

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, AUGUST 20, 2014.

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 5:28 p.m.

Dinner (Item A-2)

Superintendent Update (Item A-3)

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

The work study session adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Questions: Law Enforcement and Fire Protection (Item B-1)

Board members discussed questions for its September 3, 2014 community engagement meeting with law enforcement and fire protection. Suggestions included adding or revising proposed questions to include identification of trends by safety personnel that the district could impact, and traits and values that assist students to be successful and avoid interaction with law enforcement.

Board members also requested information regarding the financial and societal costs of truancy and graduation rates and their effect on law enforcement. Superintendent Gdowski will request information from the Adams County Youth Initiative.

DSIT Report

Stephanie James, DSIT President introduced executive committee members attending the meeting; Shannon Bird, Maggie Berg, Char Moser and Josh Bastien, She also updated the Board on DSIT activity over the summer and plans for the school year:

- in support of the district's literacy drive DSIT will give each kindergartener a book, bookmark and calendar magnet. Funds for this project were donated by St. Anthony's Medical Center North, America Achieves and the Raise the Bar Foundation, Little Britches Consignment Store and Ziggy's Coffee.
- monthly general meetings will continue and some will be held at schools in the community. Meetings will focus on topics of interest to parents such as a summer day care/camp resource fair.
- DSIT continues to fundraise and announced opportunities with Little Britches and Ziggy's Coffee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

General Public Comment (Item C-1)

Joe Holt of Northglenn addressed the funding and costs of Common Core and finding alternative funding mechanisms for the district's ITX Project.

Terry Gogerty of Northglenn, and with Global Village Academies shared good news with the Board indicating: GVA is approaching 900 students this year with the addition of seventh grade, they are increasing academic focus with the hiring of a former superintendent of Englewood School District, it is the third year in a row that GVA is a performance school, their Russian program is the second largest in the world with 158 students, and they have 520 students studying Spanish and 230 students studying Chinese. Mr. Gogerty also thanked the Board for allowing charter school participation in the bond issue and indicated they look forward to working with the district.

Rick Boos of Northglenn and Chief Financial Officer for Global Village Academy Charter expressed his appreciation for his participation on the Strong Schools Strong Communities Panel. He clarified that he was addressing the Board as the CFO of GVA and not as a committee member. Mr. Boos expressed GVA's support for the proposed bond issue and mill levy and the stream of revenue that

would benefit charter schools but indicated concern with the district's proposed method for allocating bond and mill levy override funds to charter schools from the 2014 election.

Brian Houle of Broomfield and an Adams 12 parent, Lam Halmick of Broomfield, John Kane of Firestone, an Adams 12 parent and a member of the S3C Committee, Jarrad Berg of Broomfield and an Adams 12 parent, and Brooke Bacon of Broomfield and an Adams 12 parent, encouraged the board to place bond and mill levy override questions on the 2014 General Election ballot.

BOARD BUSINESS

Common Core/Colorado Academic Standards Presentation (Item D-1)

Luke Ragland from Colorado Succeeds presented information regarding Common Core and the Colorado Academic Standards and responded to questions from the Board.

Bond and Mill Levy Override Presentation (Item D-2)

Tiffany Anderson, Strong Schools Strong Communities Panelist presented information to the board regarding the makeup and backgrounds of the 26 person panel. She reviewed the panel's purpose to build a consensus recommendation for the superintendent regarding a bond package that balanced all interests, and whether to seek a mill levy override, and if so, prioritize elements for a package that balanced all interests. Ms. Anderson conveyed the panel's unanimous recommendation that a bond package and mill levy override be put on the November 4, 2014 ballot. She also shared the twelve

principles that guided the panel's work. She noted the principles reflected the values and priorities of the community as determined by the district's community engagement through surveys and dialogue sessions. Panelists Barry Gore, Russ Van Houten, Josh Bastian and Shannon Bird also shared their perspective of the panels work and reiterated their support for placement of a bond and mill levy override on the November 2014 ballot.

MINUTES AND MONITORING

Minutes (Item E-1)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Figueroa, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of June 18, 2014, as presented in Enclosure E-1.

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

Monitoring Report: 2.0 General Operating Limitations Policy (Item E-2)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Jennings, to acknowledge the board has received a monitoring report as of August 20, 2014, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policy 2.0 General Operating Limitations and the board 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.

Direct Inspection Monitoring: Operating Limitations Policy 2.6 Employment, Compensation and Benefits (Item E-3)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Willsey, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of August 20, 2014, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, of the Superintendent concerning Operating Limitations Policy 2.6 Employment, Compensation and Benefits, and the board 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.

Monitoring Report 2.9 Charter Schools (Item E-4)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Jennings, to acknowledge the board has received a monitoring report as of August 20, 2014, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, of the Superintendent concerning Operating Limitations Policy 2.9 Charter Schools and the board 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Joint Motion

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Willsey, to approve agenda items F-1, F-2, F-3 and F-4, as stated in the Board agenda dated August 20, 2014.

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

Personnel Actions (Item F-1)

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

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

Proclamation: Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week (Item F-2)

Adopted the proclamation in Enclosure F-2 declaring September 7-13, 2014 to be Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week in Adams 12.

Proclamation
Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week
September 7-13, 2014

WHEREAS, youth suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and is occurring at a national rate of over 5,000 suicides annually; and

WHEREAS, youth suicide is the "fastest growing killer of youth today"; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is one of the leading states for youth suicides with at least one youth suicide every week. Suicide kills youth 3 to 6 times more than homicide. Research shows that almost all youth suicides are preventable; and

WHEREAS, the issue of youth suicide and how to prevent it is of extreme importance and must be recognized as an immediate need for awareness and prevention; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that awareness, education and action do save lives. Heightened community awareness will encourage communities to develop strategies to prevent youth suicides. Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education, is pleased to be at the forefront in leading these worthwhile efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Ribbon is rapidly becoming recognized internationally as the symbol for the awareness and prevention of Youth suicide. It is recognized and used by suicide prevention groups, crisis centers, schools, churches, youth centers/hospitals, counselors, teachers, parents and especially youth themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, Board of Education does hereby proclaim September 7-13, 2014 as Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week, and urges all citizens to work to prevent youth suicide, wear a yellow ribbon and to raise awareness and tolerance around all people affected by this tragedy.

Proclamation: Arts in Education (Item F-3)

Adopted the proclamation in Enclosure F-3 declaring September 14-20, 2014 to be Arts in Education Week in Adams 12.

Proclamation
Arts in Education Week
September 14-20, 2014

WHEREAS, arts education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature, design, and visual arts, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students;

WHEREAS, according to Albert Einstein: "After a certain high level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in esthetics, plasticity, and form. The greatest scientists are artists as well;"

WHEREAS, arts education enables students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express ideas, and cross-cultural understanding, that supports academic success across the curriculum as well as personal growth outside the classroom;

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts sector contributes to the economy and plays an important role in the economic health of the Adams 12 community, with direct expenditures of wages and benefits, as well as goods and services;

WHEREAS, to succeed in today's economy, students must masterfully use words, images, sounds, and movement to communicate;

WHEREAS, the arts equip students with a creative, competitive edge needed to participate in the 21st century economy;

WHEREAS, if schools and communities are delivering high-quality learning opportunities in, through, and about the arts for children, extraordinary results may occur;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that schools with large populations of students in poverty can be transformed into vibrant hubs of learning through arts education;

WHEREAS, studies have also found that eighth graders from under-resourced environments who are highly involved in the arts have better grades, less likelihood of dropping out by grade ten, have more positive attitudes about school, and are more likely to go onto college;

WHEREAS, attracting and retaining the best teachers is vital and can be achieved by ensuring that schools embrace the arts, becoming havens for creativity and innovation;

WHEREAS, arts education has the power to make students want to learn not just within the arts, but other areas of study; and

WHEREAS, art is integral to the lives of many in our community and can improve the vitality of communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Adams 12 Five Star Schools proclaims September 14-20, 2014 to be “Arts in Education Week” in Adams 12 and encourages the community to celebrate, participate in and promote the arts in education in the Five Star Community.

Proclamation: Attendance Awareness Month Item F-4

Adopted the proclamation in Enclosure F-4 declaring September to be Attendance Awareness Month in Adams 12.

Proclamation
Attendance Awareness Month
September 2014

WHEREAS, good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as kindergarten,

WHEREAS, chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, or just two of three days a month – is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates,

WHEREAS, improving attendance and reducing chronic absence takes commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to particular challenges and strengths in each community,

WHEREAS, chronic absence predicts lower third-grade reading proficiency, course failure and eventual dropout, it weakens our communities and our local economy,

WHEREAS, the impact of chronic absence hits low-income students and children of color particularly hard if they don’t have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom and are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school – such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, unstable or unaffordable housing,

WHEREAS, schools and community partners can reach out more frequently to absent students to determine why they are missing school and what would help them attend more regularly,

WHEREAS, schools and community partners must do more to track, calculate and share the data on how many students are chronically absent so that we can deliver the right interventions to the right students,

WHEREAS, chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, parents and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school,

WHEREAS, engaging parents and the community – including civic and elected leaders, local businesses, faith based members and nonprofit organizations – to help us spread the message that good attendance matters and helps us come up with solutions to ensure all children are in school as much as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education proclaims that our community will stand with the nation and Adams County partners in recognizing September as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotional and socially.

BOARD BUSINESS (continued)

Intergovernmental Agreement with City and County of Broomfield: 2014 Coordinated Election
(Item D-3)

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Plomer to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners, City and County of Broomfield, Colorado, and the Broomfield County Clerk and Recorder, presented in Enclosure D-3 for the purpose of conducting a Coordinated Election to be held on November 4, 2014.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

Ms. Plomer reported:

- participating in the Administrator Rodeo, driving a bus and having to back it up. She indicated only a small cone was injured and everyone was safe. She indicated her children have ridden the school buses and she has always had great respect for bus drivers but it is even more now as she can't imagine doing what she did with children on board, weather and everything else they have to deal with on the road.
- expressed her appreciation for the meeting with the City of Northglenn to discuss traffic safety issues at North Mor and the opportunity to meet the Northglenn City Council and folks from Planning.
- attending the Adams County Youth Initiative (ACYI) Attendance Breakfast with county representatives signing the proclamation and committing to make school attendance a priority.

Mr. Figueroa:

- indicated he was pleased at the start of the school year and h feels good about how everyone is working together. He thanked staff for their hard work over the summer.
- reported noticing the advertising on the school buses indicating it looked good and he saw people looking at the advertising.

Mr. Jennings:

- reported attending the Global Leadership Summit and seeing district staff. He indicated the focus of the conference was broad leadership and he found it beneficial. He suggested the Board and administrators should consider attending next year.
- acknowledged he is looking forward to the IBS this year, a good foundation was laid last year and he's excited for the opportunity to do interesting and creative work.
- acknowledged the change in leadership at DTEA and welcomed Dillon Bohlender, a new coordinator.

Mr. Willsey reported:

- Laura Strickland, daughter of former board member Dr. Darwin and Suzanne Strickland, was promoted to Major General and received her second star. He noted her husband is also a Major General.
- running into a former student at the Longhorn Steakhouse that he coached at Huron Middle School and noted he won the 5A State High Hurdles a few years ago.
- that a friend of his son who is a finance man for a car dealership in Bozeman, MT wants to sell Cathy Nolan a car for her son who is attending Montana State College.

Mr. Clark:

- acknowledged the length of the meeting indicating there were a number of items that needed to be discussed and he would work to end meetings by 10:00 p.m. in the future.
- thanked the City of Northglenn for hosting the board and indicated he appreciated the opportunity to see what municipalities in Adams 12 are doing and how we can partner to help kids.
- reported also participating in the bus rodeo, noting he signed up as a substitute bus driver but only if no kids were on the bus and there was no traffic on the road. He acknowledged the excitement and spirit of the transportation folks for the new school year and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to spend time with them. He acknowledged the superiority of the Adams 12 Transportation Center and the collaboration with the City of Thornton that made it possible. He is looking forward to the bus rodeo next year.
- expressed his excitement for the school year indicating Superintendent Gdowski has a great team and he is looking forward to what the district will do this year. He also applauded the teamwork of board members.

Superintendent Gdowski reiterated that it had been a tremendously great start of the school year coupled with a very positive finish to last year. He acknowledged there is always positive energy among kids and staff the first day of school but during his school visits to Hillcrest, Federal Heights and STEM Launch you see a sense of relief at their accomplishment and a sense of pride and hope in achieving an even higher level. He noted his blogs celebrating the many things that have gone so well in the last year and with the start of school.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Calendar (Item H-1)

Mr. Clark noted the special meeting on August 27, 2014 and indicated he would be late for the work study session given a BOCES meeting.

Mr. Figueroa indicated he would be in Washington D.C. for his job and he would be participating via phone.

Ms. Mullins noted graduation dates have been moved back a week so the regular meeting of May 20, 2014 now conflicts with the Northglenn High School graduation and the board will need to reschedule that meeting.

It was clarified that the special meeting on August 27, 2014 would begin at the usual times with dinner and work study session at 5:00 p.m. and the main meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment (Item G-3)

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of September 3, 2014.