



Poudre School District Board of Education

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

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Special Meeting
September 8, 2020

ELECTRONIC BUSINESS MEETING (VIA ADOBE CONNECT) – 4:00 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; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dustin Reintsma and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Adams

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the special meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Assistant Board Secretary Brunner called roll for Board members and Cabinet members.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 BOARD TOPICS DISCUSSION

- Director Johnson toured Liberty Common Elementary School and observed in-person learning with PPE precautions in place.
- High School Student Think Tank will occur virtually; link was sent to Principals last week.
- Request was made for an update on SRO Standard Operating Procedures.
- President Febvre provided an update on the recent URA meeting.
- Meeting with Wellington Community members regarding the annexation agreement occurred.
- CASB Regional meeting is Tuesday.
- Director Donovan is serving on the CASB Board of Directors Equity Committee.
- Legislative Review Committee will meet Friday.

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 Superintendent Report

Superintendent Smyser spoke about ongoing efforts to educate students during COVID, thanked all staff for the hard work involved and thanked the community for working to limit the spread of the virus.

- Staff are working to uncover reasons for decreased enrollment.
- Concern was expressed for families who have been displaced by the fires.

- 250 students have been affected by fire evacuations.
- Staff have attempted to contact families.
- Gratitude was expressed to fire fighters for working a month in heat and fire followed by a snowstorm.
- Over 800 firefighters are sheltering at The Ranch in Loveland.
- CLP Middle School gym was set up as a Red Cross center.
- Mountain Schools remote learning was cancelled today.
- No access to Red Feather Elementary or Stove Prairie Elementary at this time.
- Appreciation was expressed to staff who gave up time over the holiday to work on fire related issues.
- Meals will be served in those areas affected by the fires as soon as possible.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Community member Claire Kopp recounted conversations with her child about equity in schools and asked the Board to consider replacing SROs with professionals who provide social and emotional support.

Community member Nancy York stated some students of color have an aversion to police officers that may be heightened due to demonstrations and asked the Board to hire counselors, nurses, and teachers in place of SROs.

Community member Alexandria Bish shared concerned about renewal of the SRO contract and asked the Board to invest in staff who build relationships with students as well as connect students with appropriate resources.

Marcia Fitzhorn referenced a previous District request for robust community discussion regarding SROs, stated she was unable to find an application for this committee, and expressed concern the committee formed consists of eight staff and four appointed community members.

Anna Dunn shared concern that SROs are criminalizing students. Remaining audio was too faint to understand.

Parent Melissa Kellogg Lueck requested PSD parameters for reopening schools, stated the risk is very low to school-aged children and recommended elementary schools be opened.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2020, August 17, 2020, August 25, 2020 and August 31, 2020

6.3 Employee Self Insurance Expenditures (in excess of \$250,000)

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve and adopt the recommended items on the Consent Agenda.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: Director Reed

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-1

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Revision of Board Policy GP 3.12, Bylaws of the Board of Education (Second Reading)

Director Donovan moved that the Board adopt the attached revised policy for GP 3.12.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Appreciation was expressed for the addition of language regarding conflict of interest.
- Board will decide on good cause for any conflict of interest.

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 2020-2021 Board of Education Legislative and Policy Agenda

Director Draper moved that the Board of Education approve the Poudre School District Board of Education Legislative and Policy Agenda for 2020-2021 school year.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Some of the proposed policies were read aloud.
- Suggestion was made to give teachers and staff high priority for vaccinations.
- Board supports a pause in State testing.
- Agenda is a living document that will change as situations arise.
- Balance of student mental health with student security is delicate.

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 2020 Statewide General Election – Amendment B Advocacy Resolution

Director Donovan moved that the Board of Education approve the resolution of the Poudre School District Board of Education adopting a position of advocacy in support of repealing the Gallagher Amendment known as Amendment B (2020).

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Board supports Amendment B in the upcoming general election.
- Strong first step to ensure schools, libraries and fire districts receive critical funds from the State.

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

7.4 Internal Monitoring Report & Policy Review: EL 2.7, Compensation and Benefits

Director Donovan moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy 2.7 in her internal monitoring report dated September 8, 2020, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the internal monitoring report.

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

7.5 Internal Monitoring Report & Policy Review: EL 2.9, Dealing with Citizens of Poudre School District

Director Draper moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy 2.9 in her internal monitoring report dated 09-08-2020, and that the evidence presented supports the 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

8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 2020-2021 School Year Update

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

Board discussion included:

- Some students carry out remote learning at the brick-and-mortar school with adult support present.
- Early Childhood day is structured differently than elementary students.
- 2300 mifis are currently in use with another 400 ordered.
- Elementary communication has improved, primarily through email.
- Request was made for consideration of mandated uniform communication.
- Secondary communication includes Teacher Learning Pages, Principal communication via email and phone calls, Counselor and Assistant Principal contacts to those who are experiencing roadblocks.
- Anticipated delivery of new computers is October 1.
- Gratitude was expressed to staff for implementing the Learning Support Centers.
- Any staff openings will be filled by current PSD employees if possible.
- Futures Lab has increased enrollment and instructors are being creative with virtual learning.
- Elementary assessments are occurring remotely in grades 3, 4 and 5.
- Secondary will assess over the next couple of weeks.
- Individual kindergarten testing is occurring virtually.
- PSD continues to meet with the Larimer County Health Department to collaborate about scenarios and possibilities to safely open schools.
- When in-person learning resumes, any student or staff testing positive for COVID will create a need for as-needed remote learning.
- Gratitude was expressed for staff involved with ensuring food gets to students.
- Apparent disconnect between those individuals who want schools to open and those who are not practicing PPE precautions.
- Covid cases must be low in order to return to school.
- Request was made to the community to practice PPE in order to open schools as soon as possible.
- Private and charter schools can open due to smaller size enrollment.
- County is hiring more employees to assist with contact tracing.

Board recessed at 6:25 p.m.

Board reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

8.2 Budget Update

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

Board discussion included:

- Financial situation remains fluid.
- Staff are implementing the financial protocol earlier than usual due to extenuating circumstances.
- Quantitative staffing numbers were requested.
- Coronavirus Relief Funds were spent first.
- Enrollment numbers are down approximately 900 and include a large number of kindergartners.
- Reduction of costs will come from a variety of areas.
- Existing PSD staff shifted to cover much of PSDV, but some new hires occurred.
- Transportation Center final GNP is outstanding.
- Gratitude was expressed for extraordinary financial work accomplished in difficult times.
- October count numbers may be inaccurate if in-person learning yields an increase in return students.
- Director Donovan will compose resolution language regarding October count flexibility to present at CASB.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 Wellington Annexation and Development Agreements

Director Johnson moved that the Board enter executive session to receive information regarding the annexation and development agreements with the Town of Wellington, determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, and to instruct negotiators as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e)(I). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Executive Director Matt Bryant, Director of Construction Earl Smith, Planning Manager Brendan Willits, Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Aspen, and Board Assistant Secretary Jill Brunner.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Reed

Motion passed 6-0

Executive session started at 7:48 p.m.

Executive session ended at 8:18 p.m.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education