



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 24, 2019

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

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 Matt Bryant, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Donovan arrived at 5:41 p.m.

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

1.0 Executive Session

Director Johnson moved that the Board go into executive session to receive information regarding a teacher resignation and separation agreement, as authorized under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Assistant Superintendents Lambert and Nielsen, Executive Director Thompson, and Assistant Board Secretary Brunner.

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

Executive Session began at 5:34 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 5:44 p.m.

2.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

2.1 ELCO Agreement

Planning Manager Brenden Willits provided an update on a potential ELCO agreement.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed for staff work involved with negotiations.

2.2 Highway 1 Infrastructure

Planning Manager Brenden Willits informed members about possible infrastructure improvements on Highway 1 in Wellington.

Board discussion included:

- PSD requested a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) which will be used to determine necessary improvements.
- Discussion between PSD, County and State continue.
- PSD will not support straightening the curve on Highway 1.
- Request was made for links to Traffic Impact Studies and applications once finalized.
- Stacking issues are being addressed.

2.3 In-house Attorney Update

Executive Director of Human Resources Vicki Thompson provided a hiring update.

- Two applications received to date.
- Posting will close in approximately one week.
- Composition of interview committee was discussed.

2.4 Other Items

- Members should provide retreat information to the BOE Secretary.
- Assistant Superintendent Nielsen will address graduation photography.
- Questions were raised about a potential barrier between the Prospect site and the Kitchell estate.
- Perimeter fences will surround the Prospect site property for security.

3.0 Agenda Planning

- Director Anderson distributed the CCYes! document for review and requested a resolution be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting.
- Director Donovan distributed the book "Getting to Yes" to Directors Johnson and Anderson.

4.0 Committee Reports

There were no items discussed.

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 Matt Bryant, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson

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

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Susan McFaddin requested the Board certify the new schools under the U.S. Green Building Counsel's Leadership, Energy and Environmental Design Program and stated she believes there is a misconception of the cost to become certified.

Business owner Marinna Dilley referenced the clear bag policy introduced by the district and requested PSD consider using a non-plastic alternative to clear bags, such as those made by her company and recently approved by CSU.

Parent Dominique Perez expressed concern about a recent lock-out drill that caused her child to exhibit issues and requested PSD consider changes or improvements to the process.

Laramie School Board President Janice Marshall thanked Board members for the time, energy and work involved with supporting the school district.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Personnel Action

4.2 School Accreditation 2019

4.3 Revisions to Graduation Policies IKF-2011 and IKF-2017

4.4 New Policy IC/ICA – School Year/School Calendar/Instructional Time

4.5 Rocky Mountain High School RAMP Application

Director Donovan requested Consent Agenda items 4.2 and 4.5 be moved to Action Items.

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

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

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 School Accreditation 2019

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve the State accreditation plan assignments as noted by their preliminary performance frameworks and approve this submission to the Colorado Department of Education.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Clarification of accreditation requirements was requested.
- District can dispute what the state assigns to schools.
- Primary purpose is the accreditation levels, not the participation section.

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

5.2 Rocky Mountain High School RAMP Application

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve the Rocky Mountain High School RAMP Application as presented in the agenda packet.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Important to highlight this example of excellent work on mental health support for students.

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

6.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS

6.1 Discussion on Mental Health and Social Emotional Support in PSD

Community Comment:

Executive Director of the Alliance for Suicide Prevention for Larimer County Scott Smith spoke about his position of implementing social/emotional curriculum in school districts across Colorado, and stated PSD is ahead off the rest of the state. Increased funding and services are still needed.

Assistant Superintendents Scott Nielsen and Todd Lambert, Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator Melanie Voegeli-Morris, Integrated Services Director Sarah Belleau and Student Services Director Ruben Chacon discussed mental health and social emotional support in PSD.

Board discussion included:

- Mental health needs outweigh resources.
- Rate of suicide for Colorado teens has increased 58% in the last three years.
- One in five adolescent deaths in Colorado is by suicide.
- Suicide assessments take place in elementary, middle and high schools at equal rates and are increasing.

- District is progressive in gender support plans.
- Use of community partners is increasing and consolidation of resources will be beneficial.
- Standardized social/emotional curriculum combined with specialized professional development is beneficial to teachers and students through creation of a common language.
- Some elementary schools do not have in-house counselors.
- Increased activity in prevention is important to success.
- Health District is assisting PSD in vaping intervention and prevention.
- Healthcare centers in each school that cover physical and mental health would be ideal.
- Questions were raised about communication of student needs to non-teacher professionals like food service, custodial, bus drivers, etc.
- Mental health experts in each building would alleviate the need to educate every teacher in the district as well as provide support to staff.
- MTSS model exists in each building.
- Trauma informed practices vary at each school.
- Summitstone offers 'Mental Health First Aid' for parents.
- Families and students are turning to schools for mental health support more frequently than in the past.
- National conversation surrounding emergency drills is taking place.
- Difficult to communicate through drills without causing anxiety to some students.
- Drills are necessary.
- Staff are affected by drills as well as students.
- Gratitude was expressed for the hard work done on behalf of students.

Board recessed at 8:31 p.m.

Board reconvened at 8:38 p.m.

6.2 District Budget Priorities

Budget Director Brett Parsons provided information regarding budget priorities.

Board discussion included:

- Equity and Achievement Gap will be placed on District Ends for 2020-2021.
- 'Social and Emotional Wellbeing' category was changed to 'Supporting Student Mental Health' for 2020-2021; request was made to maintain social and emotional language.
- Initial priorities to be established during meeting tonight.
- Economic forecasts in December affect budget priorities in January.
- District Accountability Committee is State mandated.
- Revenue forecasts are announced on the 20th day of each quarter.
- March 20 forecast is used for figure setting.
- Request was made for a future discussion of operational dollars.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative subcommittee

- Next meeting will be held October 4 at 12:30 p.m., location to be determined.
- Meetings with local and state education legislators will occur after CASB assembly.
- Legislative advocacy agenda to be discussed at a future meeting.
- PSD lobbyist believes mental health will be covered by state legislators.

- Board members were asked to submit questions for legislators.

Policy Council for Early Childhood

- Changes made this year to the application process.
- Many students were ineligible last year due to a change in State qualification guidelines.
- Classes are currently 83% full; time remains to apply.
- Legislative solution may be something to discuss.
- Increased transportation services could be necessary.

State Advisory Council of Parent Involvement in Education

- October is 'Family and School Partnership in Education' month.
- Opportunity for parents to get involved in schools.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education