



Poudre School District Board of Education

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

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Special Business Meeting

October 15, 2016

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Nate Donovan, Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, Carolyn Reed, and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Kipp called the special business meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

Director Petterson moved to amend the agenda to add item 2.6 Board Updates.

Director Febvre seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Kipp, Trask, Febvre, Gutowsky, Reed and Petterson

Those voting NO: Director Donovan

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 6-1.

2.0 WORK TOPICS

2.1 Employee Negotiations

Executive Director Vicki Thompson gave a PowerPoint presentation on PSD employee negotiation processes and procedures and the role the Board plays in both.

There was explanation and discussion of the entire negotiation process including issue setting, negotiations, tentative agreement, employee ratification, unresolved issues and Board approval.

It was suggested that Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb hold a session regarding dismissal of staff and the legalities of that process. The Board would like a session on this topic.

Additional discussion included suggested revisions (“language clean-up”) to the employee agreement (as detailed in meeting handout from Executive Director Thompson), the review of several articles in the agreement and the reclassification of classified exempt positions.

There was discussion about collaboration days (that are built into the school year calendar). The Board looks forward to updated information from the district's Heat Advisory Council on changes that have been made to facilities (building improvements for hot days).

2.2 Community Engagement Planning

The Board would like to approach community engagement meetings in a different way. The goal is to identify existing community member forums (i.e. Parent Academy, rotary clubs, engagements with the student community, etc.) and meet them there to get their input. This approach would use time more wisely and hopefully result in more meaningful discussions.

The Board formed a sub-committee to delve into new opportunities in community engagement. Directors Reed and Petterson will meet and bring back a proposal for this topic.

There was discussion about meeting with a broader array of students. Superintendent Smyser will look at ways to identify community interests where Board members could connect with different groups of students.

The Board discussed two upcoming community engagements.

2.3 Meeting Minutes

There was discussion about the level of detail the Board would like in their official meeting minutes. A decision was made to keep more detailed minutes.

Board recessed at 3:04 p.m.

Board reconvened at 3:12 p.m.

2.4 Agenda Prioritization

The Board had a conversation about agenda items; identifying areas for discussion and prioritizing specific items.

Items Discussed:

- Take legislative discussion and items which happen at every meeting off of the agenda prioritization master list.
- November 8th Board meeting is cancelled (cancel officially at October 25th meeting).
- The Board asked for training and update sessions with Cabinet members (i.e. meet with Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Scott Nielson, Assistant Superintendent

of Student Achievement Jinger Haberer, Executive Director Montoya regarding October Count Day, etc.). Each Board member was asked to send their area of interest to Superintendent Smyser. These discussions will happen soon (around the week of November 14th).

- 11/22 meeting topics to consider/include: long-range planning, legislative night (legislators will attend this meeting), TABOR lawsuit and Board recommendation (first reading, bulk of discussion will happen during subcommittee meeting), post-election reaction/discussion/recognitions on the bond status, keep Math Adoptions Rollout on 11/22 (Superintendent will keep update to 15 minutes), move Student Data Privacy to 12/13 meeting.
- Superintendent Smyser noted that D.E. 1.0 updates will be done in front of the cameras and Graduation Requirements will show up multiple times on meeting agendas.
- 12/9 Retreat topics to include fiscal priorities (input on the District's budget and overall process) and differentiation questions.
- 12/13 meeting to include on agenda the TABOR lawsuit 2nd reading and action/consent.
- Information was given out for the NSBA Annual Conference in Denver in March 2017. Lodging and commuting logistics to be determined at a later date.
- The Board will meet with Thomas Alsbury in January. A subcommittee of Directors Reed and Petterson are working on details of meeting and an agenda.
- 3/21 meeting to include Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) update. The first report reading will happen on 3/11.
- January 10th, the Board will meet in Executive Session without Superintendent Smsyer to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation. The Superintendent will then have the opportunity for feedback.
- There was discussion about the Superintendent evaluation form. A subcommittee was formed (Directors Febvre and Petterson) to draft a new evaluation form.
- January 10th Board meeting to include the Student ThinkTank. Topics to discuss with the group include debrief of CASB Conference, opinions on big district topics (like Equity and Diversity) and those specific items they are interested in. The Board can give them something in advance of meeting so they are prepared to talk about specific topics.
- January 24th there will be an early dinner session (Executive Session) to complete the Superintendent's evaluation. Director Petterson will call into the meeting.
- The March 7th Board retreat is cancelled. However, the Board would like to add a spring retreat date back into the calendar.
- Medicaid discussion is something the Superintendent will bring to the Board after more investigation. Right now, there are a lot of questions. Superintendent Smyser gave a very preliminary peek at the research she has access to so far. She will give a complete report to the Board when she has full information.
- The Board asked for updates on the Timnath IGA. There is no new information/proposal at this time. As soon as there is progress on this, it will show up on the agenda.
- There was discussion about how to frame a topic (e.g. so that the Board is prepared for administration presentations at meetings).

2.5 Self-Monitoring

A video was played for the Board that generated discussion about having good work agreements with other Board members and the Superintendent and how valuable it is that Board members have differing opinions. There is no need to “go along, just to get along.” The Board talked about the importance of listening to each other, having strong relationship foundations (looking for ways to get to know each other is valuable and leads to more productivity) and continuing to be active and engaged members.

There was discussion about the amount of email received and how it is managed, responded to and distributed to other staff members.

2.6 Board Updates

Board members who attended Parent Academy reported that parents are pleased with the program and find it valuable. The bilingual program at Leshar Middle School is a popular program and there was concern that the school had reduced sections of it. Parents appreciated the Board’s attendance at the event.

The Board discussed the importance of effectively distributing district information to families in popular formats (e.g. mobile-device friendly formats, PSD YouTube videos and Channel 10 material available in Spanish).

Board members who attended the Equity & Diversity Conference reported that discussion items included equity training models, how context/perspective can change a teacher’s presentation, how to set expectations high for students, and addressed teacher bias. Students at the event commented on the importance of feeling connected in a school and how language and transportation barriers negatively impact their academic performance and school extracurricular activity involvement.

CASB Update: Vice President Trask attended the Delegate Assembly and reported that overall, there are a lot of shared values among the school districts and general agreement as a whole state.

3.0 ADJOURNMENT

Retreat ended at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education