

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, OCTOBER 7, 2015.

PRESENT:

Board of Education

B. Batz

M. Clark

N. Jennings

K. Plomer

M. Willsey, absent

C. Gdowski, Superintendent

**REGULAR MEETING**

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present except Mr. Willsey

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

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

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Jennings; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**WORK STUDY SESSION**

Work Study Session (Item A-4)

Superintendent Update – No update was provided by the Superintendent.

STEM Lab Analysis Presentation – Superintendent Gdowski, Rob Webber, Chief Operating Officer, Art Dawson, Executive Director of Facilities, Moe Alarcon, Assistant Director of Facilities, Margie Ammons, Coordinating Architect, Janette Walters, Executive Director of Schools and Tracy Dorland, Chief Academic Officer reviewed information provided to the Board regarding STEM Magnet Lab Building Options. Two renovation options for the facility were presented. Option A - Invest \$1 million to expand STEM Lab to 3 rounds and replace mechanical systems likely to fail in the next 24 months. Option B - Invest an additional \$7.9 million to expand STEM Lab to 3 rounds and replace 80%+ of deferred maintenance items to assure continuity of operations for 10+ years. The Board discussed the best way to meet the needs of the STEM Lab community moving forward. There was general consensus among members to pursue Option A and the Superintendent directed Business Services to move forward. Board members will submit questions to staff in advance of the October 21, 2015 and hold further discussion regarding Option B at that meeting.

Buildout Plan Presentation – The superintendent provided the build out plan to Board members to demonstrate District planning over the years using historical assumptions and methodologies. The build out plan will serve as a foundational document for the Long Range Planning Committee to begin its work on a bond plan and plan for the future.

Complete Colorado Article

Ms. Plomer raised concern regarding the appearance that Mr. Jennings was speaking for the Board in an article published in Complete Colorado on October 6, 2015 that addressed the District's contract with Amie Baca-Oehlert. Mr. Clark directed Board members to review Board policies and bylaws and cautioned them to be mindful as Board members of what they say and how it is framed. Mr. Jennings indicated he would be interviewed on the Mike Rosen Show on October 8, 2015 regarding the same topic.

**RECESSED 6:57 P.M.**  
**RECONVENED 7:05 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

### **REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

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

Mr. Batz reported attending or participating in:

- Home Visit Day with Matt Schaefer, Planning Manager where they emphasized the importance of attendance with parents.
- the Thornton High School IB Parent Group kickoff meeting. He noted it was the largest attended meeting they've had in some time and the meeting is bilingual. He indicated he would be assisting with an Infinite Campus class they will be providing.
- the Thornton High School vs. Boulder football game on September 18, 2015 which was Boulder's homecoming. He indicated it was an interesting game with Bronco Cheerleaders performing during halftime and the Homecoming king and queen arriving in a Corvette. He also attended the Thornton H.S. Homecoming game against Westminster H. S. He acknowledged the October 9, 2015 Thornton vs. Northglenn game.
- handing out trophies at the Legacy Band Festival on September 25, 2015. He indicated the music and the bands playing were incredible and he had never seen anything like it in his life. He looks forward to attending in future years with his family.
- Red Ribbon Week at Century Middle School where the National Guard and Joint Counter Drug Task Force arranged for a black hawk helicopter to fly over the school four times and land on the school's property and talk to the kids about drugs.
- the CASB Regional Meeting on October 5, 2015 and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet and collaborate with board members from other school districts.

Ms. Plomer reported attending or participating in:

- Home Visit Day with Phil Gover, Youth Advocate for Title VII, Indian Education. She indicated she learned a lot and was impressed with the Student Engagement Initiative staff and what they do on a personal level to reach out to families. Ms. Plomer commended the District's efforts to get students to school and make sure they graduate.
- handing out trophies at the Legacy Band Festival, and acknowledged the talented students and the variety of music. She thanked Jeff Jasica, a former District parent and community volunteer, for organizing the festival.
- the Northglenn High School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. She enjoyed the pictures of successful graduates posted, looking through old year books, the decorated building and the excitement of current students and alumni. She learned interesting history of the school from George McCullough, former longtime principal who spoke. She indicated it was a wonderful celebration of what Northglenn was and what it has become.
- a Broomfield City Council meeting and updating the Council on the successes and enrollment challenges of Adams 12 schools in the Broomfield boundary. She indicated the Council was interested in hearing from the District and invited her to inform the City when she would be addressing the Council and she would be placed on the agenda.
- a check presentation by the Propane Education and Resource Council to the Education Foundation in recognition of the District's fleet of 25 energy efficient buses.
- a candidate forum sponsored by the Westminster Chamber of Commerce and got to hear from all of the prospective Board members.
- the CASB Fall Regional Meeting and talking with Board members from other Districts. She indicated they were tasked with identifying a point of pride from their District that they wanted others to know. Ms. Plomer and Mr. Batz decided it was that the District is united, working together and moving forward with doing great things for kids.
- the Board's meeting with a representative group of principals and she appreciated the opportunity to hear their challenges.

Mr. Jennings reported attending or participating in:

- Broomfield Days which included marching bands from a couple of Adams 12 high schools.

- Thornton Harvest Fest where he met a fellow Oklahoma University graduate that was also a member of the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee. He conveyed a request for the monthly AIPAC meetings to be featured on the electronic Board in the ESC parking lot.
- the City of Northglenn's Pirate Fest where one of the bar maids had a rat on her shoulder. He indicated it was a different event but lots of fun.
- the Northglenn High School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. He spoke with the SRO who provided a different perspective on how far Northglenn H.S. has come indicating 5 years ago they were breaking up a fight almost every day and they hadn't had a fight yet this year. The SRO noted the STEM students are excited and enthusiastic about learning which has affected other students, Problem Based Learning has engaged students, and the culture in the building has changed completely.
- Legacy Marching Band Festival and lauded Jeff Jasica for his work on coordinating the event. He indicated 2/3rds of the bands that go to the State Tournament participate and it's the best festival in the state. He indicate Thornton High School's band was small but had a good sound. Horizon's band had great saxophone solos and they had a big sound. Mountain Range had an Arabian theme with Moorish style arches. Northglenn had a small band but a big sound with lots of horns and all the percussion in the pit. Legacy topped it off with an exhibition that is still a work in progress and Mr. Jennings indicated he looks forward to seeing in the state competition.

Mr. Clark reported:

- participating in the Board meeting with principal representatives. He was impressed with their indication that Adams 12 culture has changed and it's a much better place to be. He indicated when principals hold that opinion it is spread among their staff.
- not attending the Legacy Marching Band Festival as he was at his son's wedding but acknowledged the work of Jeff Jasica in the festival production
- also not being able to attend the Northglenn High School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but has heard it was a huge success and expressed his appreciation for board members' attendance.
- meeting with Jeff Shrader, Jefferson County Sherriff, Peter Weir, Jefferson County District Attorney and Judge Melonakis and hearing about what is happening with youth today. He indicated an issue with parents relying on schools to raise their children and expressed a need for schools to be diligent in recognizing these students who often get lost and recognize them and let them know they are cared about.
- attending the Adams 12 Board and Westminster City Council Candidate Forum indicating the Westminster Rotary did a good job of organizing. He encouraged everyone to do their homework in advance of the mailing of ballots next week.
- the death of Mike Sheeley, Board member from Bennett Strasburg and expressed his condolences.

Superintendent Gdowski reported on his challenge to administrators in August 2015 that Adams 12 will be a Performance rated District by the conclusion of the 16-17 school year. He indicated the monthly meeting with principals focused on continuing to improve practice and outcomes for kids around reading and writing throughout the entire K-12 system. In elementary school, focusing on doing a better job of preparing second language learners to be competent in English, reading and writing, including a program review to shore up reading and writing instruction. In middle school, to achieve greater student growth, especially in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, in reading and math. In high school, to graduate 25 more students in 2015-16, and an additional 25 in 2016-17 without sacrificing academic performance and continuing high standards for graduates and what they can demonstrate on the ACT and similar assessments. The superintendent indicated achieving these goals will make Adams 12 a Performance rated school district after next year. He indicated the next goal will be best in class of our peer group of school districts that serve 33-43% of kids who qualify for free and reduced lunch. He acknowledged this an important objective for him personally and for the system and he feels good work is being done in Learning Services and across the system to make it happen.

#### General Public Comment (Item B-2)

Leslie Carrico, Northglenn City Councilwoman, lauded the Northglenn High School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. She acknowledged the enthusiasm of the students and parents and complimented the District on changes made at Northglenn to inspire student spirit and investment in their school. Ms. Carrico invited Board members interested in addressing the Northglenn City Council to contact the city manager's office to be put on the agenda and not be limited to public comment. Ms. Carrico also informed the superintendent that she is gathering information for the District regarding audio books.

JoAnn Windholtz, of Commerce City and Colorado State Representative for House District 30, who represents families in Adams 12 school district introduced herself to the Board and audience. She acknowledged CASB and the work they do representing education interests at the State Legislature. She invited Board members to also testify on bills that affect school districts. Representative Windholtz inquired how the decrease in graduation requirements will affect performance rates of schools, the education students will receive and the ability of student to be productive students at graduation. She encourage Board members to call her as needed.

## **MINUTES**

### Minutes (Item C-1)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of September 16, 2015 and the special Board meeting of September 30, 2015, as presented in Enclosures C-1(a) and C-1(b).

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Jennings; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

## **RESULTS FOR KIDS**

### General Ends Policy 1.0 (Item D-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Plomer to adopt General Ends Policy 1.0 presented in Enclosure D-1 as revised.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Jennings; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

### Core Beliefs and Commitments (Item D-2)

The Board discussed the Core Beliefs and Commitments statement presented in Enclosure D-2 which reflects feedback from the Board's community engagement process with parents during the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Jennings suggested language around values including honesty, integrity, perseverance, being ethical, being intellectually curious and will provide language for consideration. Additional changes suggested include: bullet 5 - addition of "in all content areas" to the end, and deletion of "that provides the base", bullet 7 – deletion of "We believe all students should be prepared for life after K-12 and that their", and addition of "students" after their. The statement will be revised and brought to the October 21, 2015 meeting for Board action.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

### Operating Limitations Policy 2.6.6 (Item E-1)

There was general consensus among Board members regarding the proposed revision to language in Board Policy 2.6.6, Employment, Compensation and Benefits. The revised policy will be brought to the October 21, 2015 meeting for Board action.

### 2015 CASB Delegate Assembly and Resolutions (Item E-2)

There was general consensus among Board members to designate Kathy Plomer as the Adams 12 delegate for the 2015 CASB Delegate Assembly on Saturday, October 17, 2015.

Board and staff review of CASB proposed new resolutions provided the following direction to Ms. Plomer for the Delegate Assembly:

- 3.4 School Funding
  - i) clarify that comprehensive reform includes the capital cost of facilities to provide programs.
  - j) funding of Adams 12 that accounts for disparity of being a large district but having a small district tax base, mostly residential and very little commercial
- 4.26 High school assessments (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and 4.27 High school assessments (ACT test) – the Superintendent expressed concern that in a state like Colorado with high socio economic

diversity a single assessment at the high school level could become a measure of students' socio economic status as opposed to the current system that also measures the growth of students from year to year. The Board recommended pulling resolutions 4.26 and 4.27 out of consent for discussion.

- 5.17 Student growth – the Superintendent expressed concern with the law's portability provision regarding non-probationary status may not account for variability in weight school districts apply student growth and achievement data to teacher evaluation ratings, and it is premature to throw out having a portion of the teacher's performance rating based on student growth or assessment data given the work Adams 12 has done with Student Learning Objectives and before it has been given a real chance. The Board expressed support for the state assessment recommended
- 7.19 Opting out of state assessments – the Superintendent conveyed metro area superintendents' concerns that an opt out system could evolve into a system that only students in poverty are taking state assessments and issues of equity.

Board members with concerns about other resolutions will contact with Ms. Plomer prior to the October 17, 2015 Delegate Assembly.

### Board Agenda Planning (Item E-3)

The Board reviewed questions for its special meeting on October 28, 2015 with CSEA Board Representatives and added the following questions: 1) What do employees look forward to at work? What can the District do to foster more of this?, 2) What are some of the challenges you face in your daily job?, and 3) How has the safety and security of the learning and work environment in your school changed from previous years?

The Board discussed its November 4, 2015 Student and Community Meetings at Mtn. Range High School. The Board will add the following questions for its discussion with students: 1) What do you like most about Mtn. Range H.S.? What is one thing you would change?, 2) What opportunities have you had to apply your learning to a real life experience(s)? (e.g. internships), and 3) Do you understand Standards Based Grading? Have you received feedback from teachers about how you're doing and what you can do to improve?

The Board determined the format of the community meeting would be an open meeting to hear successes and challenges students, parents and community members have experienced in Adams 12 followed by Board business.

The Board determined it would hold a special meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 for purpose of swearing in Board members elected in the November 3, 2015 General Election. The meeting will be at the ESC, in the Training Center.

### Resolution: Designation of Attendance Officers (Item E-4)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to adopt the resolution presented in Enclosure E-4 confirming the designation of District attendance officers and authorizing the attendance officers to represent the District in truancy matters

#### Resolution Designating District Attendance Officers and Authorizing Attendance Officers to Represent the District in Truancy Proceedings

WHEREAS, Colorado statute 22-33-107(1) requires school district boards of education to designate one or more employees to act as attendance officer for the district; and

WHEREAS, Colorado statute 13-1-127(7) allows school district boards of education to designate one or more employees to represent the school district in truancy proceedings in any court of competent jurisdiction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Adams 12 Five Star Schools confirms the designation of employees Johnny Terrell, Desiree Quintanilla, Julian Proctor and Consuelo "Connie" Salas as district attendance officers, and authorizes the attendance officers to represent the District in truancy matters consistent with the parameters established in statute, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such designation shall remain in effect until or unless modified by future resolution of the Board of Education.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Plomer, Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Personnel Dismissal (Item E-5)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Jennings, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for dismissal of Christopher Klepac and to authorize the Superintendent to initiate the dismissal process.

Ayes: Batz; Clark; Plomer, Willsey.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment (Item G-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

**Adopted by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of November 4, 2015.**