

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT  
1500 E. 128<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, FEBRUARY 18, 2015.

PRESENT:

Board of Education

M. Clark

E. Figueroa

N. Jennings

K. Plomer

M. Willsey

C. Gdowski,  
Superintendent

**REGULAR MEETING**

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Work Study Session (Item A-4)

Jeff Genger, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Pat Hamilton, Executive Director of Operations provided information regarding Automated External Defibrillators in the District.

The Superintendent updated the Board on:

- professional development,
- SC3 Committee discussion regarding Certificates of Participation,
- the DAC Budget Committee and the FY 2015-2016 budget rollout,
- history of the Grant department and its funding,
- the revised FY 2014-2015 Budget, and
- the negative factor,
- postponement of the monitoring report for Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities,
- assessment resolution feedback from teachers and principals, and
- the request for financial assistance from the District for the Dwyer lawsuit pending before the Colorado Supreme Court.

**RECESSED 7:01 P.M.**

**RECONVENED 7:13 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

**INFORMATION**

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

Ms. Plomer attended:

- the Thornton Elementary Coffee and Conversation that featured student presentations on what they were learning and what it means to be a PYP school in preparation for their February 26, 2015 PYP Authorization meeting. Parents in attendance logged onto computers in the computer

lab and took a sample PARCC test. She encouraged folks to subscribe to Thornton's weekly announcement

- a training administered by C.K. Baum entitled "Winning a Bond Election" that was interesting with good information. Joe Ferdani, Director of Communication and Shannon Bird, District Parent and Chair of the bond and mill campaign also attended.
- the Legacy High School production of Aida and took a backstage tour of the beautiful sets they build from scratch. She indicated the students did a great job and had beautiful costumes.
- thanked DTEA for hosting the meeting with teachers on Monday, February 9, 2015 to discuss assessments and other issues of concern to them.

Mr. Figueroa:

- discussed Common Core and testing with a Boy Scout working on a badge indicating he enjoyed working that out one on one over lunch.
- reported he would be attending House Committee hearing on education at the State Capital on Monday, with Tanya Kelly-Bowry and Ernestine Mondragón, legislative consultants from Policy Matters.

Mr. Jennings:

- participated in the meeting with DTEA and indicated he heard frustration expressed on a variety of topics but mostly testing and the hoops that have to be jumped through.
- attended the Legacy High School production of Aida

Mr. Willsey thanked Cherry Drive Elementary for putting up with him when he visited.

Superintendent Gdowski reported:

- meeting with District Accountability Committee members, parents and community members interested in budget issues, classified, certified and administrative staff, regarding priorities for an estimated \$8.3 million in discretionary funds to work with in the 2016 Budget. The group facilitator will provide a report with recommendations to the Board and superintendent.
- met with 12 members of Strong Schools Strong Communities (SC3) committee which convened to provide feedback on Certificates of Participation to address the most critical needs in the system, and the possible acquisition of the Stargate building to house STEM Lab. A written recommendation will be presented to the Board for its March 4, 2015 meeting.
- results from staff surveys around strategic compensation opportunities will be available in March. Information regarding what would be best received in the field and what would cause the most concern will help inform further work of the Strategic Compensation Committee that has been meeting.

Mr. Clark: reported

- visiting Federal Heights Elementary School with Lori Goldstein, DTEA President. In a tour with Principal Ron Salazar they visited classrooms and saw many young teachers interacting with students. Ended up in the gymnasium for their hoe down that was standing room only with parents. He acknowledged tremendous parent participation at the school and the opportunity to bring a Cub Scout Pack to the school.
- visiting Arapahoe Ridge Elementary and handing out dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders with the Westminster Rotary. He acknowledged the crowded conditions of the mobiles indicating you can see the impact on students. He applauded Arapahoe Ridge teachers for the great work they are doing with students.
- meeting with DTEA Representatives and thanked them for the opportunity to hear directly from teachers regarding their struggles and successes.

#### DSIT Report (Item B-2)

Stephanie James, DSIT President:

- reported information regarding the February 26, 2015 meeting that will host the Jefferson County District Attorney's program Cheezo that addresses internet and online safety.
- informed the Board she had been invited to write a guest blog on a parents perception of Common Core.
- objected to the process for convening the DAC meeting regarding the 2016 Budget.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### General Public Comment (Item D-1)

There were no requests to address the Board.

## **RESULTS FOR KIDS**

### Ends Policies (Item C-1)

Ms. Plomer discussed a document compiling information from the Board's January 24, 2015 discussion regarding core beliefs and feedback received from community engagement meetings. Board members will provide feedback and Ms. Plomer will provide recommendations for Board discussion at the March 4, 2015 meeting.

## **MONITORING**

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

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Willsey, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of February 18, 2015, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, 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: Clark; Figueroa; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Jennings, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of February 18, 2015, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, 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: Clark; Figueroa; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### Internal Monitoring: Ends Policy 1.4 Schooling - Aspirations (Item D-3)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Figueroa, to defer the monitoring of Board Policy 1.4 Schooling – Aspirations until the Board has concluded its review and revision of the policy.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### Internal Monitoring Report: Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities (Item D-4)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Figueroa, to postpone the monitoring of Board Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities to the March 18, 2015 Board meeting.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### Recommended Action

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Willsey, to approve agenda item E-1 as stated in the Board agenda dated February 18, 2015.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel Action (Item E-1)

Approve 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 Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Figueroa, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of February 4, 2015 and the special board meeting of February 9, 2015 as presented in Enclosures F-1(a) and F-1(b).

Ayes: Clark; Figueroa; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.  
Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

FY 2014-2015 Revised Budget (Item F-2)

The Board adopted an amended 2014-2015 Budget at the January 21, 2015 Board meeting and indicated it would continue discussion regarding allocation of \$2.7 million in the amended budget for strategic compensation, deferred maintenance or a combination of both. There was general consensus of the Board to defer the decision to the March 18, 2015 Board meeting when more information would be available.

Resolution: Mandated Student Assessments (Item F-3)

Motion by Mr. Willsey, second by Ms. Plomer, to adopt Resolution: Mandated Student Assessments presented in Enclosure F-3.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING MANDATED STUDENT ASSESSMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Colorado Legislature, the State Board of Education, and the Colorado Department of Education have enacted a variety of laws, regulations, and rules in recent years which have required school districts to redesign their curricula, purchase new instructional materials, engage in extensive training of staff members, and invest in extensive technology improvements so that those districts can administer student learning assessments to measure mastery of the Colorado Academic Standards; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature, at the same time that it has imposed these mandates upon school districts, has not allocated funding to school districts to cover the implementation costs for compliance with these mandates, and has instead reduced funding to school districts, for the 2014-15 school year alone, to a level approximately \$900 million less than required by Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution; and

WHEREAS, these unfunded mandates have posed a significant financial burden upon the Adams 12 Five Star Schools, including a \$12.5 million investment in technology resources for the 2014-15 school year that was larger in scope and cost than would otherwise been made without the online assessment mandate for the 2014-15 school year; and

WHEREAS, the accumulated testing burden established by these state mandates now outweighs the value provided by these assessments to students, parents, schools and our Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, state mandated assessments are scheduled to begin in the Adams 12 schools in less than 30 days, and the Board finds that changes to the planned Spring 2015 assessment schedule at this juncture would cause unnecessary confusion and disruption to the hard work of staff and students in preparing for these assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Legislature and the United States Congress are now engaged in debate regarding amendments to state and federal laws mandating student assessments, and the Board of Education desires to share its perspective on these issues with these decision makers with the objective of reaching a more appropriate balance in the amount of student assessments to be administered in the 2015-16 and subsequent school years.

NOW THEREFORE, the Adams 12 Board of Education hereby resolves as follows:

1. We commend Adams 12 students and staff for their hard work in preparing for administration of the Spring 2015 online assessments and are hopeful that this hard work will be rewarded with successful online administration of these assessments and with continued growth in student achievement.
2. In the event that the Colorado Legislature, State Board of Education, or Colorado Department of Education amend state law, regulations, or rules to permit student assessments to be

conducted in paper and pencil formats rather than the online format heretofore mandated for the 2014-15 school year and beyond, the Legislature should allocate funding to Adams 12 and other districts adequate to reimburse them for technology investments incurred because of the heretofore unfunded mandate to conduct assessments online.

3. Given the many high-stakes tests already completed by high school juniors and seniors, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and ACT/SAT exams, we find that the value of administering state assessments in language arts, mathematics, social studies and science in those grades is outweighed by the burden of those assessments. We urge state and federal lawmakers to remove testing requirements in these grades and content areas, except for an assessment such as the ACT which allows efficient measurement of student content mastery across multiple disciplines.
4. Given the disruption that state and federally-mandated testing causes throughout a school's learning environment, we urge state policymakers to demand that PARCC, or such other assessment-creator engaged by the state in future years, develop a single end-of-year assessment that measures student learning rather than the separate performance-based and summative assessments mandated in the current system. The revised assessment system should emphasize, to the extent possible given the other parameters set forth in this resolution, measurement of critical thinking, problem-solving, and practical application of knowledge in each content area.
5. We urge policymakers to demand that the future state assessment system reduce the total testing time completed by students in language arts, mathematics and science from the current level, which ranges from approximately 10-15 hours per year depending upon a student's grade level, to one in which the end-of-year assessments in these disciplines combined totals no more than 4-5 hours.
6. The current assessment system for science and social studies provides data of limited usefulness given that these assessments are only given once in elementary school, once in middle school, and once in high school. The current assessments in these disciplines cover a wide range of material and often assess student mastery of content taught several years before the assessment.  
We urge policymakers to adopt a state assessment system which includes an annual assessment of student achievement progress in social studies and science so that we can more accurately gauge annual student growth in these disciplines. We recommend that participation in such assessments be optional as determined by each local board of education.
7. We support reductions in state-mandated assessments for students in grades kindergarten through three as recommended in the Report of Findings and Recommendations of the Colorado Standards and Assessments Task Force (HB14-1202) issued January 28, 2015.
8. We direct the Superintendent to advocate for changes to the mandated state and federal assessments consistent with this Resolution.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Review of Resolution: Delegation of Authority to Superintendent to Execute Documents (Item F-4)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr Willsey, to adopt the resolution Delegation of Authority to the Superintendent to Execute Documents as presented in Enclosure F-4.

#### *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: Clark; Figueroa; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Meeting Schedule (Item F-5)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Jennings, to cancel the May 20, 2015 board meeting due to a conflict with the Northglenn High School graduation.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session (Item A-5)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Jennings, to recess for an Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding Proposition 104 and its application to board policy pursuant to Board Policy 2.0 General Operating Limitations and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b).

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**RECESSED 8:41 P.M.**

**RECONVENED 9:44 P.M.**

Adjournment (Item G-3)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

**Adopted by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of March 18, 2015.**