



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
September 25, 2018

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Susan Gutowsky; Directors Kristen Draper, Nate Donovan, Cathy Kipp, Rob Petterson and Carolyn Reed; 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: None

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:34 p.m.

1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

Director Draper moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(d) to discuss matters concerning District security and details regarding security arrangements. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Legal and Policy Counsel Crabb; Assistant Superintendents Lambert & Nielsen; Executive Directors Thompson, Montoya, Hall & Reintsma; and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

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

Executive session began at 5:36 p.m.

Executive session ended at 6:05 p.m.

Dinner session reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

Director Draper moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss matters concerning the acquisition of real property, to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations concerning the real property acquisition, to develop strategy for those 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 and Policy Counsel Crabb, Assistant Superintendents Lambert and Nielsen, Executive Directors Hall and Montoya, Planning Manager Willits; and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

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

Executive session began at 6:07 p.m.

Executive session ended at 6:28 p.m.

2.0 Agenda Planning

There was no discussion on this item.

3.0 Committee Reports

There was no discussion on this item.

Dinner session ended at 6:29 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, Rob Petterson and Carolyn Reed; 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: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the work session meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Community member Eric Sutherland expressed concern 5% of his tax dollars are going toward some place other than education and stated fortunately PSD is not getting hurt by it.

Community member Brian Dwyer stated Timnath is currently getting 3.8 million dollars from taxes and he would like to understand why.

Community member Colleen Hoffman requested a flow chart from the Board explaining where tax money is spent and stated she is willing to pay her fair share to help PSD but is not interested in paying Timnath 3.8 million dollars.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Personnel Action

4.2 2019 Legislative Agenda

4.3 Assurances of Student Attendance and Participation in Multi-District Online Program for Poudre Global Academy

Director Donovan requested Consent Agenda 4.2 be moved to Actions Items.

Director Petterson moved to approve the remaining recommended items on the Consent Agenda.

Director Donovan 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 ITEMS

5.1 CASB Resolutions

Director Kipp reported on the legislative sub-committee recommendations to CASB and asked for questions, concerns and direction.

Resolutions 1, 2 and 3: recommend

Resolution 4: recommend

Resolution 5: recommend

Resolution 6: neutral

Resolution 7 and 8: recommend

Resolution 9: no

Resolution 10: neutral

Resolutions 11, 12 and 13: recommend

Resolution 14: no

Resolution 15: no

Resolution 16: yes contingent upon anticipated language changes

Resolution 17: neutral

Resolution 18: neutral

Resolution 19: no

Resolution 20: recommend

Resolution 21: neutral

Resolution 22, 23 and 24: recommend

Resolution 25: neutral

Resolution 26: recommend

Resolutions 27 and 28: neutral

Resolution 29: recommend

Resolution 30: neutral

Resolution 31: no

There was no vote on this item.

5.2 School-Based Student Fee Schedules

Director Donovan moved the Board approve the school-based student fee schedules as presented in the agenda packet.

Vice President Gutowsky seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Extensive Board discussion of fees is designed to ensure equity among students.
- Transparency through early issuance of the fee schedule could assist parents in financial planning.
- Free and reduced lunch waivers are available for those who qualify. Board members are aware some families who do not qualify may struggle financially.

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

5.3 2019 Legislative Agenda

Director Donovan moved that the Board amend the proposed 2019 Legislative Agenda to include the item from the previously adopted legislative agenda which addresses the statute added by House Bill 18-1306 regarding whether districts can transport students across the boundaries of another district without that District's consent.

President Febvre seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Original intent of the bill was to transport foster children and keep them in a school they were familiar with. Last minute additions to the bill without public comment were disturbing.
- Details are unclear as to which party is responsible for payment of student transportation.
- CASB and CASE filed a lawsuit against the House Bill.
- Superintendents would generally be opposed across the state.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Donovan and Reed

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

ABSENT: None

Motion failed 2-5

Director Draper moved to adopt the recommended action for the 2019 Legislative Agenda as is.

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

6.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 District Ends 1.0 Update

Director of Research and Evaluation Dwayne Schmitz provided a broad overview of the District Ends 1.0 Update.

- PSD remains a high achievement district compared to other districts in the state.
- Student population characteristics have remained stable over the past 3 years.
- Achievement on ELA is high.
- 8th grade math achievement is slightly lower than the state. Many 8th grade math students take higher level math and do not test in this group.
- PSD achievement by ethnicity is higher than associated groups state-wide.
- Growth model is at or above the state model.
- Early literacy is high but results have declined recently and PSD is monitoring closely.
- Post-secondary matriculation demonstrates percentages and rates higher than related rates for Colorado.

Board discussion included:

- Zgain metric uses a different model to determine data.
- First year college information including GPA is relevant to how PSD prepared students. Data regarding PSD student graduation from college is difficult to find.
- Twice accelerated math students are not counted in data due to deterioration of end cap students for comparison state-wide. PSD has a large group of these students but the state does not, so PSD does not receive credit for their growth.

6.2 Equity

Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen presented an update on equity as it relates to DE 1.0 data.

- English Language Arts and Math show disparity in results for ELL and free and reduced lunch students.
- ELA median growth percentiles for additional support students are up from 2016/17.
- Math growth model for additional support students has increased since 2015/16.
- Mobility rates for additional support students have dropped since 2014/15 but remain above the state model.
- Mobility rates for economically disadvantaged students have increased since 2014/15.
- Graduation rates for Additional Support students have dropped below the state average.

- February results will determine if PSD is headed in the right direction.

Areas of action were identified:

- Data informed leadership: Principals are being trained to understand individual school data to guide staff forward.
- Inquiry process: Relationship evaluation by sharing data with principals and setting goals to move staff and improve results.
- Collective efficacy for teams: Teachers are taking specific action to meet the needs of students. Sites with protocol currently in place are seeing positive results.
- Capacity-building through activities for principals is designed to encourage collaboration.
- Communication regarding discriminatory behavior and building inclusive environments.
- Community engagement through work on the interfaith calendar with various groups, work with Jewish family representatives through a series of meetings and work with Connect First to include community input for alignment of student interests.

Board discussion included:

- Requests for a Research and Development Design report regarding growth of additional support students at a future meeting were made.
- High value is placed on closing the achievement gap and staff were asked what support or direction is needed. Administration stated some Principals have expressed the need for summer school.
- Max the Bus supports minimization of the learning gap.
- Challenges are different at individual schools. Recognizing needs, partnering with community and agencies and internal team efficacy for instruction can support schools for improvement.
- Transparency and accountability are necessary for improvement.
- Challenging teachers to look deeply into student gaps will result in improvement.
- Positive messaging of support is key.
- October 23 Board meeting will address levels of support.
- Reducing mobility could keep students in their environment for increased success.
- Data informed leadership groups generate rich conversations and principals learn from each other.
- IEP student test results are below the state average and could be caused by a system issue. Staff are aware of the data and are monitoring it.
- Students in need of support can be engaged through connections, social/emotional access and building stability to improve the student experience.

7.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS

7.1 District Budget Priorities

Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya and Budget Director Brett Parsons reported on the current district budget priorities. Setting budget priorities early is foundational.

- Social/emotional well being
- Equity and achievement gap
- Long-range planning

- Required reserve levels
- Maintenance of competitive salaries and benefits
- Ongoing budget
- Mental health

Board discussion included:

- One-time funding of 8 million dollars from the mill levy override will be available next year.
- Board contingency reserve could be increased.
- DAB budget recommendations are requested by December.
- Multi-year projections will take place approximately second semester.
- Governor budget requests will be released in November.
- Recently revealed economic forecast looks favorable and includes talk of Tabor refunds.
- PSD is in the middle of the mill levy transition.
- Budgets can be revised until January 31. Flexibility is important.
- Capital budget maintenance will be addressed this year.
- Balance of priorities with resources available is central.
- Security expenditures will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Board supports these budget priorities.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports discussed

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education