

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, JANUARY 14, 2015.

PRESENT:

Board of Education

M. Clark

E. Figueroa

N. Jennings

K. Plomer

M. Willsey

C. Gdowski,
Superintendent

WORK STUDY SESSION

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

Dinner (Item A-2)

Work Study Session (Item A-3)

Topics addressed included the resolution adopted by Jefferson County Schools regarding waiver to PARCC assessments. There was not sufficient time for presentation of SB191 Implementation and the Strategic Compensation Committee listed in the agenda.

Superintendent Update (Item A-4)

Superintendent Gdowski updated the Board on new developments, the status of ongoing operational issues, and political and legislative matters consistent with Board Policy 2.7 Communication and Support to the Board.

Adjournment (Item A-4)

The work study session adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present, except Mr. Figueroa who arrived at 8:20 p.m.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Plomer, to approve the agenda as stated.

Ayes: Clark; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Adams 12 Employees (Item A-4)

The Board met with Adams 12 Employees to gather input regarding “What is most important that students learn in school to be successful?” as part of its ongoing effort to incorporate the community’s ideals in the Board’s decision-making. Notes reflecting participant feedback accompany these minutes.

RECESSED 8:14 P.M.

Mr. Figueroa arrived at 8:20 p.m.

RECONVENED 8:25 P.M.

BOARD BUSINESS

Unified Improvement Plans (Item B-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Plomer, to approve the Unified Improvement Plans for Adams 12 Schools in Priority Improvement presented in Enclosures B-1(a) through B-1(h).

Ayes: Clark; Figueroa; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Conditional and Activities (Item B-2)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Plomer, to adopt revised Board Policy 2.4 Financial Conditions and Activities as presented in Enclosure B-2.

Ayes: Clark; Figueroa; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Assessment of Options for Addressing School Crowding and Maintenance Issues (Item B-3)

The Board continued its discussion regarding the use of certificates of participation as a revenue measure to help the district address the most critical deferred maintenance, end of life facility repair issues in the system. They also discussion the prudence of using COP money to address capacity issues in the system. A majority of the board were supportive of a COP issue for critical maintenance items provided the district pursued a community engagement process that allowed for a committee to study the issue and offer feedback and guidance. The Board was supportive of recommendations from the committee on whether to pursue COPs, refinancing current debt vs. issuing new debt, and the amount of the COP. Staff indicated the timeframe to take advantage of the summer window for construction would require Board action by the end of February. The superintendent will convene a committee, present feedback to the Board and if necessary request a special meeting to meet the February deadline.

Mr. Figueroa expressed interest in considering a bond election in 2015. The superintendent will provide information to assist in the Board’s decision making.

Governance Process Policy 4.9 Legislative Platform (Item B-4)

The Board discussed proposed revisions to Board Policy 4.9 Legislative Platform. Board members requested additional time to review the proposed revisions. A final proposal will be presented to the Board for action at the January 21, 2015 meeting.

Board Bylaws (Item B-5)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Plomer, to adopt the Board Bylaws presented in Enclosure B-5 as revised.

Ayes: Clark; Figueroa; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjusted 2014 – 2015 Budget (Item B-6)

The superintendent reviewed information provided in Enclosure B-6 regarding a proposed mid-year budget amendment. Board members raised questions about and discussed the \$270,000 cost for the People Soft and the potential for continued issue with software and programming needs, cost benefits from the automated time and labor system upgrades and the budget management software, and shifting the \$2.7 million allocated to strategic compensation to the critical maintenance needs potentially being addressed with certificates of participation. The board will continue this discussion at the January 21, 2015 meeting and will take action then or at its Board retreat on January 24, 2015. Mr. Figueroa expressed interest in taking action on January 21st and requested multiple scenarios for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

Adjournment (Item C-2)

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of February 4, 2015.

Community Engagement with Adams 12 Employees January 14, 2015

What is the most important thing to learn for kids to be successful?

- whole child - art, music, physical education, specials, health, how to support students through sports/extra curricular (60)
- computer teachers - keyboarding and toggle skills for PARCC testing...
- high level thinking, analyze, evaluate, create new (26)
 - “Teaching of Thinking” should start in Kindergarten - think scientifically, culturally, etc.
- middle school: self directed, take ownership of learning, freedom to take directions of their own
 - critical thinking - give tools power and praise to make it happen (26)
- interpersonal skills
 - cooperative learning, listening to others opinions, empathy/sympathy, service learning, IB
 - problem solving - sometimes kids need to have skills to fill in for parents
- language development - complete sentences, making eye contact, greeting people, etc.
- technology skills - prepare students for world of work not just college
 - keyboard toggle, google drive
 - need more support
- vocational technology with a 21st century view (18)
 - practical experience
 - available to all students
 - craftsmen, masons & other trades are not being taught, can't just focus on the tech (academic?) side, need to teach and support trades
 - IDEA: create/make space here where kids could get skills
- resource fulness - library skills (bring back librarians) (5)
- middle school sports - builds self directed learning, teamwork
- how to be readers and writers (all day kindergarten) (7)
- business/workplace readiness
 - ex/tardiness (?), complete quality work turned in on time
- OutdoorEd - builds confidence that carries into the classroom
- Time: need more time, testing and other things eating into it
- express self through writing, self presentation
 - prepare for career expo and having a career
 - hear from professionals in the field -- develop community partnerships
- real world experiences through community partnership
- teach students to go beyond being test-centric
- Diversity = not just one answer, we need to have a diversity of options. Need to go beyond college prep, increase size of Bollman and Vantage Point/Crossroads
- access to technology for low income students - computers once used for learning now used as back-up
- creative, resourceful and innovative

Technology (combined - 66)

Sports / Extra curricular – combined w/ whole child

Career /Technology / Preparing kids for workforce (1)