants to stay on the land and change leasing process in December.
- Staff should solicit other governmental agencies and real estate professionals with more experience to assist in a potential bidding process.
- Approval of lease as presented is not a competitive bid.
- Additional \$8,000 offered by individual tonight fulfills a fiduciary obligation to students.
- Questions were raised about the return on investment versus the cost for personnel involvement; may be beneficial to hire property managers.
- Uncertain how long PSD will keep the properties in question.
- Property value and potential mineral assets should be ascertained.
- Individuals currently on the land are known entities and historical use of the land and leases worked well.
- Allowing unknown entities to lease land for a profit is risky.
- Focus should remain on students; seeking a process with methodology can be pursued with time to establish a better proposal.
- Mr. Randall reviewed the contracts and is ready to sign tonight for the increased amount.
- Clear direction must be given to staff for next year.
- Last minute decisions of this magnitude are uncomfortable; concern exists the \$8,000 profit may be lost in other ways through the process.
- Suggestion was made to either vote on current lease before the Board or wait until the next meeting for a revised process.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Draper and Febvre

Those voting NO: Directors Anderson, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

ABSENT: None
Motion failed 3-4

Board recessed at 7:10 p.m.
Board reconvened at 7:14 p.m.

Second Motion

Director Petterson moved to authorize the superintendent on behalf of the Board to sign annual leases for farming and/or grazing of Poudre School District owned land on Cherry Heights and Mountain Vista using our contracts of form here, our normal contracts, in fact the ones that were in the packet today, however with the lessee in both cases changed to Jeff Randall for VHN Resources LLC and the amounts changed to \$350 for the Cherry Heights lease and \$15,912 for the Mountain Vista lease.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Contract review by staff is requested prior to Superintendent signature.
- Board members were asked to divulge if anyone knew Jeff Randall; no declarations were made.
- Lease terms dictate how the land is to be used.
- Authorizing the superintendent is different than mandating.
- Vetting of the lessee would require a motion to amend.
- Discomfort was expressed at voting for an unknown entity.
- Request was made to take financial offer from Mr. Randall to the current land occupants for a counter offer.
- Expressions of concern are different from making a motion to amend.
- Email and letter from Mr. Randall indicates he is willing and prepared to lease the land.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper and Febvre

ABSENT: None

Motion failed 3-4

Third Motion

Director Anderson moved to authorize the Superintendent to go back to the first parties to find out if they are willing to match the offer, and if they are we can agree to that and if they don't we will sign with Mr. Randall.

There was no second.

Motion failed.

Fourth Motion

Director Donovan moved that the Board direct staff to bring back another proposal, which might include the entity that we were about the lease to, at a future meeting.

President Febvre seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Concern was expressed regarding the potential negative impact on spring planting due to waiting three weeks for a new proposal.
- Staff brought a new lease to this meeting at the Boards request.
- Board should provide sufficient direction to staff for implementation of the request in order for the motion to be possible.

Director Donovan withdrew the motion; President Febvre agreed.

Fifth Motion

Director Donovan moved to reconsider the motion that the Board Education approve and properly execute the Annual Lease for Farming and/or Grazing of Poudre School District Owned Land with M. Gaffield and the Annual Lease for Farming and/or Grazing of Poudre School District Owned Land with Schnorr Farms, Inc. as presented in the Board Agenda.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan, Draper and Febvre

Those voting NO: Directors Anderson, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

ABSENT: None

Motion failed 3-4

Sixth Motion

Director Petterson moved to not have any leases on the land for this calendar year, to ask the current lessees to leave, for us to maintain the property as needed between now until the end of this year and to direct staff to come back with a proposal about what to do about these lands and lands like them in the future for the next calendar year in a timely fashion.

There was no second.

Motion failed.

Seventh Motion

Director Reed moved that we lease the property to Mr. Randall under his LLC for \$350 for Cherry Heights, for \$15,912 for the Mountain Vista site, and we direct the Superintendent to execute the contract.

Director Johnson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Johnson Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: Directors Donovan, Draper and Febvre

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 4-3

5.2 Termination of Contract to Buy and Sell Real Estate (Commercial)

Director Petterson moved that the Board approve the Resolution to Terminate Contract to Buy and Sell Real Estate (Commercial) as presented by the District Administration at tonight's meeting.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Proposed building will not meet the school needs set forth by staff.
- Staff have been hired and Futures Lab will progress as planned.
- Board is enthusiastic about the concept and execution of the Futures Lab.
- Staff will continue to look for a space that fully meets the needs of the anticipated innovation.

Board recessed at 7:37 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

Superintendent Smyser spoke about school closures last week due to a security threat and thanked staff for the middle-of-the-night work performed in a professional, calm and productive manner. Special thanks expressed to local law enforcement who stepped in immediately and helped establish a Heightened Awareness Protocol for future use.

Board members expressed gratitude to the Superintendent for the leadership demonstrated during difficult decision making and for execution on behalf of students.

6.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS

6.1 Long Range Planning and Construction Update

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen and Construction Services Manager Earl Smith provided an update on long range planning and construction.

Board discussion included:

- Larimer County directed PSD to annex Wellington.
- Goal to open Wellington schools early still exists but it is too early to predict.
- Questions were raised about possibility of a wellness center in new schools.
- Groundbreaking event for Zach Elementary is scheduled for April 29 at 2:00 p.m.
- One modular from Zach will be relocated to Riffenburg in early June; two other modulares will be stored.
- Wellington will maintain student numbers next year and does not anticipate a need for additional modulares.
- Transportation hub at Wellington includes parking of a few busses.
- Schools are getting creative about use of old furniture; some furniture going to flooded schools that lost furniture.
- \$40 million dollars will be distributed to schools over 4 years.
- Schools may have regular projects that are not part of the bond improvement taking place at the same time as bond improvements.
- Schools prioritized individual needs and communicated those to administration.
- Futures Lab will include 100 students for the fall at FCHS.

- Two lead teachers and an office manager were hired for the Futures Lab.
- High schools will establish a timeline for registration and coordinate with a counselor.
- Transportation will be finalized after student needs are identified.
- Futures Lab graduation credits will be replacement credits for the first year.
- Classes at Futures Lab will primarily be scheduled at the beginning and end of the day.

6.2 Principles of Community

Director of Language, Culture and Equity John McKay presented the new area of Principles of Community through the framework for equity, diversity and inclusion and stated all people need to be seen.

Board discussion included:

- Board members can assist through feedback.
- Information and Technology department is working on recognition of different cultures and genders in Synergy.
- Student report to CDE must contain legal information and status.
- Content standards are skill based but certain components require vertical articulation.
- Stages of development are important to recognize.
- Easily recognizable heritage can come with bias.
- Important to teach students how to celebrate heritage and differences.
- Increases in varied races, sizes and religions have been noted recently in text books; students can find themselves in curriculum.
- Teachers find learning opportunities and teachable moments within existing curriculum.
- Lapses in diversity understanding are generally good intentioned and rarely malicious.
- Goal is to make a systemic impact within PSD through value statements and recognition of words like inclusion, integrity, service and action.
- Time has come to address these issues; community is calling for it and students deserve it.
- Teacher training for common language may occur; Board members may be interested in training as well.
- Gratitude was expressed for hard work on diversity completed by staff.

6.3 Preliminary Budget FH2019-20

Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya and Budget Director Brett Parsons presented the preliminary budget for 2019-2020 and explained this is a draft budget that will continue to be revised as information becomes available.

Board discussion included:

- Assuming tentative agreement is approved, the average license agreement is approximately 4.4%.
- Employee PERA contributions will change.
- Legislative session ends May 3.
- Budget will come back to the Board on May 28.
- Allocation methodology of Read Act Funding is unknown.
- Risk Related Activities are insurance related activities.

- Payment of Claims means cash on hand for workers compensation claims and are a non-spendable resource with a 3rd party holding the funds.
- Activities funds are intentionally inflated to cover potential activities for students.
- Gratitude was expressed for the hard work from staff on behalf of the district.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Legislative sub-committee will hold a meeting Thursday at the Old Town Library, Study Room D at 11:00 a.m.
- PSD Foundation breakfast is tomorrow at Fort Collins High School at 7:00 a.m.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner

Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education