

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, FEBRUARY 17, 2016.

PRESENT:

Board of Education

B. Batz

N. Jennings

J. Lockley

L. Mitchell

K. Plomer

C. Gdowski, Superintendent

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Ms. Plomer called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

Motion by Ms. Mitchell, second by Ms. Lockley, to approve the agenda as stated, with the addition of Agenda Item F-5 Resolution: Hospital Provider Fee.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

WORK STUDY SESSION

Work Study Session (Item A-4)

Dinner

Elementary Literacy Focus Video – Superintendent Gdowski and Tracy Dorland, Chief Academic Officer showed a video highlighting the professional development work in the District targeted at elementary reading and writing/literacy teaching and learning. The video was shot at the end of the first semester, included diverse schools across the District, and captured teacher and student feedback on the progress of the District’s focus on writing at the elementary level.

Board Outreach: City Council Meetings – There was general consensus among Board members to attend city council meetings in municipalities served by the District and Adams County Commissioner’s meetings to provide information regarding the District and build/improve relationships. Mr. Batz will attend Thornton, Mr. Jennings Federal Heights, Ms. Lockley Northglenn, Ms. Mitchell Westminster and Adams County, and Ms. Plomer Broomfield.

Board Norms – There was general consensus of the Board in support of the Board House Rules/Operating Agreements with suggestion to move “Keep a sense of humor” to the beginning and add “Should not speak for, or assume, what another board member would say, think or feel about a topic”, and “Maintain confidentiality.”

Superintendent Update – Superintendent Gdowski reported on the following topics.

- Sweeps period media coverage focusing on schools and the possibility of an adverse report on Adams 12 regarding bus driver employment and discipline. This item spurred conversation regarding the District Parent Survey and questions addressing inappropriate conduct.
- Exploration of alternate uses of the Stargate Building and changing initially proposed use of the Certificates of Participation to purchase Stargate for a different purpose.

- Interest expressed by Keith King, former state legislator, regarding establishing an early college charter school program in Adams 12.

RECESSED 6:59 P.M.

RECONVENED 7:10 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Board of Education Comments, Recognition, Awards and Vision (Item B-1)

Mr. Batz:

- reported attending the Horizon High School German Exchange Student Dinner. He recognized the program and its benefit to immersing students in a foreign language and culture and sparking excitement in a student's life. He expressed interest in expanding the opportunity at other schools
- expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet with DTEA representatives, learn from their experiences, identify issues and opportunities and build relationships.

Ms. Lockley:

- acknowledged having lived in Germany and expressed her disappointment at not being able to attend the German Exchange Student dinner.
- indicated that as the parent of a Kindergartener parent teacher conferences is a new process for her. She acknowledged the consistency with the previous meeting and the teacher's ability to speak to the Standards and how her child is learning related to those Standards. She indicated it is affirming to see the work being done at the District, in the classroom and especially the one to one impact of a teacher on a student.

Mr. Jennings reported:

- following through on a promise made to the welding shop teacher at the BTEC Open House to connect him with folks in his industry. He looks forward to students being able to tour Commercial Metals Company, manufacturers of epoxy coated rebar and Dencol, a local steel manufacturing company.
- attending the Adams Family Musical at the Boulder Dinner Theater for his daughter's birthday and noted that the drummer in the orchestra was Legacy High School graduate Dillon Kidd.
- the question he asked at the Board meeting with DTEA was around professional development and while there were some concerns raised it sounds like the work of Tracy Dorland, Chief Academic Officer and her team has been paying off.
- he would not attend the March 2, 2016 Board meeting as he will be in Nashville for a conference.

Ms. Mitchell:

- reported on the Seal of Biliteracy Program which provides recognition for students who meet a level of proficiency in two or more languages with a seal on their diploma. She indicated the program has been adopted in 15 states and is being considered in 13 states. She acknowledged the Colorado State Board of Education rejected a resolution supporting the program in a 5-2 vote. Ms. Mitchell reported Adams County 14, Denver Public Schools and Eagle are moving forward with the Seal of Biliteracy Program and encouraged the Board and District to consider the program.
- challenged the Board to get more involved in the Special Olympics Unified Sports Basketball games.

Ms. Plomer:

- reported attending the Thornton Elementary School 1st Friday Coffee with Principal Miller. She indicated each meeting educates parents on a different topic of the school curriculum. At this meeting the music teacher talked about the benefits of music and how it relates to increased academic performance and there was a xylophone performance by students.
- expressed her appreciation for the Board meeting with DTEA Representatives and indicated she liked the format which provided an opportunity to meet teachers on a more personal level.

- reported attending the German Exchange Student Dinner noting they are looking into expanding the program to Legacy High School.
- encouraged Board members and meeting participants to attend the Adams 12 Education Foundation Gala on March 5, 2016. She indicating a casual Western theme and an announcement of a new strategic plan.
- reported on the February 10, 2016 Rocky Mountain Risk Insurance Group (RMRIG) meeting. She indicated board members included: herself, Max Math, Westminster District 50, Jen Raiffie, Mapleton District 1 and Patrick Day, Brighton District 27J. Meeting topics included orientation of new board members and the possibility of adding a 5th board member from the community.
- attended a well done performance of Legally Blonde at Legacy High School and had fun seeing young ladies in her daughter's Brownie troop on stage.
- expressed regret at not being able to attend the Go Engineering (Girls Only) Day at Northglenn High School and the Thornton H.S. Mock Congressional Hearings.
- announced a forum on the Adams 12 Budget sponsored by the Adams 12 Community Action Network (CAN) on March 8, 2016, at Northglenn H.S., from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., featuring Suzi DeYoung, Adams 12 Chief Financial Officer, Carol Hedges, Colorado Fiscal Institute and a speaker from the State Budget Office. The meeting will present a high level state picture, how the state budget and competing amendments affect money from the State, and Adams 12 and what's ahead.

Superintendent Gdowski acknowledged it is a busy time of year for Board members and staff as the District is looking toward finishing the current school year at the same time you are planning for the year ahead.

PUBLIC COMMENT

General Public Comment (Item C-1)

There were no requests to address the Board.

MONITORING

Internal Monitoring Report: Ends Policy 1.2 Graduates (Item D-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Mitchell, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of February 17, 2016, for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policy 1.2 Graduates and finds the superintendent's interpretations are reasonable and supported by data that is relevant, justified and complete.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Internal Monitoring Report: Ends Policy 1.2.1 Dropouts (Item D-2)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of February 17, 2016, for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policy 1.2.1 Dropouts, and finds the superintendent's interpretations are reasonable and supported by data that is relevant, justified and complete.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Internal Monitoring Report: Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities (Item D-3)

Motion by Ms. Mitchell, second by Mr. Batz, to delay the regularly scheduled monitoring report for Board Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities to the March 2, 2016 Board meeting.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Lockley, second by Mr. Jennings, to approve agenda item E-1 as stated in the Board agenda dated February 17, 2016.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.
Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel Actions (Item E-1)

Approved the Personnel Actions as listed in Enclosure E-1:

- (a) Resignations and Terminations
- (b) Transfers and Reassignments
- (c) Employment
- (d) Leaves of Absence.

BOARD BUSINESS

Minutes (Item F-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Mitchell, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meetings of January 20, 2016 and February 3, 2016, and the special Board meeting of February 8, 2016 as presented in Enclosures F-1(a), F-1(b) and F-1(c).

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.
Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Meeting Debrief (Item F-2)

Board members shared overarching themes, challenges and opportunities for the question they posed to DTEA Representatives at the February 8, 2016 Special Board meeting.

The themes Ms. Mitchell heard in feedback to the question, “How have the Standards influenced your classroom practice?” included frustration with evolving Standards, having to change lesson plans, and gaps and misalignments in curriculum specifically Everyday Math 3 to Everyday Math 4, in middle school the breadth of information to cover restricts the flexibility to pursue topics that motivate students and takes the fun out of learning, Standards Based Grading are not aligned to the Standards and parents are disengaged with the report card, and Blended Learning is a positive at Century Middle School.

The feedback Mr. Jennings heard in response to the questions, “How is the new Professional Development plan going? Are you getting what you need from PD to do your job?” was positive overall. K-5 was especially happy with the grouping of teachers across levels. Some concern was raised with insufficient time devoted to PD given the changing Standards.

The feedback Ms. Plomer heard in response to the questions, “Assessments: Opt-Out—what are you seeing, what are reasons? What do you think? What are students’ attitudes about assessments? Parents’ attitudes?” included anxiety with test taking at the younger levels and students wanting to do well but there is little student buy in at the high school level, and Special Ed and ELL students have extra testing burden. The theme Ms. Plomer took away was general dislike and disengagement with assessments combined with focus the negatives of reduced instruction time and student anxiety and lack of engagement yet it is tied to teacher evaluation and school ratings from outside the District.

The feedback Ms. Lockley received to the questions, “How is the teacher evaluation system going? What are your feelings about the evaluation system?” indicated evaluation is: inconsistent across the system, cumbersome, ineffective at best negative at worst, not doing what the District intended in identifying areas of growth and moving students in that direction, oppressive and highlights the negative making teachers feel worse, and creating work that burdens evaluators and teachers. Inquiry into the District’s Train the Trainer efforts indicated trainers felt they could have been more prepared, the system was not what they expected, and when trainers move on building are left without support. Ms. Lockley acknowledged feedback as evidence there is more work to be done.

The feedback Mr. Batz received to the questions, “Implementing technology in the classroom: How is it going? What kind of support do you need?” indicated lag time in District maintenance once service need reported, inconsistency with tech coordinators and tech coaches in the schools, and a need for more technology in the schools in order for students to become proficient. Mr. Batz indicated a need to reduce teachers’ frustration with technology to engage and excite students.

Review of Resolution: Delegation of Authority to Superintendent to Execute Documents (Item F-3)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to adopt the resolution Delegation of Authority to the Superintendent to Execute Documents as presented in Enclosure F-3.

RESOLUTION

Delegation of Authority to Superintendent to Execute Documents

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2000, the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education adopted Board Policies on Ends, Operating Limitations, Board Superintendent Relationships, and Governance Process, which policies have been amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Board has delegated authority to the Superintendent through Board Policy 3.3 - Delegation to the Superintendent.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute all documents committing the District to acquire, encumber and dispose of real property pursuant to Operating Limitations Policy 2.5 Asset Protection; to purchase all products and services; and to authorize and execute any documents related to grants.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Community Meeting: Student Questions (Item F-4)

Board members determined they would use the same questions used in previous meetings with students with some modifications. Questions #6 regarding family involvement will be incorporated into question #4 and a questions regarding student buy-in to standardized testing and opportunities to study subject areas of interest will be added.

Resolution: Hospital Provider Fee (Item F-5)

Board discussion of its 2016 Legislative Platform in December 2015 expressed support for moving the hospital provider fee to an enterprise fund and determined they would follow the issue and consider a resolution when timely. Board members will review draft resolutions provided, send suggestions and feedback to the Board president who will bring a resolution to the March 2, 2016 for the Board’s consideration and action.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Calendar (Item G-1)

Ms. Plomer confirmed that Jim Weigel, former Adams 12 Board member and governance consultant, would facilitate the February 27, 2016 Board Retreat to be held at the ESC.

There was general consensus of the Board with the superintendent’s recommendation to cancel the monitoring of Ends Policy 1.3 Value until the Board has reviewed and revised the policy, and with his request to postpone the monitoring of Operating Limitations Policies 2.1 Treatment of Students, Their Families and Community Members and 2.10 Family School Partnerships and Community Engagement to the 5/4/16 meeting when data will be available.

Adjournment (Item G-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Adopted by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of March 16, 2016.