



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
August 10, 2021

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Traci Gile and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Brett Larsen, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, and Dustin Reintsma, Legal and Policy Council Autumnn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:31 p.m.

1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

- Board members welcomed new Superintendent Brian Kingsley.
- Superintendent Kingsley recognized three new staff members.
 - Josh Richie - Principal, Boltz Middle School
 - Brett Larsen - Interim Executive Director of Human Resources
 - Lauren Hooten - Chief of Staff
- Director Anderson discussed Linkage Dinners.
 - Important to provide more opportunity for community members to dialogue.
 - Superintendent is invited to attend.
- Superintendent provided updates on school district happenings.
- Executive Director of Communications Madeline Noblett presented updates and potential changes to the Recognitions section of future Board meetings.

2.0 Agenda Planning

- CASB Resolution and Early Childhood tax.
- Center for Family Outreach breakfast.

3.0 School Visits Assignments Activity

- School visit assignments were distributed to Board members.

Dinner session ended at 6:14 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Traci Gile and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Brett Larsen, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, and Dustin Reintsma, Legal and Policy Council Autumnn Aspen

ABSENT: None
LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the regular business meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Board members welcomed Superintendent Kingsley to the District.

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 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Kingsley shared an update and report.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Vanessa Morton cited masking statistics and said PSD is harming students by forced mask wearing.

Griffin Cole shared his mask-wearing experience as a dentist and provided information to support removal of the mask mandate.

Parent Dani Lawrence thanked the Board for considering disabled students when approving the mask mandate and said her son will now be able to attend school.

Jessica Kraus stated shots are dangerous and parents should be allowed to make decisions about the well-being of their child.

Jennifer George said parent voices are not being heard and children are being used as pawns.

Parent Emily Schwabe shared that her children are miserable wearing masks to school and stated masks do not prevent the spread of the virus.

Student Alex Smithhisler said PSD is not following science by making students wear masks, and people have a higher chance of getting struck by lightning than getting COVID.

Jeff Aufderheide spoke in opposition to the mask mandate and COVID testing policy, and expressed concern that PSD will turn schools into health facilities based on funding incentives.

Michael Edgerly spoke against masking children and cited multiple examples to support his opinion.

Melissa Crouch suggested the Board earn parent trust by opening schools and said mask mandates are an attempt to control the minds of children.

Parent Ryan Fitzpatrick said masks hide the mouth and tongue which in turn affects literacy teaching.

Nicky Galbraith violated the mask requirement and was escorted out of the meeting.

Arthur Strong stated the mask mandate is teaching youth to comply with authority.

Duke Berry said health decisions are not the role of the school district and the virus poses no threat to those under 18.

Jessica O'Brien expressed opposition to the mask mandate and cited data to support her stance.

Kerri Park spoke against mask mandates and posed multiple questions.

Parent Heather Lahdenpera stated parents should be allowed to make decisions for children, Board members are not medical professionals, and profits from children need to stop.

Teacher Bri McCormick shared the masking of students has led to disengaged and terrified students who are in a perpetual lockdown drill.

Arlene Samuelson expressed concern about masking and told the Board they are harming children.

Parent Diana Majors homeschooled her children last year due to overreaching mask mandates and will do so again this year until the requirement is removed.

Teacher Katelynn Austin stated the decision to mandate masks is not in the best interest of children, and by removing choice you are removing trust.

Michele Yarberry said there is no medical evidence to show the virus moves from one person to another and added children are developing anxiety, depression, and suicidal tendencies due to mask mandates.

Eric Day asked multiple questions about the American Rescue Plan dollars and Emergency Relief funding.

Parent Lisa Maclean shared that her child has asthma and wearing a mask causes anxiety.

Parent Jennifer Miller stated enrollment for PSD was down last year due to mask mandates and parents will continue to pull students.

Parent Kelly Fuchs said forcing children to wear a mask takes decision making away from parents and causes children anxiety with detrimental psychological effects.

Brittany Friar expressed concern BOE members use the position as a steppingstone for a higher office and resume builder.

Angela Seigren said mask mandates single people out for not vaccinating and requested an equity update.

Parent Tommy Thompson stated the role masks play in keeping COVID numbers low is miniscule.

Gina Forcatto said language teachers cannot effectively teach with masks on.

Willie Grover detailed previous mandates and testing throughout history used as tactics and experiments from a governmental institute.

Erin Lee expressed concern about the SPLASH organization that spoke to children in schools about gender identity without parent notification or permission.

Casey Lindsey sent her child to a charter school last year due to the masking requirement, and only two COVID cases were reported.

Scarlett Colino spoke about her siblings struggles in school last year due to masking.

Parent Mallory Moddelmog said her student athlete was vaccinated so they would not have to wear a mask for sports, and questioned why PSD athletes need to wear masks.

6.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Director Anderson provided a PSD Foundation update.
- Vice President Petterson expressed appreciation for community members who spoke during community comment.
- Gratitude was expressed to Superintendent Kingsley for showing strong leadership during a difficult time, and for reaching out to the community.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Personnel Action

7.2 Meeting Minutes: June 8, 2021, June 15, 2021, June 29, 2021, July 22, 2021 (1) and July 22, 2021 (2)

7.3 First Addendum to Superintendent Contract

7.4 Colorado Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

7.5 Resolution of the Poudre School District R-1 Board of Education Addressing Remote Learning During the 2021-2022 School Year

7.6 Intergovernmental Agreement for 2021 Coordinated Election

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, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-0

8.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Larimer County Department of Health and Environment COVID-19 Update

Larimer County Department of Health and Environment Public Health Director Tom Gonzales and Dr. Jared Olson provided an update on COVID-19 in the community.

Board discussion included:

- Masking is a temporary solution toward an end goal of vaccination and herd immunity.
- Immune compromised youth are at severe risk for COVID.
- Delta variant is more contagious than the original Alpha variant.
- Long COVID means symptoms persisting past 5 weeks that cause a variety of issues.
- Masking protects vulnerable individuals.
- In-person learning is the #1 priority for the district and community.
- Local Public Health officials are mandated to address outbreaks.
- Removing most quarantine is designed to keep kids in schools with minimum disruption.
- Appreciation was expressed to Tom Gonzales and Dr. Olson for continued education and support.
- Definition of epidemiologist was requested.
- Questions were raised about effectiveness of various masks.
- Masks reduce spread significantly.
- Community education regarding the complexity of the virus is important.
- Decisions may not be popular but are important to protect students and staff.
- Clear and concise presentation of the data was appreciated.

8.2 PSD COVID-19 Response Update

PSD COVID Coordinator Corey Henry and Executive Director of Communications Madeline Noblett provided an update.

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed for the clear information presented.
- Masking should reduce the need to quarantine students.
- In-person learning for all students is the goal.
- Weekly COVID testing is in the exploratory stages.
- Opportunities to mitigate spread should be pursued.
- Information and data changes minute to minute, day to day.
- PSD COVID website is updated frequently.
- Clarification was requested on current definition of immunity.
- Decisions need to serve all students.
- Evaluating COVID status data day to day.
- Appreciation was expressed for the hard work performed by staff.

9.0 ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Internal Monitoring and Policy Review: EL 2.5, Emergency Superintendent and Executive Succession

Director Draper moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy EL 2.5 in his Internal Monitoring Report dated, August 10, 2021, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Succession document is intentionally vague regarding names of specific staff.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-0

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 Discussion of Specialized Details of the District's Cybersecurity Arrangements

Vice President Petterson moved that the Board of Education enter executive session for the purposes of discussing specialized details of the District's cybersecurity arrangements, as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(d). Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Executive Director Dustin Reintsma, 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, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-0

Board meeting recessed at 9:04 p.m.

Executive session began at 9:15 p.m.

Executive session ended at 10:22 p.m.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education