



Poudre School District Board of Education

2407 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521 • 970-490-3607

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Retreat
September 23, 2020

Rocky Mountain High School
Media Center
1300 W Swallow Road
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

SPECIAL MEETING – 5:00 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Rob Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Naomi Johnson and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; and Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the special meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1 Equity in PSD Discussion

- Request was made to consider alternatives to expulsion.
- PSD is working toward internal Restorative Justice programs and deferred consequences.
- May include disciplinary options for students and opportunities for parent involvement.
- Restorative practices are time intensive.
- Building a system from the teacher to administration requires training, time, energy and funding.
- Risk-factor data is being compiled and will be available in an upcoming monitoring report.
- Restorative practices are a comprehensive approach and require a systemic change in mindset.
- Some schools currently have an embedded restorative program.
- Professional Development opportunities for Restorative Justice training may be possible.
- Restorative Justice can be complicated due to involvement of families with different perspectives.
- Approach to 5 D's is a good model for setting standards and could consist of common language, direction toward equity and inclusion in the District Ends.
- Proposal was made for a goal of equity and restorative justice by the Fall of 2022.
- Strategic plan for Restorative Justice is important.
- Director of Language, Culture and Equity John McKay provided the history of the EDAC program, discussed where the committee stands today and possibilities for

moving forward. Board members were invited to provide feedback and direction for the group.

- CAC is a one-year council to study the specific issue of equity and make recommendations for the SRO program.
- Educational equity is at the forefront and momentum should be nurtured.

2.2 Vendor Selection Process Discussion

- RFP process for before and after-school care was a proposal on behalf of parents and students, not a purchase for the District.
- Primary factor was choosing the best product for parents and students.
- Process is clean and provided an opportunity to evaluate companies.
- Discussion about the process to dissolve the contract with BaseCamp occurred.
- Communication to families was poor and mistakes were made.
- Product chosen was superior to the product being offered.
- Previous Board recommendation to improve procurement policies may have resulted in misinterpretation.
- Staff updated the Board twice about the BaseCamp process prior to decision.
- Question was raised about purchasing with a local preference.
- Gratitude was conveyed to BaseCamp for years of service to PSD.
- AlphaBest has been cooperative and professional to date.
- District has a responsibility to evaluate options and decide what is best for families.
- Board requested minor adjustments be made to the policy.

Board recessed at 7:00 p.m.

Board reconvened at 7:16 p.m.

2.3 Agenda Planning & Board Priorities

- Suggestion was made to create a new list of priorities due to the disruption caused by world changes.
- Main priorities are managing the school district (successful navigation through the opening and closing of schools), budget, communication improvements, educating students, equity gap, establishment of protocol including the SRO subject, and navigation through rough financial waters.
- CAC is consuming a large amount of manpower and brainpower.
- Large amount of work is involved in completing tasks that used to be done without thought, and operational functioning is taking much of staff time. Staff are tired.
- Initiative for Restorative Justice should begin this year with a targeted roll out in 2022.
- Equity should be addressed at the Cabinet level with a goal toward 2022.
- In-person Board meetings should resume when students return to in-person learning.
- Request was made for specific examples of management with an equity lens.
- Superintendent goal to close the equity gap remains a priority.
- Goals from previous year will be updated and presented to the Board.
- Current focus of getting students back into school is all encompassing.
- High expectation of learning is in place, but academics will take a back seat to mental health.
- Request was made for information on community partners for mental health support.

- District should increase efforts to partner with Community, short term investment for long term results.

2.4 Board Norming Discussion

- Request was made for suggestions to shorten Board meetings.
- Staff presentations could be more concise.
- Staff could answer questions with yes or no unless Board asks for clarification.
- Frequent topics like budget could contain new information only.
- Suggestion was made to refrain from reading live emails, which can change the tone or direction of the meeting.
- Possibility exists to hold Executive Sessions remotely separate from the regular business meeting.
- Staff communicated a feeling of Board support through this process.
- Request was made to close potential loopholes in the process for the intercom project.

3.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education