



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
September 13, 2022

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

PRESENT: President Rob Petterson; Vice President Kristen Draper; Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Traci Gile and Scott Nielsen; Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten; Chief Officers Marlena Gross-Taylor, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dwayne Schmitz and Erich WonSavage; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Donovan arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

- Chief Institutional Effectiveness Officer Dwayne Schmitz introduced Assessment and School Support Coordinator Susan Thomas, who spoke about the department and her role.
- Chief Information Officer Madeline Noblett provided a staffing update and introduced Communications Coordinator Emily Shockley, who talked about her experience and current role.
- Director Brokish provided an update on the District Advisory Board.
- Recognitions were assigned.
- Director Donovan provided an update on the CASB Regional meeting; fall conference is scheduled for October 21-22.

2.0 Agenda Planning

- Committee charters will be established by Cabinet members.
- Student Advisory Committee members will attend the next board meeting.
- Legislative subcommittee will begin soon.

Dinner session ended at 6:12 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Rob Petterson; Vice President Kristen Draper; Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Assistant Superintendents Traci Gile and Scott Nielsen; Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten; Chief Officers Marlena Gross-Taylor, Bud Hunt, Dave Montoya, Madeline Noblett, Dwayne Schmitz and Erich WonSavage; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Petterson called the regular business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Petterson led the Board of Education, staff, and community members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Community and Business Development Coordinator Nick Peterson introduced PSDs community School Supply Partners:

- Colleen Rodriguez, CSU School is Cool Committee co-chair
- Sarah Weeks, OtterCares Foundation Impact and Education Director, Pack2School program

On behalf of the Board of Education, Director Anderson expressed appreciation for the support and hours of labor put into ensuring every student in PSD has access to school supplies.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Resolution in Support of Hispanic Heritage Month

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of Hispanic Heritage month.

Director Zamora seconded the motion.

Director Donovan read the resolution aloud.

Harris Bilingual Immersion School Principal Dr. Norma Huerta Kelley spoke about the importance of bilingual people and introduced students who read statements in English and Spanish.

5th grade students in attendance:

- Alison Mijares
- Valeria Goode
- Hank Wiebe
- Saul Baeza

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to students and parents for appearing in support of the resolution.
- Hispanic Heritage celebration to be held at the Atzlan Center on Sunday, September 18, 2022.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

5.2 Resolution in Support of National Suicide Prevention Month

Director Zamora moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of National Suicide Prevention Month.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

Director Zamora read the resolution aloud

Director of Student Services Liz Davis introduced members of her team who spoke about their roles:

- Sarah Mowder-Wilkens, Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator
- Kim Granger, Health Services Coordinator

Board discussion included:

- National Suicide Telephone number is 988.
- Gratitude was expressed to those who shared stories.
- Imattercolorado.org can connect students with a therapist for six (6) free sessions.
- Seeking support for your child is a sign of strength.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Kingsley expressed gratitude for advocacy of students struggling with mental health and suicidal ideations and said students are hurting; suicide is one of the leading causes of youth death in Colorado. Challenges children face today are harder than in previous generations. Dialogue is critical to help children move forward.

Temperatures continue to rise, and some schools/classrooms are very warm. PSD is exploring true costs in bringing all thirty-five (35) schools to improved conditions for children and the learning environment. This goal needs to be accomplished together.

7.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Jeff Aufderheide requested Board members disclose conflicts of interest surrounding mental health issues so he can understand the driving forces behind the board decision making process.

Nick Jurich recounted his child's suicide attempt due to an association with an after-school club and demanded the Board stop encouraging damaging and harmful environments.

Erin Lee confirmed her belief in a sexual agenda promoted by PSD and said it is damaging to children.

Stanley Young stated pornography exists in books available throughout PSD schools and expressed belief that sexual grooming is leading to child suicide.

Nicole Alvarado requested PSD create a more diverse teacher workforce to align with the 30% minority student population.

Marc Fuchs said the existence of secret gender support groups within PSD does not demonstrate transparency and recommended parents remove their children from school.

Parent Virginia Mack stated lockdown drills are not trauma informed, asked for data to show lockdown drills are affective, and requested PSD place information regarding secure firearm storage on the website.

Parent Kelly Notarfrancesco thanked Board members for their service and asked for clarification on specific policies.

Teacher Adrian Flygt conveyed gratitude for the recent early release days due to excessive heat and asked the district to consider action to mitigate heat.

Dani Lawrence expressed concern about potential edits to new policy 3.13 and stated those with disabilities should automatically be accommodated in public meetings.

Aaron Green said PSDs mission statement is aspirational but not true and believes the district leaves broken students behind.

8.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Director Donovan provided an update on the CASB regional meeting.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Personnel Action

9.2 Meeting Minutes from August 9, 2022, and August 23, 2022

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

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

10.0 ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Internal Monitoring and Policy Review: EL 2.9, Dealings with Citizens of PSD

Director Donovan moved that the Board determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education policy EL 2.9 in his Internal Monitoring Report dated September 13, 2022, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Vice President Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Superintendent and staff have been busy with community interactions.
- Appreciation was expressed for creation of the community engagement sessions.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

10.2 Board Consideration of New Policy GP 3.13 (second reading)

Director Donovan moved that the policy and proposed revisions on public participation at school board meetings be approved and adopted by the Board as new Board Policy GP 3.13.

Vice President Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Speaker does not need to author comments and can speak on behalf of others.
- Only one person permitted at the podium at a time.
- Other districts announced intent to remove community comment from Board meetings.
- PSD does not intend to remove community comment and feel it is important to hear from members of the community.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None
Motion passed: 7-0

11.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 Strategic Plan Update: Draft Framework

Chief Equity and Academic Officer Marlena Gross-Taylor and Chief Institutional Effectiveness Officer Dwayne Schmitz provided information on the development of the strategic plan.

Board discussion included:

- Multiple community engagement sessions are planned.
- Invitation was extended to all community members to attend the sessions and provide feedback.
- Fifty-five (55) staff members are presenting the strategic plan in Spanish at a community engagement session tonight.

11.2 Mental Health Services Overview

Chief Equity and Academic Officer Marlena Gross-Taylor provided information on PSDs mental health services team and introduced the following members, who spoke about their respective department:

- Liz Davis, Director Student Services
- Leah Hager, Student Services, Behavior Intervention and Prevention Coordinator
- Beth Green, Student Services, Counselor Coordinator
- Kim Granger, Student Services, Health Services Coordinator
- Merry Hummell, Every Child Pediatrics, Director - The Health and Wellness Center at Centennial High School & Virtual Care Services at Lincoln Middle School
- Natalee Jacobson, Student Services, Behavior Intervention Coach
- Shayna Seitchik, Student Services, LGBTQIA+ Coordinator
- Sarah Mowder-Wilkens, Student Services, Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator
- Kassy McDermott, Integrated Services, Co-lead School Social Work
- James DiPilato, Student Services, Student Safety Coordinator
- Madeline Noblett, Chief Information Officer

Board discussion included:

- Gratitude was expressed to the department heads for their personal appearance.
- Eager to engage with community and work together within the district.
- Team members were invited to communicate any ideas, concerns and more with BOE members to facilitate helping students.
- Presentation could help educate families about the department services.
- Recognition of the relationship between mental and physical health was appreciated.
- LGBTQIA+ students have a higher rate of mental health issues.
- Services provided to students are exceptional.

11.3 Board Consideration of New Policy on Youth Suicide Prevention

Chief Equity and Academic Officer Marlena Gross-Taylor and General Counsel Autumn Aspen presented the Youth Suicide Prevention Policy.

Board discussion included:

- Clarification was requested regarding legal responsibility for teachers.
- Policy demonstrates PSD commitment to ensuring student safety.
- Resource hyperlink will exist within the policy.
- Skills referenced in policy already exist and training will continue.
- State of Colorado does not require this policy; PSD is choosing to establish policy to support students.
- Policy designed to promote safety and reduce incidences and cannot guarantee results.
- Will bring policy back at a future meeting for a vote.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Draper moved that Board enter executive session for the purpose of developing the strategy of the school district for negotiations relating to the 2023-2024 collective bargaining agreement or employment contracts, as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e)(III). Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Superintendent Brian Kingsley, Chief of Staff Lauren Hooten, Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya, Chief Human Resources Officer Erich Wonsavage, General Counsel Autumn Aspen, and Board Secretary Jill Brunner.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors DJ Anderson, Jim Brokish, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Rob Petterson, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 7-0

Executive session began at 9:35 p.m.

Executive session ended at 10:57 p.m.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Secretary to the Board of Education