



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
February 9, 2021

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; Interim Superintendent Todd Lambert; Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen and Interim Assistant Superintendent Traci Gile; Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya; Legal and Policy Council Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

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 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Justin Friedly stated all students should return to in-person learning immediately and said the COVID data he provided the district is falling on deaf ears because the Board is trying to avoid acting in order to placate external forces like teacher unions and lawyers.

Principal Aisha Thomas spoke in support of SROs, stated SROs should be maintained and likely increased, and recounted her experience as a black student who made a positive connection with a school officer which created an improved learning environment and a life-long trusting relationship with the police. PSD staff does not ethnically represent all cultures and she requested PSD improve multicultural staffing within PSD.

Parent Jason Jarvis said PSD is not putting students first and requested the removal of all COVID information on the PSD website, a stop to testing and quarantining of every student who has the sniffles, and PSD leadership push back against morally corrupt politicians who tell us to close schools.

5.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Director Anderson provided an update on the Student Advisory Council meeting.
- Director Draper provided an update on the CAC Meeting.
- Legislative Subcommittee met with PSD lobbyists to discuss upcoming bills.

- Partnership with schools, parents and community are important.
- CASB and the Colorado House Speaker support a Federal waiver from testing requirements this school year.
- Board members were invited to visit the three new schools.
- President Febvre provided an update on the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce meeting and the URA meeting.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes: January 12, 2021 and January 26, 2021**
- 6.3 Fiscal Year 2020 Single Audit**
- 6.4 East Larimer County Water District (ELCO) First Addendum to the Off-Site Cost Sharing Agreement**

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

Director Anderson 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 Approval of a Furniture Services Agreement for the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF and E) Bid at Bamford ES

Director of Construction Earl Smith provided a presentation on the Furniture Services Agreement for Bamford Elementary.

Director Donovan moved that the Board of Education approve the Furniture Services Agreement with BC Interiors for Bamford Elementary School.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Question was raised if individual items can be price matched between vendors based on submittals.

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

7.2 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.4, Financial Planning and Budgeting

Director Draper moved that the Board of Education determine that the Interim Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL 2.4 in his Internal Monitoring Report dated February 9, 2021, and that the evidence presented supports the Interim Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Donovan 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

7.3 Resolution in Support of Black History Month

Director Draper recommended the Board proclaim, by adoption of this resolution, the month of February 2021 as Black History Month in Poudre School District and encourages students, staff, and the community to honor American history as Black American history and to celebrate the excellence and enriching contributions made from our Black community of the past and in our present.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Director Draper read the Resolution aloud.

Board discussion included:

- Director Draper invited community members to learn something new about Black History during the month of February, have an in-depth discussion and continue with learning throughout the year.
- Gratitude was expressed to Director Draper for work on the Resolution.
- Black history is American history.
- Curriculum department is reviewing curriculum to ensure inclusivity and equity.
- PSD statement will be released tomorrow in support of progress made and acknowledgement of work yet to be done.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None
ABSENT: None

8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Budget Update 2/9/2021

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

Board discussion included:

- Projections will be presented at the next Board meeting.
- Clarification was requested on the estimated Funded Pupil Count.
- PERA increase will be .5% for employees.
- Colorado Legislature may conclude by Memorial Day.
- Budget projections are better than expected due to hard work from the Finance Department.
- Explanation was requested on MLO funds and expenditures.
- Majority of school funding comes from State revenue.
- CARES funding is one-time money.
- Budget will be refined and presented at a future meeting.
- Recommendation was made to focus mental health resources on elementary.
- Important to remain focused on mental health support in schools and possible increases in staffing.

Board recessed at 7:34 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

8.2 Leadership Profile Report Presentation

Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA) President Max McGee and Associates Nola Wellman and Dallas Strawn provided an update on the Leadership Profile Report.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed for the detailed information provided.
- Low student survey participation was likely due to COVID related circumstances.
- Quality of engagement from participants was strong.
- Participants indicated awareness returning to school would take time.
- Closing date for applications is March 15.
- Focus group concerns regarding best-practices versus site-based decision making were prevalent.

8.3 2020-2021 School Year Update

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Scott Nielsen and Interim Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Traci Gile provided a school year update.

Board discussion included:

- PSD offers free COVID testing for symptomatic employees that yields results within 15 minutes and allows for immediate data entry into the Larimer County Health Department data base.
- At-home COVID testing is a less reliable system for staff.
- Bus-eligible ridership will increase to two students per seat.
- Five elementary sites will add traffic control staff.
- Volunteers will be recruited to assist with additional workloads like teacher breaks, recess, before and after-school supervision.
- Secondary non-instructional staff will be assisting other schools with workloads.
- Elementary attendance is currently 93.92%; Middle School is 93.5%, and High School is 92.2%.
- Approximately 17% of students are choosing not to attend in-person.
- New Prospect Middle/High School will alleviate overcrowding at multiple schools.
- Elementary schools have been able to keep up with unexpected staff changes and shifts to remote learning.
- P-Tech program represents community collaboration and Board values.

8.4 Board-Superintendent Relationship Policies Review

Board discussion included:

- Request was made to change BSR 4.0 which states the Superintendent is the sole contact with the organization.
- Teacher Town Hall provided great feedback.
- Past leadership hesitated to allow BOE members to reach out to staff.
- Potential changes on multiple BSRs were discussed.
- Clear and open communication with all staff should be the goal.
- Agenda item and/or dialogue at the upcoming retreat may be necessary.
- Important to use the upcoming transitional time with a new superintendent to set norms.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education