

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

PRESENT:

Board of Education

B. Batz

M. Clark

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 5:52 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Willsey, to approve the agenda as stated.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Jennings; Plomer, Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board moved Agenda Item F-5, Resolution: Use of Charter Buses, and took action following Agenda Item B-1 Board of Education and Superintendent Comments, Recognition, Awards and Vision.

WORK STUDY SESSION

Work Study Session (Item A-4)

Superintendent Update

- Superintendent Gdowski reviewed the background surrounding the STEM Lab issue and indicated a detailed analysis would be presented at the October 7, 2015 Board meeting with hopes of obtaining guidance from the Board at the October 21, 2015 Board meeting.
- The superintendent provided a summary of information regarding the Synergy Proposal in Wadley Farms that reviewed the background of the issue, provided District talking points and examined "What's Next?"
- The enrollment cap at Meridian has been modified to look at class size by grade level which provides additional enrollment possibilities in response to community concern about adverse impacts to property value. The change has been well received by the community.
- The Broomfield Enterprise is expected to run a story regarding the movement of students from Meridian Elementary to Coyote Ridge Elementary that focuses on movement from one overcrowded school to another.
- Centennial Elementary will reach out to its community to solicit feedback regarding what would make the school more appealing for families currently attending and an attractive choice for families considering the school.
- The Long Range Plan Advisory Committee holds its first meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2015. Mark Poshak from the Communications Team will facilitate the work of the committee with a goal of developing a recommendation for the Superintendent by March/April for a five year vision for new school construction, building additions, maintenance items, and a long term buildout of the District.
- The Five Star Leadership Academy begins its work on Friday, September 18, 2015 to expand parent and community knowledge of the school district and create a foundation for them to go on and serve the Adams 12 community. 55 participants were selected for the first cohort from over 110 applicants. The Academy will continue annually as long as there is interest.

- The superintendent will be attending a statewide superintendent's meeting in Avon that is expected to focus on assessments and school finance.

Mr. Jennings departed the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- Mr. Batz will join Superintendent Gdowski and Phil Spare, General Counsel at the next meeting with the Colorado Education Association regarding the District's contractual relationship with Amie Baca-Oehlert on September 25, 2015.
- Tracy Dorland, Chief Academic Officer, updated the Board on the implementation of APEX, the District's Educator Effectiveness System, indicating measures of student learning were piloted with 220 teachers last year and the District has moved into scale implementation involving every teacher in the system. State measures will not be part of the system this year because of legislation in the spring and the change in assessments.
- Ms. Dorland also informed the Board that Hillcrest, Riverdale, Stukey, and Thornton Elementary Schools have received a grant from the CDE Turnaround Group to participate in a network of schools across the state to learn what is different about a school in priority improvement. This includes intensive training for principals, assistant principals and teachers, a focus on collection of student data over time, and an emphasis on supporting teachers in the schools. The District has also received a \$50,000 grant to analyze how the system is responding to turnaround schools and the District strategy around supporting schools that are most struggling in the system.

The Superintendent indicated the update on STEM Lab would be presented at the October 7, 2015 Board meeting.

RECESSED 6:54 P.M.

RECONVENED 7:04 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATION

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

Mr. Batz:

- expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Family and Community Leaders School Attendance Kickoff Breakfast and meet others interested in addressing the issue of school attendance. He indicated
- reported he would be participating in Intervention Services' Home Visit Day. He indicated parents and community members need to look for opportunities to improve the schools and attendance is a priority because their opinion and experience matters.

Ms. Plomer:

- reported attending the Attendance Action Breakfast. She acknowledged the statistic "In the 2013-14 school year, Adams County students were absent 964,654 days." She indicated attendance is clearly a problem for many school districts and expressed her appreciation for the efforts of people to identify strategies to keep students in school.
- reported attending the Adams County Communities for Drilling Accountability meeting regarding a proposed drilling site in Wadley Farms. She indicated it was interesting to hear community concerns and she is pleased to that the District will be involved in the discussion and stay abreast of influence over where drilling occurs, student safety at the current site, and factors the District has control over.
- reported attending the CSEA barbecue and indicated they had great food, fun balloon animals and employees and families felt welcomed at the start of a busy year.
- reported attending Centennial Elementary School's Hero Day on September 11, 2015. She indicated local police, fire fighters, active servicemen and veterans were greeted by students bearing flags, letters, posters and high fives as they made their way to a cake and ice cream reception. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to see and recognize people who serve the community.
- announced two candidate forums occurring: the first Westminster Chamber Candidates Night for Adams 12 and Westminster City Council candidates, on Thursday, October 1, 2015, at Front Range Community College, 7 – 9 p.m., and the second sponsored by the Adams 12 Community Action Network on October 20, 2015, at Silver Hills Middle School, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m..

Mr. Willsey:

- acknowledged Ken Delay, Director of CASB and indicated they went back a many years.
- announced he celebrated his 80th birthday.

Mr. Clark reported:

- reported that the Adams County BOCES has reorganized and rebranded itself Rocky Mountain Risk Management. He indicated they have a new logo and strategic plan and it will benefit all member school districts which include Adams 12, Brighton 27J, Mapleton and Westminster 50. He credited the RMRM Board with developing a product that will be friendly to school districts, save costs, and provide insurance, workers compensation and training.
- participating in a meeting at Denver International Airport with Adams County stakeholders regarding ballot initiative 1A for DIA that would allow development of property surrounding DIA with Adams County and Denver sharing the financial benefits equally. He indicated it is a 1500 acre site that will take about ten years to buildout and would generate jobs and revenue for Adams County without raising taxes. He encouraged his colleagues to take a look at the initiative.
- attending the City of Westminster's Public Safety Gala honoring Westminster police officers, fire fighters and first responders. He indicated it was an incredible evening to see what the police and fire fighters do for the community on a daily basis. He thanked them for their service and acknowledged the sacrifice of their families.
- remembered 9/11 as a sad day in the history of the United States but also acknowledged it is as Patriot Day with celebration and show of American pride. He expressed concern after talking with high school students and they had no idea what 9/11 was about. He expressed hope that the schools are not losing the message of that day which changed how Americans live, work and play.
- visited Hillcrest Elementary School acknowledging it was a school in Turnaround and it has changed and is a thriving school with students learning. He indicated it was good to get out and be with kids.

Superintendent Gdowski:

- reported the District is starting to see more challenges emerge since the start of school, as you would expect in a large system, but nothing significant and he continues to feel positive about the state of the District.
- recognized the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Northglenn High School on Friday, September 25, 2015. He indicated past principals, board members, and he would be attending. He noted it is amazing to see what Northglenn has been over the course of its 50 year history and expressed his belief that Northglenn's best days are not in its past, they are right now in the present and it has a very bright future.
- reported while at Westlake Middle School reading with students he was pleased to hear that students like the school food, which he indicated he's never heard before. He was also reminded there are traditions in Adams 12 no longer in place due to budget cuts and the negative factor that he often hears adults talk about but students are interested in too. He received a number of questions regarding Outdoor Education and Middle School Sports as well as requests for snow days.

BOARD BUSINESS

Resolution: Use of Charter Buses (Item F-5)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Willsey, to adopt the resolution presented in Enclosure F-5 authorizing the use of charter school buses for the transportation of student to and from school related events.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Plomer, Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATION (continued)

Board Training Presentation: Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) (Item B-2)

Ken DeLay, Executive Director of CASB provided information to the Board regarding the services CASB provides to boards of education and school districts, responded to Board questions and encouraged the Board to continue its membership in CASB.

General Public Comment (Item B-3)

Dawn Barnard of Brighton, and Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, told the Board of her work and communication with John Haney that lead to the recommendation for the Board to award him a diploma. She read an e-mail from Mr. Haney that expressed his joy and appreciation to the Board.

MINUTES

Minutes (Item C-1)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Willsey, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of September 2, 2015, as presented in Enclosure C-1.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Plomer, Willsey.
Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

RESULTS FOR KIDS

Ends Policy Development (Item D-1)

Following discussion of General Ends Policy 1.0 Board members expressed general support for the proposed language and will bring it back to the October 7, 2015 meeting for action. Board members will review the Core Beliefs & Commitments statement in preparation for discussion at the October 7, 2015 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Willsey, approve agenda item E-1 as stated in the Board agenda dated September 16, 2015.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Plomer, Willsey.
Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

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 (continued)

Monitoring of Ends Policies (Item F-1)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Ms. Plomer, to delay the monitoring of Ends Policies 1.1 Schooling, 1.1.1 Preschool, 1.1.2 Middle School and 1.1.3 High School until the April 15, 2016 Board meeting.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Plomer, Willsey.
Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Board Department Budget – Board Training (Item F-2)

Following Board discussion of board member training there was general consensus of the Board to renew its membership in the Colorado Association of School Boards.

Proclamation: Classified Employee Week (Item F-3)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Ms. Plomer, to adopt the proclamation presented in Enclosure F-3 declaring October 4 – 10, 2015 Classified Employee Week.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Plomer, Willsey.
Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Resolution: High School Diploma (Item F-4)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Willsey, to adopt the resolution presented in Enclosure F-4 awarding John Haney a diploma from Thornton High School and declaring him a graduate of Adams 12 Five Star Schools.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Plomer, Willsey.
Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment (Item G-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of October 7, 2015.