



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
November 24, 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 Superintendent Scott Nielsen; Executive Director Dave Montoya; and Legal and Policy Council Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

Director Anderson and Superintendent Smyser participated remotely.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 BOARD ITEMS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Director Johnson provided an update on the Early Childhood Policy Council meeting.
- Gratitude was expressed to those who donated turkeys for the turkey drive.
- Director Draper provided an update on the CAC.
- Future Board meetings will occur remotely while in Level Red.

4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Community members participated remotely.

Parent Matt Rogers expressed gratitude for the decision to transition to remote learning and said he would prefer the District stay remote until the virus is gone.

Parent Bob Choate shared that full remote learning for Kindergartners is impossible without constant adult supervision and requested options be considered that require less parent involvement.

Community member Alexandria Bish expressed concern that SROs are being paid during campus closures and requested the district use the money for student and family needs, like food and technology.

Parent Jason Jarvis requested in-person learning 100% of the time effective immediately, and stated the transition to remote learning is forced homeschooling and was an overreaction on the part of the Board.

Parent Tiffin Vaughn stated the most reasonable approach to education is to resume Phase 3 hybrid learning because social interaction, mental health and self-esteem can only happen in person. Teacher shortages would not be an issue if PSD would mine the substitute data base for retired teachers and she would be willing to teach if needed.

Parent Zach Vander Meeden said it is important to keep teachers and staff safe, and requested PSD consider options for expanding the teacher base including a petition for more funds to hire substitutes and other opportunities for community support.

Parent Antonette Aragon requested SROs be eliminated from schools because black and brown children face detrimental experiences and are disproportionately disciplined, adding to the school-to-prison pipeline.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Personnel Action

5.2 Second Amendment to the Agreement for the Provision of Infant and Toddler Child Care Services at Poudre School District Global Academy

5.3 Approval of Payment to Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association (PVREA) for Providing Electric Service to the Wellington MS/HS Project

5.4 Architect Selection for Blevins Middle School HVAC System Design

5.5 Colorado Department of Education ESSERF – Connecting Colorado Students Grant Program – Part IC

5.6 School-Based Student Fee Schedules

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Resolution in Support of Priority Being Given to Teachers and School Staff in Receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine

Director Draper moved that the Board of Education approve a resolution in support of priority being given to teachers and school staff in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Director Draper read the resolution aloud.
- Legislative Subcommittee included educator vaccination in the priorities for the upcoming session.
- Other Districts are invited to join PSD in the request.
- Resolution supports all school staff.
- Superintendent Smyser expressed gratitude for the work involved in creation of the resolution.
- Board members share the protestors desire to get students back in school.
- Return to normalcy is critical.
- Resolution should be delivered to the Governor and other groups soon.

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 WORK SESSION TOPICS

7.1 School Year Update

Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen provided an update on the school year.

Board discussion included:

- Elementary attendance is 94.1%, Middle School is 94.1% and High School is 92.0%.
- Students are transitioning and adapting well and continue to perform safety protocol properly.
- Expanded childcare options are being provided.
- 1,652 students are eligible for supervised remote learning; to date 713 students have accepted the invitation and 224 declined.
- Gratitude was expressed to the Matthews House, AlphaBest and Boys & Girls Club for collaboration and support of students.
- Transportation and routing continue to be areas of interest.
- Questions were raised regarding a K-2 in-person learning option.
- Clarification was requested on attendance taking.
- Staffing shortages exist and contribute to the need for a transition to remote learning.
- Substitute teacher pool is getting smaller with the advance of Covid.
- Community spread of the virus has impacted students and staff coming into the buildings.
- Many job openings exist in PSD.
- Decisions should support the majority of the population; every choice is helpful to some and harmful to others.

- Multiple avenues exist for community members to show support for teachers and staff.
- COVID-19 Dashboard allows access to up-to-date district information.
- Gratitude was expressed to staff for the COVID Dashboard information.

7.2 Futures Lab/CSU Powerhouse

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Scott Nielsen introduced the Executive Director of the CSU Energy Institute Brian Willson, who spoke about the synergies between the CSU Powerhouse 1 & 2, the Futures Lab and the possibility of Powerhouse #2 as a permanent home for the Futures Lab.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to Scott Elias for collaboration with CSU.
- Futures Lab will emphasize hands-on education.
- Mixing trades with entrepreneurial and higher education will allow students to look at multiple directions for a future.
- CSU partnership fits seamlessly into the Board mission, vision, and District Ends.
- Partnership would present substantial educational opportunities for every PSD student.
- Board members expressed excitement regarding the concepts presented and encouraged staff to continue to work with Dr. Willson and the Energy Institute to explore possibilities for partnership.

7.3 Board Revision of Policies DJ, DJA, DJB, DJG/DJGA and DN (First Reading)

Legal and Policy Council Autumn Aspen and Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya presented the policy revisions.

Board discussion included:

- 'Intent to Sole Source' is different than a 'Request to Sole Source'.
- Examples were given of Sole Source items.
- Exceptions are clarified in revisions.
- Clarification was requested for the Delegation of Authority process.
- Audit committee was included in revisions.

7.4 Board Revision of Policy FF – Naming District Sites and Facilities (First Reading)

Board discussion included:

- Combined Middle and High Schools will be named with the High School naming policy.
- Potential school names are recommended by community members and voted on by a committee.
- Policy language regarding options for equity will come forward at a future meeting.

7.5 Review of Board Committee Assignments: Board Policy GP 3.6, Board Committee or Liaison Principles

Board discussion included:

- Directors Anderson and Draper volunteered to sit on the URA Committee. President Febvre will communicate expectations and facilitate a decision.
- Director Anderson will continue as the CASB delegate; Director Donovan will serve as alternate.
- President Febvre and Vice President Petterson are interested in sitting on the PSD Foundation.
- Directors Reed and Johnson will discuss EDAC with staff and report back to the Board.
- Director Draper and Vice President Petterson will continue as the Intergovernmental Liaisons with Director Reed serving as the alternate.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education