



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 27, 2016

DINNER SESSION - 5:00 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 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: None

1.0 District Issues / Board Member Updates

Director Petterson moved that the Board go into executive session as authorized under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice and information on matters concerning the lawsuit challenging the District's ballot language for the November 2016 election, a possible appeal of the district court's disposition of that lawsuit, and other allegations of legal violations involving financial matters related to the District's proposed mill levy override and bond financing. Individuals invited to join the Board and Superintendent in executive session are Kutak Rock Attorneys Tom Weihe and Tom Snyder, RBC Capital Markets Managing Director Dan O'Connell, Executive Director Dave Montoya, Legal and Policy Counsel Tom Crabb and Assistant Board Secretary Kyla Davis.

Directors Febvre and Vice President Trask 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.

Executive Session began at 5:04 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 6:08 p.m.

There was discussion about how to handle classified employees and overtime. There is no definitive ruling on this topic (across all districts). The Board will consider putting in a request to obtain an opinion from the Department of Labor.

The dinner session ended at 6:24 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION - (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 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 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: None.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Kipp called the work session meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Mike Pruznick: Thanked the district for posting new information online and then noted concerns about other meeting items he feels are missing from the district website. He would like to see in advance and online, more detailed agenda information and clear notes about meetings that will contain executive sessions.

Kim Redd: Parent and school district volunteer commented on the district's long history of being good stewards of the community's money. The area is strong and growing. The district has been very responsible in seeing the needs and responding properly. District growth is not the fault of the students. Support the bond and mill levy and continue to support our students' quality education.

Eric Sutherland: Commented on his concerns with tax increment financing legislation. He also voiced frustration with Poudre School District and its handling of his legal case. He is taking steps to enact change through judicial review.

Jan Borman: Thanked the Board for putting the bond and mill levy on the ballot this year and the district for always being accountable on past bond and mill levy projects. She is proud to be part of a community that makes children's education a priority. She has seen the repercussions of not passing similar measures and does not want to see it happen here. Delaying construction will only increase costs. Please support the bond and mill levy on the ballot in November.

Chris Walz: Teacher in Poudre School District for 15 years, a member of the Poudre Education Association and a former PSD student. The community has always supported public education and because of this, Fort Collins and Poudre School District have great kids, teachers and public schools. It's important that this support continues. He is in favor of the bond and mill levy.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Personnel Action

4.2 Revised Board Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2016

4.3 Memorandum of Understanding Between Poudre School District and Employee Representative Associations

President Kipp pulled items 4.2 and 4.3 from the consent agenda. They become action items 5.1 and 5.2 respectively.

Director Donovan made a motion to adopt and approve the recommended action for the (remaining) item(s) on the consent agenda.

Director Petterson and Vice President Trask 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.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Revised Board Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2016

Director Donovan moved to approve the revised meeting minutes from the August 23, 2016 meeting.

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

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0.

5.2 Memorandum of Understanding Between Poudre School District and Employee Representative Associations.

Executive Director Victoria Thompson introduced this item; a \$25 a month health insurance premium cost increase to employees in 2017-2018 with an opportunity to avoid the increase by participating in a wellness program.

This change was approved during negotiations and communicated through all employee associations but did not make it into the employee agreements. The request now is to include it in a memorandum of understanding between the district and employee representative associations.

Director Petterson moved to approve this memorandum of understanding as written.

Director Gutowsky seconded the motion.

The Board asked for clarifications, i.e. who owns the wellness survey data (contract provider does), does the district see personal information (no, just aggregate data), etc.

Communication will continue with employees on this topic.

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.

6.0 WORK SESSION TOPICS

6.1 Monitoring Report/Policy Review: DE 1.0, General District Ends (Part 1)

Assistant Superintendent Jinger Haberer and Director of Research and Evaluation Dwayne Schmitz, gave an informational overview (a preview) of monitor report D.E. 1.0.

Schmitz reviewed the overall purpose of the monitor report (e.g. reports on 2015/2016 identified targets and measures, not the means used to get there) and requested Board feedback on the format and overall information included in the report.

They also noted preliminary results from the student connectedness survey. The pilot program had a great response; more to come on this report in October.

Future topics of discussion will include the Ascent program and Poudre School District's (preliminary) graduation rates (how those numbers are defined, how the state's numbers will differ, etc.).

6.2 Graduation Requirements

Assistant Superintendents Jinger Haberer and Scott Nielsen presented detailed information on current and future local and state graduation requirements.

The department has sought input from the community, parents, education administrators, etc. to ensure the graduation Menu of Options is the most up to date and effective for students. Haberer also reported on the general feedback/suggestions from those meetings.

They answered questions from Superintendent Smyser and the Board.

Superintendent Smyser requested an annual report on graduation requirements to ensure teachers and students are on track to meet the 5 year requirements.

Feedback was given and discussion ensued regarding the district's career pathways programs.

Board recessed at 8:32 p.m.

Board reconvened at 8:37 p.m.

6.3 Standards Based Grading Update

Assistant Superintendent Scott Nielsen reported to the Board current work happening in the middle schools on standards based grading and addressed how it affects students (i.e. presents an opportunity to review students' strengths/weaknesses, work habits and if scores accurately reflect their work, raises the bar on student's quality of work, helps teachers adjust instruction, etc.).

Nielsen reported on meetings between the district's middle school Principals. The focus of those meetings is to talk best practices among teachers and have consistency throughout our system and in the district.

The information gathering process is ongoing on this topic in the middle schools; they will continue to meet and discuss it on a regular basis.

Assistant Superintendent Nielsen answered questions from the Board.

6.4 Proposed 2016 Bond – Preliminary Planning Summary

In response to the Board's decision to put a funding measure for future new construction on the November ballot, the Planning, Design and Construction department is working on a detailed plan on how to proceed in a timely manner with the projects should the bond be successful.

Director Tammy Knauer presented information on the overall approach and the project management plan that will be set in place including scope, schedule and budget. The Board was given general information on when and how the project would unfold and what to expect in terms of approvals for design plans, bids, contracts, contractual responsibilities and more.

6.5 Legislative Discussion

This item was not discussed at the meeting.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Board meeting ended at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Davis
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education