



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
April 8, 2025

DINNER SESSION - 5:30 PM Superintendent Conference Room

PRESENT: President Kristen Draper; Vice President Jessica Zamora; Directors Jim Brokish, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile; Chief Officers Dr. Lauren Hooten and Dave Montoya; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: Director Scott Schoenbauer

LATE: None

Dinner session began at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 District Information and Board Discussion Topics

- General Counsel Autumn Aspen introduced new staff member Assistant Legal Counsel Brianna Champ.

2.0 Executive Session

Director Duffy moved that the Board enter executive session for the following purposes:

- 1) to develop the strategy of the school district for negotiations relating to the 2025-2026 collective bargaining agreement or employment contracts, as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6- 402(4)(e)(III); and
- 2) to discuss individual students where public disclosure would adversely affect the persons involved, as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6- 402(4)(h).

Individuals invited to join the Board in all or part of the executive sessions are Superintendent Brian Kingsley, Chief of Staff Dr. Lauren Hooten, Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile, Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya, Executive Director of Finance Kera Badalamenti, and General Counsel Autumn Aspen.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 6-0

Executive session #1 began at 5:35 p.m.
Executive session #1 ended at 5:49 p.m.

Executive Director of Finance Kera Badalamenti left Executive Session #1 at 5:49 p.m.

Executive session #2 began at 5:49 p.m.
Executive session #2 ended at 6:03 p.m.

Dinner session ended at 6:03 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING (BOARDROOM) – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: President Kristen Draper; Vice President Jessica Zamora; Directors Jim Brokish, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelde, and Carolyn Reed; Superintendent Brian Kingsley; Lead Assistant Superintendent Dr. Traci Gile; Assistant Superintendents Dr. Julie Chaplain and Dr. Insoon Olson; Chief Officers Bud Hunt, Dr. Lauren Hooten, Dave Montoya, Dr. Dwayne Schmitz; General Counsel Autumn Aspen

ABSENT: None

LATE: Director Scott Schoenbauer arrived at 7:58 p.m.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Draper 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

4.1 Spelling Bee Champion

Traut Core Knowledge Principal Dr. Alissa Kendall spoke about the winner and introduced student Nikhil Ganta, three-time winner of the spelling bee.

Director Reed congratulated Nikhil on behalf of the Board of Education.

4.2 Visual Arts Program

Teaching and Learning Facilitator Alison Alter introduced the following National Scholastics Art and Writing award winners and teachers:

- Chelsea Ermer
- Becca Black
- Sydney Lamey
- Rebecca Park
- Wade Faulkner

Director Brokish congratulated all on behalf of the Board of Education.

4.3 Aquatic Events

Fossil Ridge High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Dave Walk spoke about the accomplishment of two-time 3A State diving champion Sydney Ovesen, and the CHSSA 5A 200-free relay State championship team of Gracie Thornton, Eliza Thiel, Maddie Arnold, and Paige Nguyen.

- Student Sydney Ovesen spoke about the accomplishment and thanked her parents and teachers.

Vice President Zamora congratulated the athletes on behalf of the Board of Education.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Resolution in Support of the Week of the Exceptional Child

Director Duffy moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of the Week of the Exceptional Child, April 14-18, 2025.

Director Havelda seconded the motion.

- Rocky Mountain High School Social Worker Trish Van Horssen introduced student Ashley Holck, who spoke about her experiences in school with an invisible disability.
- Irish Elementary Integrated Services teacher Deb Contino introduced students Lizzie Schulz and Forace Sanchez, who communicated in both Spanish and English about interest and activities in school.
- Gratitude was expressed to the students for speaking about inclusion in leadership.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None
Motion passed: 6-0

5.2 Resolution in Support of Arab American Heritage Month 2025

Director Havelda moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of Arab American Heritage Month, April 2025.

Director Brokish seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Bauder Elementary Principal Stephen Boese introduced student Yusuf Arhouma who spoke about his Arab American heritage.
- Gratitude was expressed to Yusuf for sharing his personal story and family journey.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 6-0

5.3 Resolution in Support of National Bilingual / Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month

Vice President Zamora moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of National Bilingual / Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month.

Director Reed seconded the motion.

- Fossil Ridge High School LCE Family Liaison Yesenia Silverio Ocampo introduced student Ana Paola Gaona Quintanilla, who spoke about moving to Colorado while speaking a different language and knowing a different school system/learning style.
- Gratitude was expressed to Yesenia for overcoming fears and speaking in front of a large audience.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelda, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 6-0

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Kingsley introduced a video highlighting student art with responses to “Art Is” and said we have a lot to learn from students if we just listen to them, spoke about recent school visits, acknowledged mental health awareness month and addressed a magical collaboration across the district to support mental health needs, thanked community partners and district staff for collaborating around services for families and students, and talked about the upcoming budget update that will inform the community about how we are developing our budget.

7.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Eric Sutherland said there is an imminent recession due to an unhelpful cult that is running the country and asked the district to have more respect for people who pay taxes.

Lorrie Maggio-Huber spoke on behalf of district media specialists and said school libraries are understaffed, underfunded, and underappreciated.

Cain Young asked listeners to take their children out of government schools and expressed concern about various books available in school libraries.

Judy Papenfuss shared her belief that public schools damage students and said there are too many unnecessary staff such as SEL teachers, counselors, DEI, etc.

Sabrina Herrick informed listeners she is running for the Board of Education in District C.

Anna Lebedda asked the Board to move their position on SB 25200 from ‘monitoring’ to ‘supporting’ for dyslexia support.

Dani Lawrence said the district continues to strip away rights of the vulnerable disabled student population and offered multiple examples.

8.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Director Duffy spoke about the recent Legislative Subcommittee meeting and the status of SB 25200.
- Director Havelda provided an update on the City/County/PSD liaison meeting.
- Next BOE engagement session will be the last of the school year and is an opportunity for community members to engage with directors and staff informally.
- First meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee was held with high attendance.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Personnel Action

9.2 Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2025 and March 25, 2025

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

Director Reed seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Jim Brokish, Kristen Draper, Conor Duffy, Kevin Havelde, Carolyn Reed, and Jessica Zamora

Those voting NO: None

Motion passed: 6-0

10.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1 Budget Update

Chief Finance Officer Dave Montoya, Budget Director Brian Gustafson, and the Executive Director of Finance Kera Badalamenti presented the update.

Board discussion included:

- Finance staff are building the budget with the most recent information possible provided by the State, but State may update or change formulas and information.
- School-based Budgeting is complete for next year.
- Compensation Plan process was explained.
- Sweep will occur at end of the school year if a school has a large net available fund.
- Grant Funding increases were clarified.
- Federally funded grants are monitored by staff; important to understand fundamentals of different grants.
- Uncertainty of State funding requires constant observation.
- Gratitude was expressed for the thorough and informative presentation.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Secretary to the Board of Education