



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/Work Session
September 28, 2021

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM Information Technology Center Aspen Training Rooms

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Kristen Draper, Carolyn Reed and Jessica Zamora; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Traci Gile and Scott Nielsen; Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Brett Larsen, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, and Dustin Reintsma; Legal and Policy Council Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Donovan arrived at 5:40

Dinner session began at 5:31 p.m.

1.0 Student Advisory Group

PSD students Elora Miller-Vivian and Austin Hensen provided an update on the Student Advisory Group.

Board discussion included:

- Eleven students attended the recent meeting.
- Potential topics were discussed.
- Superintendent Kingsley thanked the students for presenting and reiterated the importance of student voice inclusion.
- Connections Survey and differences in student preparation processes were discussed.
- Gratitude was expressed for the presentation.

2.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

- Superintendent Kingsley provided an update on his recent activities.
- Transportation Facility is near completion.
- Gratitude was expressed to Executive Director of Operations Matt Bryant for positive leadership.
- Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Traci Gile provided an update on the AlphaBest program and spoke about targeting enrollment.
- 129 staff members currently use AlphaBest.
- 1,050 students utilize AlphaBest services with 80 students on a waitlist.
- Questions were raised about the percentage of subsidized enrollment compared to the previous school year.
- 14% of enrollment is subsidized through Title I, Colorado programming, McKinney Vento, Military discounts and more.
- Request was made for AlphaBest data be tracked throughout the school year.
- Substitute teacher shortages were explained; usage is not higher than normal but availability is lower than normal.

- Options for increasing substitutes or teaching alternatives were discussed.
- Question was raised about shortage of Paraprofessionals.
- 167 flexible substitutes are active in the system this school year with an average daily need of 278.
- Disproportionate need requires principals to be creative to support learning.
- Current out-of-the-box thinking is appreciated but not sustainable.
- Shortage is likely COVID related and possibly the new normal.
- Board members reported on recent school visits.
- New Assistant Board Secretary and Legal and Policy Counsel Administrative Assistant Lexy Donnelly was introduced.
- President Febvre provided an update on the recent URA meeting and the transition to Director Draper as the Board representative.
- Vice President Petterson spoke about the Audit Committee meeting and introduction of the new internal monitoring process.

3.0 Agenda Planning

- Order of Agenda Action Items may be changed.
- PSD Foundation ‘Meet and Greet’ will be 5:30 p.m. on October 7, 2021, at Bamford Elementary.
- CASB Fall Regional meeting will be Thursday, September 30, 2021, at Northridge High School in Greeley.

Dinner session ended at 6:15 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre; Vice President Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Carolyn Reed and Jessica Zamora; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Traci Gile and Scott Nielsen; Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten; Executive Directors Matt Bryant, Brett Larsen, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, and Dustin Reintsma; 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 6:30 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice President Petterson moved that the Board swap Agenda Items 7.1 and 7.2 in terms of their order.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None
ABSENT: None
Motion passed 7-0

3.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Kingsley shared an update on the school district and community happenings.

- FCHS Homecoming football game versus RMHS was a celebration of a return to normalcy.
- School visits were discussed.
- Appreciation was expressed for the staff Equity, Diversity and Inclusion conversations.
- Principles of Community provide an opportunity to strengthen outcomes.

4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Jeff Aufderheide questioned why the Pledge of Allegiance was not said at the beginning of the meeting and stated members of the PSD wellness council are actively working against the principles of the American flag.

ACE President Joni Baker thanked the Board for a mask mandate that allows students and staff to minimize the spread of the virus and reminded attendees that mask wearing is an opportunity to teach students the importance of community.

Tasha Carr expressed concern that the Board initiated a mask mandate based on guidance from groups influenced by the teacher's union and asked for decisions to be based on medical science, not political science.

Parent Matt Rogers acknowledged the good and thankless work performed by the Board and stated vaccines and masks are working.

Tom Griggs said he is a former educator running for the Board of Education and spoke about the need for a public education specialist on the board who understands the inner workings of the educational process.

Parent Jessica Kraus said PSD is not teaching children to be who God created them to be and the decisions made over the past year and half choose money over what is right.

Casey Lindsey stated CMAS results indicate students are being deprived of a strong foundation for success and believes this is due to shortcomings in educational decisions made by the Board.

Parent Jennifer Jolly thanked Board members and the Superintendent for prioritizing student health and well-being while preserving in-person learning, and stated safety protocols have protected the rest of the community.

Nicky Galbraith requested PSD provide peer reviewed studies that prove mask wearing is not harming children.

Marc Fuchs stated life involves risk and safety is an illusion, and said children should not be made to bear the responsibility of the virus.

Heather Lahdenpera asked for evidence to prove masking children does not cause harm through psychological damage and learning delays.

Parent Jenny Zeller shared the negative effects of the mandatory mask mandates on her four school-aged children.

5.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Director Anderson provided an update on the Student Advisory Council and the Legislative Subcommittee.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Bamford School Accreditation Plan Type

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, Reed and Zamora

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Resolution in Support of LGBT History Month

Director Draper moved that the Board pass the LGBT History Month October Resolution as stated in the Action Item 7.1.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

Staff Equity Coalition and PSD Pride Affinity Group for LGBTQIA + Staff Facilitator Danielle Hir spoke about the LGBTQIA community.

Board discussion included:

- Director Draper read the resolution aloud.
- Spirit Day is the 3rd Thursday in October; wear purple to show support for acceptance.
- Reading the resolution, voting, and hearing comments is a small step towards creating a safe space for every student, teacher, and staff member in our community.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None
Motion passed 7-0

7.2 Academic Focus Areas and 2021-22 District Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve the District Unified Improvement Plan.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

Assistant Superintendent Traci Gile, Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Robert Beauchamp provided an update on the UIP.

Board discussion included:

- Clarification was requested regarding some abbreviations used in the presentation.
- Early Learner information is important.
- Gratitude was expressed to teachers for taking the extra steps in training for PK-3 literacy.
- Targeted intervention was reviewed.
- Examples of Dyslexia support and availability were discussed.
- Student success with college academic courses should be celebrated.
- Disparities in class opportunities/equity should be monitored and addressed.
- Principal Leadership Teams are focused on building awareness.
- Assessing bias in curriculum is important.
- Data was requested on percentage of staff who took the bias training/classes.
- Experiences that build connection aid in academic improvement.
- Removing barriers to access and opportunity should increase learning for at-risk learners.
- High Performing Teams set the standard for “at or above grade level” learning and expectations.
- Appreciation was expressed for benchmark dates; data regarding percentage completion was requested.
- Literacy beyond Pre K-3 was addressed.
- Loss of reading skills in K-3 is attributed to remote learning and the ability to sit in front of a computer for long periods of time, creating gaps in the sequence of instruction.
- Root Cause Analysis is needed to wrap services around parents, students, and staff.
- Pandemic amplified disproportionality but struggles existed prior to COVID.
- Questions were raised about the process and software used to gauge student interest.
- Frequent updates were requested for Early Literacy implementation benchmarks.
- Gratitude was expressed to the District Advisory Board for providing critical feedback.
- Appreciation was expressed for the systemic approach to improvement.
- Future work on Restorative Practices is anticipated.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education