

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, MARCH 4, 2015.

PRESENT:

Board of Education  
M. Clark  
N. Jennings, absent  
K. Plomer  
M. Willsey

C. Gdowski,  
Superintendent

**REGULAR MEETING**

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present except Mr. Jennings.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Willsey, to approve the agenda as stated, with the addition of agenda items D-4 Declaration of Board Vacancy, and D-5 Discussion Regarding Competing Priorities in Governance Process Policy 4.9 -- Legislative Platform, and the deletion of agenda item D-1 Minutes.

Ayes: Clark; Plomer; Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Horizon High School Students (Item B-1)

The Board met with Horizon High School students to hear their perspective on their education and school. Feedback received from students is attached.

**RECESSED 6:46 P.M.**

**RECONVENED 7:05 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Adams 12 Community (Item B-2)

The Board met with the Adams 12 community to discuss “What is most important that students learn in school to be successful?” as part of its ongoing efforts to incorporate the community’s ideals in the Board’s decision-making. Participants reviewed the major themes from feedback gathered in previous Board meetings, added items they felt were missing and identified their three priority items. Feedback received from participants is attached.

**INFORMATION**

General Public Comment (Item C-1)

Josh Bastian of Thornton, expressed his appreciation for the Board’s convening of the Safe Schools Safe Community Committee to review the Certificates of Participation and provide recommendations to the Board. He asked the Board to also consider the pros and cons of the terms for COPs indicating a preference for a shorter term COPs that would pay off debt sooner to help the district not continue to borrow money and incur debt for future students, parents and taxpayers.

Rico Figueroa of Unincorporated Adams County reiterated his opposition to the Certificates of Participation. He suggested that if the Board did authorize COPs that money be set aside to engage an outside business experienced in reviewing large organizations to identify cost savings and efficiencies in the District in an effort to assure the public that the District is using the money in the best way it can.

Leah Davey of Thornton asked the Board to review the policy regarding selection for the extended day Kindergarten program. She indicated it does not give priority to students with a sibling in the school, as the District's Choice process does, but is a random lottery which has resulted in hardship for her family with two students in separate elementary schools.

Lisa Dudley of Westminster commented on Standards Based Grading (SBG) as a parent with a middle school student graded with SBG and a high school student graded with Standard Percentage Grading (SPG). She expressed support for the rubric that is part of SBG but indicated the system promotes confusion, discouragement and mediocrity while the SPG system inspires students to strive for higher levels.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

### Certificates of Participation (Item D-2)

Motion by Mr. Willsey, second by Ms. Plomer, to direct the Superintendent to engage the District's financial advisor, investment banker, and bond counsel to prepare documents necessary for Board of Education Participation.

Ayes: Clark; Plomer; Willsey.  
Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

### Board of Education Bylaws (Item D-3)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Willsey, to adopt the revised bylaws as presented in Enclosure D-3.

Ayes: Clark; Plomer; Willsey.  
Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

### Declaration of Board Vacancy (Item D-4)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Willsey, to adopt the resolution declaring a vacancy in Director District 4 as presented in Enclosure D-4.

Ayes: Clark; Plomer; Willsey.  
Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Board members discussed the process for filling the vacancy in Director District No. 4 determining it would use the same application, questions and applicant oath used in filling the 2011 Board vacancy. Applications must be received by midnight on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. The Board will review applications to determine whom it will interview at the April 15, 2015 Board meeting. The Board will conduct interviews for this position at a special meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 with the intent to make an appointment by the May 1, 2015 deadline.

### Discussion Regarding Competing Priorities in Policy 4.9 - Legislative Platform (Item D-5)

The Superintendent requested direction from the Board regarding the District's position on bills that align with its Legislative Platform and district interests, such as the Counselor Corps Program and bonuses for teachers in priority improvement and turnaround schools, but would not result in reduction of the negative factor. Board members expressed a need for more time to consider the bills. The superintendent indicated the District would take no position on the bills at this time and determine their status when the Board next convenes to determine if further discussion is warranted.

### Adjournment (Item G-3)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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