



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 9, 2016

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM

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

ABSENT: Director Christophe Febvre

1.0 District Issues / Board Member Updates

Superintendent Smyser discussed the start of the new school year. Various positions have reported to work and summer trainings went well.

Board of Education Meeting Topics and District Priorities Summary documents for the 2016-2017 year were distributed to those in attendance. The documents are tentative and subject to change.

Several upcoming events for the Board were reviewed and will be further discussed during the August 23rd dinner session. A retreat with Thomas Alsbury will be postponed to a later date to accommodate all schedules and allow time for reference checking, book study and preliminary discussion with Alsbury that will best prepare him to meet and provide feedback to the Board. A date will be selected August 23rd.

There will be an Executive Session for the Board and Cabinet members at the end of the August 23rd Board meeting. Legal Counsel Tom Crabb will lead the session reviewing legal issues/policy.

Information, informational letters and pamphlets that the Board has received over the summer regarding various district news items and interests were passed around for Board review.

The Board examined the bond mill levy. Legal Counsel Crabb will continue to look at it and advise the Board on this topic.

Superintendent Smyser, Board and Cabinet members shared success stories from teacher summer externships and PWR, PACE and ACE student internship and career exploration programs. Study continues on how to successfully expand these programs in the community and make them sustainable.

The dinner session ended at 6:23 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING - (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

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

ABSENT: Director Christophe Febvre

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.

4.0 RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

The Board had five Board recognitions. Executive Director Clark introduced the nominees.

4.1 U.S. Department of Education's Green Schools Program

Executive Director Pete Hall introduced the Green Schools 2016 award given to Poudre School District from the U.S. Department of Education. He recognized several individuals, schools, district departments and community partners who worked together on efforts to reduce environmental impact, utility costs, increase health and wellness and ensure sustainability throughout the school district.

Director Donovan presented a certificate of recognition to the group on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.2 AVID School Wide Site of Distinction

Wellington Middle School representatives discussed the prestigious honor and thanked all who helped them receive this distinction.

Vice President Trask presented a certificate of recognition to the group on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.3 2016 Colorado Trailblazer Schools to Watch

Polaris Expeditionary Learning School and Preston Middle School have been recognized as 2016 Colorado Trailblazer Schools to Watch by the Colorado Association of Middle Level Education.

Director Gutowsky presented a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.4 NASN Excellence in School Nursing Award

National Association of School Nurses awarded PSD's Health Services Coordinator Nancy Weber this prestigious award. Ms. Weber thanked her dedicated staff and the district for support and structure that provide an excellent health system for our students.

Director Reed presented a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.5 2016 Association Chapter Advisor of the Year

Tanya Alcaarez of Fossil Ridge High School received the national DECA Advisor of the Year award. Ms. Alcaarez thanked her supportive staff, school and district for their help in making the program so successful.

Director Petterson presented a certificate of recognition to her on behalf of the Board and PSD.

4.6 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smyser reported on welcoming teachers and staff to the new school year. Student registrations and 6th and 9th grade transitions are in progress in the coming week. Recognition was given to the many school supply drive programs happening in our community right now.

The Superintendent discussed subcommittee work, staff trainings, in-service programs, IT equipment maintenance, school bus maintenance, new driver training and extensive custodial and maintenance work that have been ongoing throughout the summer. A PSD video was shown that highlights some of the summer building maintenance and construction projects.

The District Accountability Committee has four parent seats open for the 2016-2017 school year. The district is also looking for a few more school bus drivers. Anyone interested in these positions is encouraged to apply.

A Here Comes the Bus app is now free through Apple and Android stores. You must be a parent or guardian and have a student ID number. The app tracks every PSD bus; users can see where a student's bus is at any time. There is a link to the app on the PSD website.

4.7 Board Member's Report

Director Gutowsky presented informational updates on the summer's Board retreats, legislative subcommittee work, various district and community meetings, numerous local and state events and discussed seeing some of the work being done over the summer in the schools.

5.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Eric Sutherland: Commented on legal and moral considerations in regard to current TABOR tax laws and their impact on the local community. He has too many questions on these and other issues as they pertain to the potential bond and mill levy and therefore is not in support of its addition to this fall's ballot.

Barbara K. Wallner: Educator who has served on several boards for the school district, she does not support the current long range plan and does not support spending on new buildings that she feels are the wrong buildings in the wrong places at the wrong time. These will have a negative effect on students. She does not support putting a bond mill levy measure on the fall ballot.

Mike Pruznick: Posed several questions based on information and presentations he has seen at Board meetings. He feels little things are being ignored now and could lead to big problems later; requested that the Board review his questions/calculations and get back to him.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Personnel Action

6.2 Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2016, June 14, 2016 and June 16, 2014 (Special Meeting)

6.3 Recommendation for External Audit Services Engagement for FY2016

6.4 Appointment of Assistant Secretary

6.5 Approval of Election Intergovernmental Agreement between PSD/Larimer County

President Kipp made a motion to approve and adopt the recommended actions for the items on the consent agenda.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Director Febvre

Motion passed 6-0.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 2016 Bond and Mill Levy Election

Before discussion began on the bond and mill levy election, Executive Director Montoya clarified a few minor changes to the ballot and resolution language from an earlier version that was included in the meeting agenda packet.

Community comment on the bond and mill levy election followed the update from Montoya.

Eric Sutherland: Some of the language in the bond and mill levy measure is misleading and confusing to him. Some of his questions/concerns include choice school options, the fairness of the taxation process and the constitutionality of tax increment financing and its interference with the voting process. He is not in favor of the bond and mill levy measure going onto the fall ballot.

Tom List: President of Poudre Education Association said a vote of “yes” to pass the bond is necessary to continue meeting the needs of the community. Growth is coming, we need more classroom space, existing buildings need work, and an athletic facility will be beneficial. A “no” vote means increased class sizes, wasteful spending on modular classrooms and teachers who cannot afford to live in the communities in which they teach. He asked the Board to vote in favor of the bond and mill levy ballot measure.

Katy Montoya: As someone with a long history in the Poudre School District, she is in favor of providing the highest quality education for our students. To continue to produce excellent education for our students we need to maintain our buildings and staff and provide for them the resources they need to be effective educators and continue to live in this community. She asked the Board to support the bond and mill ballot measure.

Mary Kay Sommers: As a retired principal, member of various educational committees and boards throughout the years, she strongly believes every child has a right to quality education. The Board has done their due diligence in putting together the bond and mill levy measure. The

need does exist, it's the right time. She thanked the Board and asked them to vote in favor of the ballot measure.

Mike Pruznick: Is not in favor of the bond and mill measure going onto the ballot this fall. He could get to a yes, but feels that at this time the ballot language is unclear, doesn't address maintenance issues on current schools, is concerned people will not know what they are voting for and that more thought needs to be given to the long range plan; suggested there may be other ways to deal with growth.

Following community comments, the Board took time to discuss the bond and mill levy measure.

President Kipp read a statement from Director Febvre. Director Febvre was absent from the meeting and would not vote on the issue. His letter stated support in favor of putting the bond mill levy measure on the ballot this fall.

Board members then addressed concerns from the community comments and discussed further points of their consideration in bringing the bond mill levy to the fall ballot (i.e. the extensive work and research/due diligence that has gone into the process, delay of funds will increase long-term construction costs and result in cuts to the general fund, schools in Colorado are funded in this tax manner, noted school of choice law and extensive growth in a district that encompasses several communities, community responsibility, and taking specific, positive action in support of students, etc.).

The Board thanked the community for their input, addressed voter confidence in moving things in the right direction and being good stewards of funds, and encouraged support of the mill bond levy.

Director Petterson moved that the Board approve the RESOLUTION forwarded to Board members via e-mail on August 8, 2016 CALLING AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016 AUTHORIZING BALLOT ISSUES FOR A MILL LEVY OVERRIDE AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATIONS WHICH MAY BE USED AS MATCHING MONEYS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE UNDER THE BUILDING EXCELLENT SCHOOLS TODAY ACT, AND THE LEVY OF PROPERTY TAXES TO PAY THE SAME; SETTING THE BALLOT TITLES AND CONTENT FOR THE BALLOT ISSUES; PROVIDING OTHER MATTERS AND RATIFYING ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN RELATING THERETO; AND PROVIDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUCH RESOLUTION.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

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

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: Christophe Febvre

Motion passed 6-0.

8.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Revisions to District Policy DGA/DGB, Authorized Signatures/Check Writing Services

Executive Director Montoya presented updates to the district check writing policy. The Board did not have any changes to the presented policy. It will be on the consent agenda for Board approval at the next meeting.

8.2 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.2, Treatment of Staff

Executive Director Vicki Thompson outlined policies, procedures and district operating principles as they relate to treatment of staff within the district.

They have made changes to the policy based on external feedback and survey results. The results and changes were discussed. The survey information is posted on the PSD website.

8.3 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.5, Emergency Superintendent and Executive Succession

Superintendent Smyser explained how each executive in the district has a designated person prepared to step into that position in an emergency and discussed the importance of continuing to build our next generation of leaders both at the district and school level.

8.4 Legislative Discussion

President Kipp reported that the subcommittee will start meeting again on August 23rd. These are open meetings and everyone is welcome to sit in on discussions regarding legislative issues.

President Kipp also gave updates on legislative related activities that happened over the summer that affects education in Colorado and how it specifically affects PSD.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education