



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
January 12, 2021

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper and Carolyn Reed; Interim Superintendent Todd Lambert; Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen and Interim Assistant Superintendent Traci Gile; Legal and Policy Council Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

Director Johnson participated remotely.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the regular business meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4.0 BOARD ITEMS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Directors Anderson and Johnson provided an updated on the Student Advisory Council (formerly called Student Think Tank).
- Directors Draper and Reed attended a meeting with Equity and Diversity staff to discuss options for Board member participation in the future.
- Gratitude was expressed to Dr. Lambert for the letter to the community regarding recent Capitol events.
- Increased staff communication with the community is appreciated.
- Superintendent search is active; multiple forums and opportunities exist for participation and input.
- Superintendent evaluation form is being revised by staff.
- Fort Collins City Council maintains a Futures Committee.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Community members participated virtually.

Brittany Friar expressed concern about firing an employee of 33 years who was doing the right thing for seniors during a tough year, and believes the process was disrespectful.

Jeff Lawrey shared sadness at the firing of Coach McVicker and was disappointed PSD didn't hear his side of the issue.

Parent Crystal Guthrie thanked PSD for the decision to return to in-person learning, and stated parents who wanted virtual learning were given that choice and now parents who want in-person learning have a choice.

Student Colton Littlewood stated a return to in-person learning is irresponsible to students, families and the entire community.

Kelly Holdridge expressed gratitude for the decision made to return to in-person learning.

Elizabeth Stowers appreciated the consideration of student and staff health combined with mental, emotional and academic needs.

Sherry Brewington disagreed with a return to in-person learning and believes rushing students back to school for political reasons or to capitulate to angry parents is wrong.

PHS football alum Terry Danielson opposed the firing of Coach McVicker and believes the punishment was too harsh, adding the coach is a good person and deserves the respect of a second chance.

Teacher Amy Healy requested the district wait until a Covid vaccine is distributed to teachers for a return to in-person learning.

Student Dylan Lindsey expressed a fear of going back to in-person learning during the pandemic.

Kelly Carlson conveyed dissatisfaction with the termination of Coach McVicker and stated the Superintendent and Athletic Director are as responsible for the infraction as the coach.

Parent Peter Goode commended the Board for leadership and efforts on behalf of all students and urged anyone having doubts to look back at the December 15 communication.

Parent Angie Rotner thanked the Board for letting students go back to in-person learning and for considering the academic, social and mental health of children.

Parent Sara Steen expressed concern about the return to in-person learning for high school students who are as susceptible to the virus as adults and will attend school in larger populations.

Kristin Haber asked what specific contingency plans are in place for those families not willing to return to in-person learning.

Parent Emily Schwabe conveyed appreciation for the decision to return to in-person learning and stated it is unreasonable to expect the district to ensure 100% safety.

Parent Sarah Mart requested PSD consider returning to Phase 4 until all teachers and staff are vaccinated.

Jenny Marquart thanked the Board for a return to in-person learning and asked others to trust the protocols and the data.

Student Sadie Forkner expressed concern about a return to in-person learning and referenced the January 6 District communication.

Community member Anna Dunn spoke about the new CAC moderator and stated CAC is a valuable asset to PSD.

Student Reece MacKinney listed potential gaps in school virus protection and conveyed fear that lives will be lost due to a return to in-person learning.

Community member Alexandria Bish read a statement on behalf of another that expressed concern about the present of SRO's in schools.

Teacher Erin Burr-Adai requested the Board reconsider a return to in-person learning for high school students and stated social distancing was difficult in Phase 3 and will be next to impossible in Phase 4.

Zach Baitinger asked the Board not to succumb to political pressure with a return to in-person learning because there is no way to be at full capacity while social distancing.

Parent Chris Glatfelter shared he does not feel safe returning to in-person learning until a vaccine is disseminated to the entire community and asked the Board to reconsider.

Student Arwen Lyons stated the Board is making a political and executive decision to return to in-person learning and forcing students to choose between education and safety.

Staff member Emily Rosen emphasized a return to in-person learning is unsafe, contradicts CDC guidelines and dismisses the caution of 6 feet apart.

Student Samantha York expressed opposition to a return to Phase 3 and 4 and stated in-person learning is extremely unsafe, covid cases will continue to grow and going to school will put her at risk.

Parent Leslie Hill asked the Board to reconsider the return to in-person learning in February because we are a few months away from being able to protect teachers and vulnerable students with a vaccine.

Community member Hayley Bubb shared opposition to SROs in schools and said students should not be criminalized in places they come to for safety and security.

Parent Gavin Kaszynski spoke in support of the return to in-person learning and stated it is a win for students, working parents and teachers.

Student Azran Starkweather acknowledged everyone is trying to make the best decision possible but said the return to in-person learning is not good because people are getting sick and dying.

Student Perry Ragouzis shared that students feel unsafe and uncared for with the decision for a return to in-person learning and stated the Board is unprepared for the reconning if the decision is not reversed and someone dies.

Parent Lynn Darbie expressed concern about the decision to return to in-person learning and asked the Board to educate students remotely until everyone gets vaccinated.

Student Leah Rohlfs asked the Board to reconsider the return to in-person learning and stated the benefits do not outweigh the risks of putting the community at risk.

Student Mila Pillote said although she misses being with friends at school, moving to in-person learning before the vaccine is available is dangerous and will result in inequity across the district, possibly death.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Meeting Minutes from December 7, 2020, December 8, 2020, December 10, 2020, December 14, 2020, December 16, 2020, December 22, 2020 and December 30, 2020

6.3 Designation of Posting Location of PSD Board of Education Meetings

6.4 Revision to the PSD IDEA Grant Narrative to Include Contracted Services for Charter Schools

6.5 Colorado Department of Education Connecting Colorado Students Grant Program (HB-20B-1001)

6.5 Colorado Department of Education Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project Grant

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, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Wellington Middle-High School Name Recommendation

Director Reed moved that the Board adopt the new name for the Wellington Middle-High School as presented in the packet.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Principal Kelby Benedict provided a presentation on the name recommendation.
- Appreciation was expressed to Principal Benedict for the hard work involved.
- Town of Wellington is steeped in tradition and culture.
- Members are happy for the town of Wellington and look forward to completion of the building.
- Town of Wellington has contributed much to the school district and deserve the beautiful building.
- School name is very appropriate.

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

Board recessed at 7:25 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Poudre School District

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen, Interim Assistant Superintendent Traci Gile and Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion John McKay provided an update.

Board discussion included:

- Appreciation was expressed for the ongoing work.
- Teams are being built with staff from varied departments for optimum inclusion.
- Continuous updates on the system will be provided; learning and timeline is ongoing.
- Gratitude was conveyed for acknowledging and naming opportunities for improvement.
- Data recording system launch is anticipated by Fall 2021.
- Initial strategic plan will be in place this semester.
- Pandemic has brought forward many types of inequity.
- Comprehensive experiences are ideal.
- *No Place for Hate* curriculum is utilized in eight schools currently; will be available to all secondary schools next year.
- Important to consider equitable representation of student/staff population.
- Community partnerships could be beneficial to creation of a diverse workforce.
- EDAC committee advises and provides feedback to PSD; updates to BOE will follow.
- Restorative Practices are at the forefront.
- 'Promise of Equity' could be added as the 5th District End.
- Equity will be introduced in the Monitoring Report this year.
- Vice President Petterson and Director Draper will coordinate input to define and compose a draft for inclusion as a 5th End.

8.2 School Year Update

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen and Interim Assistant Superintendent Traci Gile provided a school year update.

Board discussion included:

- 'Broadcasting' is one option for families/students who do not want to return to in-person learning.
- Teachers will focus on in-person learning and broadcast live to students at home.
- Some Covid funds are available for necessary expenditures.
- Remote learning support centers in elementary schools will close this week.
- Spring and summer plans for elementary were discussed.
- Elementary students will be responsible for cleaning their own area during the day.
- Most elementary classes walk outside to transition to other classrooms.
- Staff shortages due to Covid have created opportunities for remaining staff to cover other jobs.
- Covid data will be evaluated before a firm date is established for High School return to in-person.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education