



# Poudre School District Board of Education

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

## Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Business Meeting  
March 10, 2020

### **DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Rob Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Kristen Draper and Naomi Johnson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Adams

**ABSENT:** Director Carolyn Reed

**LATE:** Director Donovan arrived at 5:46 p.m.

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

### **1.0 DISTRICT INFORMATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- RFP has been completed on before- and after-school care.
- Order of meeting agenda may change due to anticipated community member attendance.
- Board requested proactive communication regarding serious changes like cancellation of music trip due to Coronavirus, etc.
- Potential District closure due to COVID-19 virus was discussed.
- PSD cannot force individuals to stay home if ill or restrict personal travel of families.
- High school students should take laptops home daily.
- Board requested notification of school closures prior to community announcement.
- Gratitude was expressed to Administration for implementing a proactive response to the COVID-19 virus.

### **2.0 AGENDA PLANNING**

- Recognitions and Reports will be reorganized due to anticipated community attendance.
- Question was raised about student access to mental health support during the summer.
- Some mental health staffing positions are in the process of posting.

### **3.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Legislative Subcommittee

- Adams 12 and Boulder School District requested PSD support an upcoming bill regarding charter school authorization.
- Charter School criteria for student selection/acceptance should be clarified.
- Bill is scheduled to be introduced soon.
- Interest was expressed in gathering charter school feedback prior to a decision on support.

Dinner session ended at 6:17 p.m.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING - (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Rob Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper and Naomi Johnson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Adams

**ABSENT:** Director Reed

**LATE:** None

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Febvre called the regular business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Febvre led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice President Petterson moved that the Board amend the agenda to take Item 4.1 Recognitions and put that after Superintendent and Board Reports, making it 4.3.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

### **4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS**

#### **4.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Smyser spoke about PSDs response to COVID-19 and stated staff are in close communication with the health department and county agencies, relying on experts in the community to advise the District. The Larimer County Health Department will advise for any closure as well as reopening. Education will be affected if closure occurs.

Executive Director of Communications Madelyn Noblett introduced the PSD COVID-19 website, demonstrated how to access it, and explained all district decisions and announcements will be posted on the site as well as frequently asked questions to ensure parents have access to accurate information.

#### **4.2 Board Reports**

Gratitude was expressed to the PSD COVID-19 team for the demonstration of leadership, hard work with hard decisions and thoughtfulness.

#### In the District

- Cache La Poudre Elementary, Laurel, Putnam, Webber, McGraw
- District Accountability Committee
- District Advisory Board
- Discussions on getting student voice to the board through Student Think Tank(s)
- PSD Negotiations Circle
- Groundbreaking for new SE Elementary
- Naturalization Ceremony at Dunn
- Elementary Honor Choir
- Super Art Show
- Concert by Leshar Advanced Chamber Orchestra and FCHS Symphony Orchestra
- Restaurant Pop-up fundraiser at Lopez
- Fullana Committee
- Odyssey of the Mind Regional at Bolts
- Ridgebotics Robot Reveal at FRHS
- PHS Spectrum Club
- FRHS Girls Basketball Elite Eight Tournament

#### Activate Board Subcommittees

- Legislative

#### In the Community

- Meet with Constituents
- McBackpack
- PFLAG Meeting
- Center for Family Outreach Board
- URA Finance Committee
- URA Retreat
- Colorado School Finance Project
- Great Schools Thriving Communities
- State Advisory Council on Parent Involvement in Education
- CASB Board of Directors: Finance Committee
- CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee
- CASB Winter Legislative Conference
- Local Legislators' Community Town Halls

Next community engagement session planned for Wellington on March 30, 2020 (watch for confirmation or cancellation as needed) on website

#### **4.3 Colorado Music Educator Association and Music for All National Festival**

Music Facilitator Melissa Flail spoke about the strong support for the performing arts programs in the District. Seven groups were honored at the CMEA and Music for All National Festival. Those award winners in attendance were:

#### Colorado Music Educator Association Conference

- Boltz Middle School Jazz Band - Director Phuong Nguyen, Principal Brett Larsen
- Kinard Middle School Symphonic Band - Director Mike Perez, Principal Jesse Morrill
- Traut Elementary School Chimes Choir - Director Thomas Chen, Principal Alissa Kendall

On behalf of PSD and the Board of Education, Vice President Petterson congratulated the recipients and offered understanding for disappointment surrounding trip cancellations.

### **5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

PSD employee Mary Shall-Sarti spoke about the passage of the 2019 mill levy override designed to address a disparity among salaries, and expressed disappointment at a lack of consideration for Classified staff during negotiations.

PSD student Suhaas Nanayanan requested clarification on the cancellation of District events due to COVID-19 and asked the Board to consider school-sponsored events and parent-sponsored events on a case-by-case basis, with consideration of the Ocean Bowl taking place in a state with no confirmed cases of the virus.

### **6.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2020, February 25, 2020 and February 27, 2020 (Special Meeting)**
- 6.3 Colorado Department of Education School Health Professional Grant**
- 6.4 Colorado Department of Education School Counselor Corps Grant Program**
- 6.5 Revised 2020-2021 School Year Calendar**
- 6.6 Front of Classroom Display Replacement**
- 6.7 Sixth Addendum to Second Revised Superintendent Contract**

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve and adopt the recommended actions for the items on the consent agenda.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

### **7.0 ACTION ITEMS**

- 7.1 AIA Document A133-2009 Exhibit A Final Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment for the Wellington MS/HS Project**

Director Anderson moved that the Board approve it. President Febvre clarified Director Anderson was referring to the American Institute of Architects Documents A133-2009 Final Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Director of Construction Services Earl Smith provided a presentation.

Board discussion included:

- Clarification was requested on location of well field.
- Importance of a high school in this community is huge.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

## **7.2 CM/GC Services for Construction of the HVAC and Building Automation System (BAS) Upgrades at Rocky Mountain High School**

Director Draper moved that the Board approve and adopt the CM/GC Services for Construction of the HVAC and Building Automation System Upgrades at Rocky Mountain High School. President Febvre clarified members are voting on the contract.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Director of Construction Services Earl Smith provided a presentation.

Board discussion included:

- Clarification was requested on areas of the map designated “no cooling or tempering”.
- Building needs exceed the budget, so the most significant problem areas will be addressed through this improvement.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

## **7.3 Resolution in Support of the 2020 Census**

Director Draper moved that the Board approve and adopt the Resolution in Support of the 2020 Census.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Director Draper read the resolution aloud.

Board Discussion included:

- Importance of participation in the Census for the District, community and nation was conveyed.
- Accurate population count is important for allocation of funds.
- Census is safe to take without negative implications.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

#### **7.4 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.8, Communication and Support to the Board**

Director Johnson moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy EL 2.8 in her Internal Monitoring Report dated March 10, 2020, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Appreciation was expressed for continued collaboration between the Board and Superintendent.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

### **8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **8.1 Graduation Outcomes**

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen presented a report on graduation rates in PSD.

Board discussion included:

- Board values for graduation requirements were discussed.
- Some students approached Principals with concern they may not graduate in four years.
- Middle schools are using Standards Based Grading.
- Students who test equally may have academic behavior that should be augmented.
- Adult behavior can be modified to support students.

- Disparity among teacher practices can affect grades and outcomes.
- Encouragement given to continue work with principals on recognizing roadblocks for at-risk students.
- Practices are in place to teach students.
- Ideal outcomes are important but some practices need to be challenged.
- Discussion about the meaning of a high school diploma occurred.
- High School diplomas represent a different journey for each student.
- All-or-nothing credit scenario was explained.
- World Language credits are usually needed to get into college.
- Value was placed on student understanding of other cultures and governments.
- Flexibility with Math requirements was requested.
- Importance was placed on student education in Health.
- Health could be included in the Physical Education bucket.
- Financial Literacy class is important for attaining 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
- Folding Humanities into Social Studies is a good idea.
- Board members gave staff flexibility with graduation requirements within 240 credits.

## **8.2 Budget Update**

Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya and Budget Director Brett Parsons provided a budget update.

Board discussion included:

- Estimated PPR is \$8,280.13.
- 10-day holding pattern for the economic forecast exists.
- March 20 Financial Forecast may be unreliable due to current COVID-19 situation.
- Concern will be potential limit for new State expenditures and how that will affect PSD.
- Insurance increases follow industry averages.
- PERA decrease in salaries means employee rate is increasing more rapidly than the District rate.
- Budget updates will continue through the session.

## **9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Legislative Subcommittee

- Petitions for Initiative 271 should be available next week for signature.

## **10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Vice President Petterson moved that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of developing the strategy of the school district for negotiations related to the 2020-2021 collective bargaining agreement or employment contracts, as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6—402(4)(e)(III). Those invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Vicki Thompson and Dave Montoya; Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Aspen; and Board Assistant Secretary Jill Brunner.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

Executive session began at 9:36 p.m.

Executive session ended at 9:53 p.m.

#### **11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education