



## 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  
October 13, 2020

### **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 5:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Naomi Johnson and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Director Dave Montoya

**ABSENT:** None

**LATE:** None

#### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Febvre called the regular business meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

President Febvre acknowledged and thanked all staff for tremendous hard work accomplished during difficult times.

#### **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 & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- President Febvre presented Director Reed with a certificate and pin from CASB for the McGuffey Award.
- Directors Anderson and Johnson will conduct the first virtual meeting of the Student Think Tank on Monday.
- Congratulations to the Fossil Ridge Softball team on the Class 5A Championship.
- Director Anderson requested member input on resolutions prior to the CASB delegate meeting at the end of the month.
- Some Board members and PSD staff meet once weekly with the Larimer County Health Department.
- PSD Foundation Committee is looking for Board members.

#### **5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Community members participated virtually.

Matt Rogers expressed concern about the daily increase in COVID positivity rates in conjunction with entering into Phase 3 learning, and questioned the purpose of Phase 3 if students will not enter into Phase 4 anytime soon.

Sarah Keller stated PSD has 3 elementary schools under quarantine and the PVH Covid unit is at capacity, and shared apprehension about potential loss of instructional time combined with a constant worry teachers are risking their lives to teach.

Community member Alexandria Bish spoke against having plainclothes SROs in schools and believes students should know who they are interacting with, adding their presence is contradictory to PSDs mission statement for students.

PSD Teacher Kristina Runde referenced the planned transition to Phase 3 learning and expressed concern COVID cases in Larimer County are higher than they were in August when the District decided to educate students remotely. Returning to school in-person is heading the wrong direction.

## **6.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

### **6.1 Personnel Action**

### **6.2 Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2020, September 22, 2020 and September 23, 2020**

### **6.3 Legislative and Lobbying Services**

Director Donovan moved to 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 Southeast Elementary School Name Recommendation**

Director Johnson moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended name for the southeast elementary school as presented.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Over 500 nominations were submitted.
- Criteria starts with candidate's contribution to PSD.
- Policy FF requires a committee of 10 to 20 members.
- Committee consisted of volunteer staff, parents and community members who attended meetings virtually.
- Committee narrowed nominations to three names.

- Final three nominees were all highly qualified to receive the honor.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: Director Anderson

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-1

## **7.2 Resolution in Support of LGBT History Month**

Director Draper moved that the Board approve a resolution in support of LGBT History month, October 2020.

Director Johnson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Director Draper read the resolution aloud.
- Gratitude was expressed to Director Draper for composing the resolution.

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

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

### **8.1 School Year Update**

Superintendent Smyser thanked Elementary staff for welcoming students back to school while implementing new health protocols.

Executive Director of Communications Madeline Noblett provided an update on three confirmed cases of COVID at Laurel, Harris and Rice Elementary schools.

Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Todd Lambert provided an update on the school year.

Board discussion included:

- Strong partnership and coordination between PSD and the Larimer County Health Department exists.
- Larimer County Health Department recommended quarantine for multiple students and staff until contact tracing and testing could occur.
- Communication went out to staff and students potentially affected.
- In the event of a school closure, all staff and families will be notified.
- Up-to-date information can be found on the PSD COVID Status and Information.

- Larimer County Health Department dashboard will include information on school cases.
- Health Department stated they expected cases to occur upon return to in-person learning.
- Approximately 58 students and 13 staff members are currently quarantined; numbers may change as weeks progress.
- Health Department investigations are thorough and take time.
- PSD employs a part-time COVID specialist who uses a tool-kit for contact tracing.
- PSD COVID Contact Tracing Liaison responds to staff cases.
- PSD Nursing staff respond to student cases.
- PSD has joined the Denver Area Superintendent Data Tracking.
- Larimer County may end up overwhelmed with contact tracing and unable to respond quickly, resulting in broader and longer quarantines.
- PSD Information Technology department is currently working on a system to facilitate contact tracing for the County.
- Elementary adherence to safety was outstanding last week; staff were careful and prepared.
- Gratitude was expressed to Principals and staff for exceptional site planning.
- Transportation continues to be a challenge based on the limited number of students allowed on each bus.
- Teacher support is critical.
- Principals and building leadership are aware of teacher stresses and are adjusting.
- In-person learning with smaller groups will offer the opportunity to cover large amounts of material.
- Need to balance health issues and learning issues.
- Allowing teachers and students to settle into a routine is important.
- PEA is providing valuable teacher feedback.
- No clear criteria exists for returning to 100% virtual learning.

Board recessed at 7:14 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:24 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Scott Nielsen provided an update on the school year.

Board discussion included:

- State Standards continue to be the learning goal.
- Important to recognize teachers want to be back with students and some are worried about the virus.
- Teachers are sharing best practices.
- Learning curve exists for teachers and students.
- Principals distribute information and tips to teachers.
- Important to remember the differences in student learning styles.
- Work continues with the Learning Support Groups.
- Goal continues to be all children in schools for in-person learning.
- All possible steps in learning are open to consideration.
- Staff are working hard to ensure IEP students receive services.

- Phase 3 allows IEP students to have in-person learning 2 days a week and may increase if possible.
- PSD is currently short approximately 30 bus drivers.
- Current staffing should allow for 100 bus routes.
- Partnership with City bus routes is being considered.
- PGA is working with the Teen Parent program to best meet needs.
- District is empathetic to teacher concerns and worries.
- Board appreciates work being done and understand staff are facing challenges.
- Board supports staff every step of the way.

## **8.2 Budget Update**

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

Board discussion included:

- AirPark Reserve funds are approximately \$600,000.
- Clarification was requested on funds for PILO, Charter Schools and the Tabor Reserve.
- Tabor is in the State constitution.

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education