



# 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  
August 28, 2018

### DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Susan Gutowsky; Directors Kristen Draper, Nate Donovan, Cathy Kipp and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: Director Carolyn Reed

LATE: None

The dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

### 1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya spoke about the process for issuing bonds, stating the landscape has changed since 2016 and PSD can issue 375 million dollars to mitigate risk.

Factors:

- Interest rate risks: Interest rates have risen over the past two years and it is suspected long term rates will increase. Waiting could cost taxpayers additional cost in interest.
- Bond redemption fund: PSD collected 33 million dollars levying for unissued bonds so cash is available to provide toward debt. PSD will use the reserve created and apply it to principal as soon as possible but must maintain legal spending parameters outlined in the ballot question.
- Cost of Issuance: Each time the District issues bonds there is a cost to engage the market. By only going to market once the District will save \$300,000-\$500,000.
- Market Driven Premium: Institutional investors buy bonds to create long portfolios for their business. Each time PSD goes to market costs increase so it is preferred to go to market once. The market driven premium will likely go up.

Summary:

- PSD must spend 85% of proceeds within 3 years or penalties will be assessed.
- District can issue as much or as little as it wants right now.

Board discussion included:

- Availability of constructions firms is a possible risk.
- Projects could be combined to accelerate timelines.
- 85% includes all proceeds.
- Two issuances of bonds may be risky due to uncertain economy.
- RBC maintains extremely conservative models.

- PSD maintains a bond fund balance for times of uncertainty.
- Other school districts voting to sell bonds in November started the process after PSD.
- Audit committee feels PSD should issue the full amount if possible.
- Requests were made for the audit committee to provide formal information to the Board at a future meeting.
- Documents should be ready for the September 11, 2018 Board meeting for action, with funds in the bank around September 22, 2018. Rating agencies are lined up and presentations are ready to go.
- Land purchase in Wellington will take a few months to close after getting cash. PSD can begin making contracts as soon as bonds are for sale.
- PSD intends to be transparent and straightforward during this process.

## **2.0 Agenda Planning**

There was no discussion on this item.

## **3.0 Committee Reports**

There was no discussion on this item.

## **4.0 Executive Session**

Director Donovan moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) to confer with the District's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on issues concerning the litigation in Denver District Court Case Number 2018CV32901. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Director Kipp recused herself from voting on whether the Board should go into executive session.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

ABSTAIN: Director Kipp

Motion passed 5-0

Executive session began at 6:07 p.m.

Executive session ended at 6:25 p.m.

Director Kipp was not in attendance for the Executive Session.

Dinner session ended at 6:25 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Susan Gutowsky; Directors Kristen Draper, Nate Donovan, Cathy Kipp and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen;

Executive Directors Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: Director Carolyn Reed  
LATE: None

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Febvre called the work session meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Kipp moved the Board add a Discussion Item for the first reading of a resolution in support of Amendment 73.

Director Gutowsy seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

**3.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS**

**3.1 First Week of School Reflection – Superintendent Smyser**

Superintendent Smyser introduced a video from the first week of school.

**4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

There was no community comment.

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**5.1 Personnel Action**

**5.2 Meeting Minutes: June 12, 2018 and June 14, 2018 (Special Meeting)**

Director Donovan requested Consent Agenda 5.1 Personnel Action be moved to Action Item 6.2.

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

Vice President Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

## **6.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Litigation Regarding HB18-1306**

Director Petterson moved that the Superintendent and Legal & Policy Counsel be directed to take the necessary steps to remove Poudre School District as a plaintiff in the litigation challenging the pupil transportation section of HB 18-1306 in Denver District Court Case Number 2018CV32901 given that the Board of Education never took action to authorize Poudre School District's participation in that litigation.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Philosophical support for the lawsuit exists for reasons including the bill potentially violates the single subject law, last minute additions to the bill changed the intent of the legislation and Governor Hickenlooper expressed dismay with the bill as passed.
- PSD exclusion as plaintiff is partially due to recent expenditures of time and money for two years of litigation, several new building projects and a potential district-wide school start time shift.
- Appreciation was expressed for those leading the litigation.
- Litigation is one avenue to inform legislators constituents are unhappy about passing poor legislation.
- Reminders were given not to shy away from litigation when important matters are at stake.
- Director Kipp is a personal plaintiff on this litigation and does not represent the Board.
- PSD has indirect representation through membership in CASB and CASE.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: Director Donovan

ABSTAIN: Director Kipp

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 4-1

### **6.2 Personnel Action**

Director Petterson moved that the Board approve the Human Resources Personnel Action dated 8.28.18 revised as delivered to our seats.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

## **7.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

## **7.1 Learning Services Update**

Assistant Superintendent Todd Lambert provided an update on the reorganization of administrative office positions and stated an increased workload requires efficiency of time through reducing one-hour meetings to 30 minutes, careful and intentional scheduling and reliance on a newly formed group named the Learning Services Team.

Learning Services Team members in attendance were:

- Director of Professional Learning and Development Kate Canine
- Director of Innovative Learning Environment Design Scott Elias
- Director of Integrated Services Sarah Belleau
- Director of Language, Culture and Equity John McKay
- Director of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Robert Beauchamp
- Director of Student Services Darcie Votipka
- Director of Research and Evaluation Dwayne Schmitz

Each team member brings advocacy for a specific student population to the group. Coordination of key instructional leaders will allow for growth in the system through the following actions:

- Increase student choice to ensure interest and passion match available courses.
- Allow for student voice and advocacy during career and academic planning.
- Develop three year professional development structure that includes all staff.
- Analyze connections survey data to inform and support school-based efforts.

Board discussion included:

- Descriptions of team member advocacy for students was powerful and moving.
- Principals developed activities during recent leadership training and will educate staff at their site.
- New team perspective and viewpoint is a powerful shift.
- Career Cruising data is shared with teachers with a goal toward student self-advocacy.
- Connections Survey can reveal site-based student advocates.
- Board is thankful for empathy brought to the student experience.
- Expectations for the team are high and transparency with open dialog will be forthcoming as a norm.

## **7.2 Student Experience – Post Secondary and Workforce Readiness**

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen presented information on the student experience as it relates to post-secondary and workforce readiness, stating the first leadership meeting occurred today with extensive discussion surrounding building the capacity of the individuals they are leading.

- Career Cruising results indicated a large increase in student completion of Career Matchmaker. Information was shared with principals. Students who took the survey recognize connection to personal career and academic planning. Increased participation is expected in the future.
- NoCo Inspire connects high school students in PSD to Northern Colorado employers and community mentors. Currently 15 businesses participate with 50 opportunities for students with the

expectation of substantial increase. The goal is to connect student passion and interests to post-secondary work force.

Board discussion included:

- 2017-2018 survey results indicate largest area of interest surrounding aeronautical engineering.
- All schools participating in Career Cruising have access to NoCo Inspire.
- Students not participating in Career Matchmaker are currently unidentified.
- Important for students to see their passion connected to their learning.
- Naviance was adult focused. Career Cruising is student focused.
- Post-secondary workforce readiness work previously handled by a few staff members is now absorbed across the system by many staff members.

Board recessed at 8:31 p.m.

Board reconvened at 8:41 p.m.

### **7.3 Discussion on Resolution for Amendment 73**

Director Kipp spoke about Amendment 73 and requested Board support and approval of the resolution.

Board discussion included:

- Board members support the resolution and requested document edits.
- Directors Petterson and Kipp volunteered to form a committee to edit the resolution.
- Edits to include accurate Colorado ranking and PSD numbers.
- Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb will review the resolution for accuracy.
- Information was requested regarding the resolution attachment, specifically if authorization and approval of school district distribution of information by the Colorado Secretary of State is accurate.
- Second reading of the resolution may take place at the September 11 meeting.
- Board members confirmed approval of legislative subcommittee work and resolution presentation to CASB.
- Legislative update requested in the next Friday update.

### **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Board meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education