



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
April 27, 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 Superintendents Scott Nielsen and Traci Gile; Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya; and 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 5:30 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Shirley Leung shared concerns about the SRO survey/results presented at the previous Board meeting.

Richard Jacques stated communities of color have asked PSD to make schools safe and requested the Board to reject the SRO program.

Kimberly Medina thanked the Board for creating a committee a year ago to investigate SRO presence in schools and said now is the time to follow through with the information provided by the committee.

CAC member Courtenay Daum stated students and parents have come forward to share stories and experiences about SROs, and the presence of police in schools is undermining progress with students.

CAC member Sean Neil-Barron said new alternatives should be created to support students because law enforcement should only be used as a last resort in schools.

Cheryl Distaso read statements from other parents asking the Board to consider the CAC recommendation to remove SROs from school.

Parent Bethany Goodwin asked the Board to address disparities in the data and to eliminate the SRO contract.

Parent Tracy Sorg expressed frustration with mask requirements and stated the Board should have to prove why students and parents need to continue wearing masks.

CAC member Anna Dunn requested the Board follow the CAC recommendation to remove SROs from school and said police in schools do not provide an equitable learning experience for students.

Stefani Richardson shared a personal experience of working with youth in the criminal justice system and stated relationships are critical to changing negative youth behavior.

Parent Dani Lawrence expressed frustration with PSD and the Integrated Services department and said she will continue to attend Board meetings to communicate with the district.

Student Silen Wellington recounted an experience with a suicidal friend and urged the Board not to renew the SRO contract.

Cristyn Hypnar read a statement on behalf of another asking the Board to vote in support of the CAC recommendation to remove officers from schools.

Israel Herrera Santos read a statement on behalf of another asking the Board to vote in support of the CAC recommendation to remove officers from schools.

Rena Trujillo requested SRO removal from schools and stated funds should go toward counselors.

Parent Ryan Barone asked the Board to follow the CAC recommendation to remove SROs from schools and reimagine involvement in other ways.

4.0 BOARD ITEMS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Director Johnson shared information about a visit to Fossil Ridge High School.
- Vice President Petterson confirmed a contract has been signed and PSD officially has a new Superintendent.
- Members discussed a new evaluation process for the Superintendent.
- Director Anderson provided an update on the Legislative Subcommittee.
- Potential 'linkage' dinners with representatives from different groups could improve communication and increase stakeholders.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.1 Personnel Action**
- 5.2 Non-Renewal of Employee Contracts**
- 5.3 2022-2023 School Year Calendar**
- 5.4 Quarterly Financials 3/31/2021**
- 5.5 FY2021-22 Applications for ESSER II and ESSER III Funds**
- 5.6 Recommendation for External Audit Services Engagement for the 2021 Fiscal Year**
- 5.7 Provide BOE with Overall Insight, Cost, and Contractual Requirements Regarding Concurrent Enrollment and Dual Enrollment Programs**
- 5.8 Head Start/Early Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)**

5.9 Ridgeview Classical Schools Fourth Charter School Renewal Contract

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 WORK SESSION TOPICS

6.1 Community Advisory Council

Community Advisory Council (CAC) members Johanna Ulloa and Erin Wilson, The Civic Canopy member Bill Fulton, and Director of Language, Culture and Equity John McKay presented information on the topic of School Resource Officers in Poudre School District. Those appearing electronically via Zoom for The Civic Canopy were Marisol Rodriguez, Roshan Bliss and Jacob Bornstein.

Board discussion included:

- Consensus means a range of support from 1 to 5.
- Data on SRO encounters/involvement in PSD is difficult to find.
- Gratitude was expressed to the committee for difficult work completed on behalf of students.
- Request was made for the distribution of consensus voting.
- Clarification was requested on minor versus major drug offenses and data regarding SRO involvement.
- Statement 'paying attention to unintended consequences' in the report was a general sentiment and does not refer to a specific example.
- Committee members stated the introduction/implementation of the survey was biased.
- Surveys are the quickest way to gain information but are not a robust community discussion due to time constraints.
- Clarification was requested on language in the report stating an SRO should not place primary focus on building relationships with students.
- Development of risk assessments does not involve law enforcement, but implementation of risk assessment does involve law enforcement.
- Safe-to-Tell should not require law enforcement involvement unless deemed appropriate by the Safe-to-Tell building administrator.
- All school personnel are mandated reporters and should contact the Department of Social Services/Child Protection when reporting.

Board recessed at 7:41 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

6.2 Preliminary Budget FY2021-22

Budget Director Brett Parsons presented the preliminary budget for FY2021-22.

Board discussion included:

- Clarification was requested regarding the primary budget versus estimated budget.
- Gratitude was expressed to the finance team for incredible work performed during difficult times.

6.3 School Year Update

Assistant Superintendents Scott Nielsen and Traci Gile provided an update.

Board discussion included:

- August 13 will be a transition day for 6th and 9th grade.
- August 16 will be the first day of school for all other students.
- Staff anticipate COVID protocols will change prior to next year.
- 100% virtual learning is available through PGAV.
- Elementary in-person attendance is 98.5%.
- Four proms will take place this Saturday.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is next week.
- CMAS testing was discussed.

7.0 INFORMATION REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Policy Review: Governance Process Policies

Board discussion included:

- BOE self-evaluation policy should be reviewed at the June retreat.
- Name and format of digital files will be changed to provide consistency.

8.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

8.1 School District Negotiations Related to the 2021-2022 Collective Bargaining Agreement or Employment Contracts

Director Johnson moved that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of developing the strategy of the school district for negotiations relating to the 2021-2022 collective bargaining agreement or employment contracts, as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e)(III). Those invited to join the Board and Interim Superintendent in executive session are Assistant Superintendents Scott Nielsen and Traci Gile, Executive Directors Vicki Thompson and Dave Montoya, Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Aspen, and Board Assistant Secretary Jill Brunner.

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

Executive Session began at 8:26 p.m.
Executive Session ended at 9:26 p.m.

8.2 Conference with School Board’s Attorney to Receive Legal Advice Discussion of Individual Students

Director Johnson moved that the Board enter executive session to confer with the attorney for the Board for the purpose of receiving legal advice on an ongoing administrative matter as authorized by C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(h). Individuals invited to join the Board and Interim Superintendent in executive session are Assistant Superintendents Scott Nielsen and Traci Gile, Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Aspen, and Board Assistant Secretary Jill Brunner.

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

Executive Session began at 9:31 p.m.
Executive Session ended at 10:02 p.m.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education