



MEETING MINUTES

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
2407 LAPORTE AVENUE • FORT COLLINS, CO 80521 • 970-490-3607

Minutes from Board of Education Meeting
June 14, 2016

DINNER SESSION – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: President Cathy Kipp and Vice President David Trask; Directors Nate Donovan, Christophe Febvre, Susan Gutowsky, Carolyn Reed, and Rob Petterson; Superintendent Sandra Smyser; Assistant Superintendents Edie Eckles, Jinger Haberer, and Todd Lambert; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, and Victoria Thompson; Interim Executive Director Dustin Reintsma, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

1.0 District Issues/Board Member Updates

Directors Carolyn Reed and Christophe Febvre attended a meeting with local county officials. There was a discussion about the relationship/shared interests between the county and the school district.

Board members have been approached with questions about future school building construction and Timnath (and their IGA with the school district). A special meeting may be required to get clear facts on that situation.

The bond issue will be pulled from the Consent Agenda tonight, and become an Action Item instead.

There were questions and clarifications on probationary staff.

The district's Information Technology position is still being filled.

2.0 Graduation Rates

There has been a decline in graduation rates. The district is implementing strategies to combat specific issues that discourage some students and cause them to fall behind.

Issues addressed included the difficult 8th/9th grade transition, encouraging complimentary curriculum (instead of competing ideas that confuse students), the importance of graduates having good work ethic and skills and supporting staff in their efforts to combat all identified issues.

A multi-check system that takes a systematic approach in follow up with students and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) are generating very positive feedback.

The new PSD Welcoming pamphlet was introduced to the Board.

Dinner session ended at 6:27 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING – (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 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; Assistant Superintendents Edie Eckles, Jinger Haberer, and Todd Lambert; Executive Directors Danielle Clark, Pete Hall, Dave Montoya, and Victoria Thompson; Interim Executive Director Dustin Reintsma, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb

ABSENT: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Kipp led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda at this time.

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

4.1 2016 Spring Athletic State Champions

Executive Director Clark and Director Donovan recognized top state athletic competitors/champions from our district. Several athletes were present at the meeting and introduced themselves.

Executive Director Clark and Director Donovan presented the students with certificates on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.2 2016 Spring Science Olympiad Competition

The Board recognized and congratulated Preston Middle School's Science Olympiad team for achieving national success. Several team members were present at the meeting and introduced themselves.

Executive Director Clark and Director Petterson presented the students with certificates on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.3 2016 Academic Scholars

The Board recognized and congratulated multiple students for academic excellence. Several students were present at the meeting and introduced themselves.

Executive Director Danielle Clark and Director Gutowsky presented certificates on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.4 Case Principal of the Year Winner

The 2016 Colorado Association of School Executives and the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals named Dr. Tom Dodd the Colorado Middle School Principal of the Year. The Leshar Middle School Principal is eligible for a National Principal of the Year title. Dr. Dodd will attend a recognition ceremony in Washington D.C. this fall.

Assistant Superintendent Edie Eckles noted that the award recognizes outstanding principals who provide high quality learning opportunities for students and demonstrate exemplary contributions to the profession. Ms. Eckles introduced Dr. Dodd who thanked several people in the district for their work on his behalf throughout the nomination process. Dr. Dodd praised the diverse and supportive learning culture at Leshar.

Vice President Trask congratulated Dr. Dodd on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.5 Superintendent Report

Superintendent Smyser shared the “Last Day of School” video put together by the district to celebrate the final days of the school year and showed a highlight video of 2016 PSD graduation activities.

Dr. Smyser reported on recent meetings with various leadership and committees from around the district and community and highlighted the district’s summer programs and construction projects.

It was announced that PSD won a Better Buildings Challenge award from the US Dept. of Energy.

4.6 Board Member Reports

President Kipp recognized and thanked Superintendent of Secondary Schools Edie Eckles and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education Myra Freeman for their many years of service to the district and wished them well on their new endeavors.

Director Donovan presented the PSD Board of Education Report for May 11th through June 13th, 2016.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Kimberly Chambers: Reported on a gathering last night in Fort Collins in response to the shooting in Orlando. These events highlight the need for our district to continue the conversation on diversity, equity and inclusion and take steps to protect and support our youth.

Kristin Draper: Questioned if students who are part of the LGBT community feel comfortable in our schools. She is concerned that putting “everyone” in charge of equity and diversity leaves no one to champion the cause, serve as a resource to counselors who may not be equipped to handle these issues and ultimately leaves no one accountable. Please consider reinstating one full-time diversity, equity and inclusion leadership position in the district.

Lance Wright: Expressed his disappointment in the district’s decision to eliminate the diversity, equity and inclusion position. In light of what happened in Orlando, he questioned how well equipped and prepared we are as a district to address needs in this area. Please reconsider the elimination and reinvest in this essential leadership position.

Mike Pruznick: Addressed concerns he has about district decisions and asked that good data and critical thinking skills be used before deciding on issues. Expressed frustration that plans he presented to the Board have not been taken into consideration.

Jimena Sagas: Parent in the district concerned with the elimination of the diversity, equity and inclusion position. She spoke on behalf of Betty Aragon-Mitotes. We need to come together as a community to make positive change and treat all students with respect and value. She asked that the district better communicate progress and the work being done for Hispanic student issues.

Eric Sutherland: Noted financial issues he feels the Board is not addressing and the need to work on building alliances with nearby communities like Timnath. Questioned development fees there that could support school expenses and noted the importance of finding a solution that ensures sustainable financing for the schools.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Personnel Action**
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes for May 10, 2016 and May 24, 2016**
- 6.3 Selection of 2015-2016 Accountability Measures for Alternative Education Campus**
- 6.4 Coordinated Election Notice**
- 6.5 2016 English Language Proficiency Act Excellence Award**
- 6.6 Revisions to Student Rights & Code of Conduct Policies**
- 6.7 Addendum to Mountain Sage Charter School Contract**
- 6.8 Addendum to Fort Collins Montessori Charter School Contract**
- 6.9 Commercial Insurance Renewal for 2016-2017**
- 6.10 Proposed Budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year**
- 6.11 Interfund Borrowing Resolution (annually)**
- 6.12 Investment and Wire Transfer Authorization (submitted annually)**
- 6.13 Check Issuance and Facsimile Signature Resolution**
- 6.14. Utility Easement for Verizon Wireless at Fort Collins High School**
- 6.15 Contract to Purchase Land and Agreement to Develop Associated Infrastructure for the Southeast Elementary School**
- 6.16 Water Line Easement West of Fossil Ridge High School**
- 6.17 Student Fee Schedule**
- 6.18 Office of Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment**
- 6.19 Office of Head Start Duration Amendment Request**
- 6.20 Approval and Transmittal Form FY 2016-2017 NCLB Consolidated Programs Application**

Director Donovan made a motion to approve and adopt Items 6.4 and 6.10 off of the Consent Agenda and make them Action Items 7.1 and 7.2.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed 7-0

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1. Coordinated Election Notice

Director Petterson made a motion to direct the Secretary to the Superintendent and the Board of Education to notify the Larimer County Clerk and Recorder that an intergovernmental agreement between the District and the Clerk and Recorder concerning the conduct of the November 8, 2016 election may be necessary.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0

7.2 Proposed Budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year

Director Gutowsky made a motion for the Board to approve the budget as presented for the 2016-2017 school year.

Vice President Trask and Director Donovan seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0

Discussion followed regarding the state of PSD funds and the challenge to balance the budget this year. The Board addressed financial concerns within the district, ongoing talks with legislators, the City of Timnath, and noted the importance of putting the bond on the election ballot this fall. The impact of the bond passing or failing will affect the entire PSD community.

President Kipp noted that if the bond and levy do not pass this fall, the district will need to make cuts from the general fund. President Kipp encouraged involvement to make the public aware of the importance of the bond and mill passage.

8.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Internal Monitoring Report-Second Semester Review: EL 2.1, Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians & General Public (30 minutes)

Executive Director Clark presented the Internal Monitoring Report. She reviewed district policy as it pertains to communication avenues and highlighted any changes that have been made to the district's guidelines.

Mrs. Clark also discussed the results from a recent survey. The survey was given to staff and parents. The results are carefully reviewed by the cabinet and school administrators and are being used to identify what is being done well and those areas that need improvement. It is useful information that allows schools and districts to take action. Improvement plans are already in place throughout the district and in some schools.

8.2 Legislative Discussion (20 minutes)

The sub-committee met to work on a legislative agenda. Funding discussions become imperative this year. Several other important measures have been included in the agenda for this year.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education