



Poudre School District Board of Education

2407 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521 • 970-490-3607

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Special Meeting
Board of Education Retreat 4:00 PM
June 27, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING – 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Rob Petterson, Directors DJ Anderson, Kristen Draper, Naomi Johnson and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Dave Montoya and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Donovan arrived at 4:11 p.m.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Fifth Addendum to Second Revised Superintendent Contract

Director Johnson moved that the Board authorize and approve the attached Fifth Addendum to Second Revised Superintendent Contract, and authorize the Board President to sign the Fifth Addendum attested by the Board Secretary.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Donovan

Motion passed 6-0

2.2 Liberty Common School Second Amended Charter School Contract

Director Johnson moved that the Board approve the Second Amended Charter School Contract, including the Exhibits attached thereto, and authorize the Second Amended Charter School Contract to be signed by the Board President attested by the Board Secretary.

Director Petterson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Waiver updates are included in Exhibit F.

- Contract is for 5 years.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Donovan

Motion passed 6-0

3.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- President Febvre explained the process of a retreat to new Board members.
- Gratitude was expressed for the ability to work through multiple items over the past month.

3.1 Board/Superintendent Relationship Discussion: Legal Services in 2019-2020 SY

Board discussion included:

- Research of other comparable school districts indicated in-house counsel reports directly to the Superintendent with some Board support.
- District will work with outside counsel during absence of in-house counsel.
- Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb distributed a list of outside counsel currently utilized by PSD staff.
- Clarification was requested regarding protocol for BOE contact with new counsel.
- Superintendent requested supervision over potential incoming attorney.
- Code of Professional Responsibility states the school district is the client, not the Board of Education and not the Superintendent.
- Specialized legal matters will continue to be outsourced.
- Board members requested access to counsel.
- Any employee may approach Board members with issues.
- Attorney has a limited role and does not make or second-guess decisions.
- Board by-laws could be expanded to outline how a board should engage with legal counsel.
- Board members indicated a desire to proceed with hiring in-house counsel.

3.2 Board/Superintendent Relationship Discussion: System Measurement

- Superintendent Smyser presented a slide show that outlined district progress.
- Assistant Superintendents Lambert and Nielsen presented the video 'How Does it Feel to be in Your Light' and stated principals were asked to consider the question at a recent meeting. Board members were invited to consider the question as well.

Board discussion included:

- Anticipated 2020-2021 school year will correlate specific student success with specific Impact teams.
- Results for this school year were promising; positive momentum is building.
- Important to convey data and information to members in the uplifting light of team building.

- Tough conversations can occur in a positive light through trust.
- Board advancement through building positive conversations is vital.
- Balance between celebration and accountability is important.
- Changes to the celebration format during Board meetings may be forthcoming.
- Increased Board positivity could result in increased team building.
- Board members should clarify information requests with the agenda setting team to ensure accurate staff presentation.
- Quantity of work involved in responding to 'nice to know' questions versus 'need to know' questions differs greatly.
- Expression of Board values allows staff to understand information requested by the Board.
- PSD professionals should be trusted to do their work with an understanding deep level data requires an interruption; resources spent to get data to Board should be considered.
- Board members requested information on opportunities to speak positively about PSD.

3.3 Board/Superintendent Relationship Discussion: Construction, Vision, Operations and Oversight

Superintendent Smyser and Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya spoke about the process involved to keep construction moving.

Board discussion included:

- Contracts should be presented to the Board with consistency.
- Idea-to-action is balanced with 'should the Board know about this'.
- Gross maximum price is set by the budget.
- Budgets are defined by the bond list from years ago incorporated with the current list.
- Anything above \$250,000 comes before the Board for approval.
- Friday updates regarding spending would be appreciated.

3.4 Board/Superintendent Relationship Discussion: Clarity Around Decision-Making Process

Board discussion included:

- Medicaid was an exception to the general Board decision-making process.
- Background of Medicaid Reimbursement process was explained to new members.
- Pros and cons of participation in Medicaid reimbursement program should be discussed by next year.
- Conclusion was reached to allow Superintendent to make Medicaid decision.
- Request was made to clarify Board versus Superintendent decision-making.
- Understanding of staff threshold to take on another heavy lift is best understood by Superintendent.
- Increased mental health through outside collaboration would be ideal.
- Board members should communicate with President and Vice President regarding items of importance.

3.5 Mill Levy Override Discussion

Director Anderson provided an update.

Board discussion included:

- PEA discussed request for \$16 million dollars.
- Survey will test proposed ballot language and values for money use.
- Portion of money would likely go toward mental health.
- Survey to be administered to 400 people.
- Directors Anderson and Donovan will represent the Board.
- Ballot language will bind future Boards so language should be carefully constructed.
- Teacher participation will be required for success of mill levy.

3.6 2019-2020 SY Board Activities Calendaring

Board discussion included:

- Survey results to be discussed at July 30 meeting.
- Director Petterson requested off-site participation in July 30 meeting.
- Retreat may be scheduled for October 10 and could include topics of mental health, expulsion and discipline data, teacher turnover, SBB and more.
- Principals value site-based decision making.
- Future agenda topic regarding a partnership with Summit Stone counselors was discussed.
- Current SBB model is 12 years old and includes slight modifications through the years.
- Appreciation was expressed for changes to the Friday update.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education