

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 15, 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 7:13 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

**BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

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

Ms. Plomer reported:

- reading at Stellar Elementary with Kindergarteners and first graders for their Reading Day,
- working with the ACYI Attendance Task Force reviewing county wide data and identifying Adams 12 specific issues with attendance and developing a plan. Data has revealed bright spot schools, those expected to have more attendance issues but do not, and they are working to determine the difference. One aspect is attention to health, schools with a nurse or health aide that is catching kids early with health issues. Ms. Plomer suggested it is information to keep in mind when considering policy.

- attending the Early Childhood Education Breakfast which focused on birth to Kindergarten and the importance of the early years. She expressed interest in getting more involved in the work which includes reaching out to neighboring preschools to raise awareness regarding where kids need to be and what skills they should have coming into Kindergarten.
- attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) site visit to STEM Launch in conjunction with their annual conference being held in Westminster. A delegation visited to see what is being done in STEM education. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade STEM Launch students and Northglenn High School students did a fantastic job of displaying and explaining STEM and Problem Based Learning. It was a good showing by Adams 12 with a national group.

Mr. Figueroa thanked Northglenn High School for hosting the October 1, 2014 board meeting and the 15 students who met and interacted with the Board. He expressed appreciation for the students' time and their honesty. He acknowledged student suggestions that the Board build a relationship with students and encouraged his colleagues to join him in visiting high schools and being available during lunch to talk with students so they know who board members are and what the Board does.

Mr. Jennings:

- indicated he enjoyed the Board's time with the Northglenn High School students as well.
- acknowledged Thornton High School Honor Society Students helping prepare for the St. Anthony's North Hospital and DSIT book presentation to Adams 12 Kindergarteners.
- recognized the Legacy Marching Band Festival at Five Star Stadium where he saw Horizon, Mountain Range and Northglenn High Schools marching bands. He acknowledged an excellent performance by NHS that exceeded the size of their band and Legacy's exhibition as the finale of the event. Mr. Jennings also recognized the hard work of the students to get into the band and do so well and praised staff who worked a long, hard day to make the festival happen.
- reported attending the CSEA barbecue and talking with staff.

Mr. Willsey:

- reported visiting Stellar and Woodglen Elementary Schools and recognized their collaborative work with a joint in-service training every other month on a topic decided together.
- visited Cherry Drive Elementary School and toured the school with Principal Tina Hepp. He noted the improved moral of staff.

Superintendent Gdowski:

- reported representing the District at the League of Innovative Schools Conference in Washington D.C. and expressed his pride in Adams 12 being one of 57 school districts, out of the 16,000 in the country to be recognized for innovative and cutting edge staff that are making a difference for kids. He indicated Adams 12 is the only school district in Colorado that has received this recognition and that it was nice to be around people that have the same positive, can do spirit that he sees in staff throughout the system. The superintendent indicated it was an uplifting night and experience having dinner at the National Archives 20-30 yards away from the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.
- reported that Dr. Strickland, former board member, has been recognized by CHSA and will be inducted into their hall of fame in January. He indicated Dr. Strickland is a very deserving recipient acknowledging his service to the District as team doctor to the Northglenn High School football team for forty-seven years, his tireless advocacy for kids and his investment in the community.
- recognized and thanked Lori Goldstein, DTEA President, for attending board meetings and asked her to introduce the DTEA executive team. Team members present included Shelley DeRock, Meridian Elementary, Andrea Overton, STEM Launch, Joe Croteau, Northglenn High, Suzi Melly, Horizon High, Paula Dickerson, Hullstrom K-8, Lisa Starbuck, Cherry Drive, Marty Gutierrez, Siler Hills Middle, David Lackley, The International School at Thornton Middle and Dylan Bollander, DTEA Coordinator. Ms. Goldstein also recognized team members not present that included Sara Doyle, Northglenn High, Doug Lardes, Arapahoe Ridge Elementary, and Andres Martinez, Thornton High.

Mr. Clark:

- reported having a great experience visiting Northglenn Middle School with Lori Goldstein. He recognized the school breakfast program noting every student started the day off with breakfast, there was no embarrassment for students on free and reduced, and he expressed a hope that the program could be extended throughout the district. Mr. Clark acknowledged participating in Crew, a facet of Expeditionary Learning, which is a first hour advisory curriculum that focuses on

character education around six habits: collaboration, compassion, courage, integrity, perseverance and responsibility. He praised the teachers, staff and principal at Northglenn Middle School.

- expressed his appreciation to Northglenn High School students for talking with the Board at the October 1, 2014 board meeting. He acknowledged the great attitude, school culture and Northglenn pride the students displayed.
- recognized the Legacy Marching Band Festival indicating it was an amazing event for Adams 12 to present to the community with over 2,000 band students and 5,000 spectators. He indicated it was an honor to be there and hand out trophies.
- thanked Casey Brickman, Fiver Star Stadium Manager, for doing a great job under pressure to make the band festival a huge success.

## **RESULTS FOR KIDS**

### Community Feedback (Item C-1)

Board members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with Northglenn High School students and include the student voice to the mix of feedback the Board is gathering from the community. They look forward to involving students in future meetings. As the Board continues to engage the community it will develop a process for utilizing input gathered to drive the Board's vision and goals for the District and communicate how the feedback was used.

### Ends Policies Review (Item C-2)

Board discussion of revisions to proposed Ends Policies focused on 1.1 Schooling. Interest was expressed in continued reporting on preschool readiness with indication from Superintendent Gdowski that parameters included in the policy heading "all students PK-12..." would direct continued reporting on preschool. Board members clarified that proposed language around "critical thinking" and "problem solving" was intended to provide opportunity for evidence beyond high stakes testing to demonstrate student achievement and not to require additional testing or new measurements. It also incorporates community input prioritizing these items. The board discussed adding language around Problem Based Learning (PBL) to the policy and determined it was unnecessary after receiving staff feedback regarding development of critical thinking and problem solving skills in classrooms across the district and work to incorporate PBL into best practices and opportunities for Adams 12 students. The Board acknowledged community feedback regarding healthy relationships, character education, honesty, respect, and consequence awareness, and discussed incorporating these social emotional characteristics in policy. Mr. Figueroa and Ms. Plomer will continue work on proposed policies for continued discussion at a future meeting.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### Special Board Meeting with Classified School Employee Association Representatives (Item D-1)

The Board determined it would use questions 1, 4, 5 and 8 from Enclosure B-1 to guide its discussion with CSEA Board Representatives at its special meeting on October 22, 2014.

### DSIT Report (Item D-2)

Stephanie James, DSIT President presented the book and book mark that will be given to all Adams 12 Kindergarteners through the DSIT partnership with St. Anthony's North Hospital to promote literacy. She also reported DSIT developed a magnet in partnership with Little Britches Kids Resale and Ziggy's Coffee that will be distributed to all Kindergarteners to reinforce the importance of going to school and getting there on time. Ms. James introduced Jennifer Rogers owner of Little Britches and acknowledged her collaboration with DSIT to raise money for Adams 12. Ms. Rogers presented a check for \$312 to DSIT and thanked them for the opportunity to be involved in the community. Ms. James reported the general meeting schedule for DSIT would begin on November 6, 2014 with a topic of opportunities for families to give back to the community.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Felicia Alvarez, resident of Northglenn, graduate of Thornton High School and Parent Committee Chair of the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee thanked the Board for the community engagement funds for the annual Adams 12 Five Star Schools Pow-Wow and College Fair, to be held on January 17, 2015, at Century Middle School. She also expressed appreciation for Tracy Dorland, Chief Academic Officer and her work with AIPAC.

Greg Phillips, resident of Thornton and member of the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee, expressed his appreciation to the Board, Superintendent, Tracy Dorland and all the staff that have supported and worked with AIPAC. He also thanked the Board for its leadership on character building.

## **MONITORING**

### Monitoring Report: Ends Policy 1.1 Schooling (Item F-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Figueroa, to acknowledge that the board received a monitoring report as of October 15, 2014 for the period October 17, 2013 through October 15, 2014 of the Superintendent concerning Ends Policy 1.1 Schooling, and found the superintendent's interpretations were reasonable and supported by data that was relevant, justified and complete.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### Monitoring Report: Ends Policy 1.1.1 Preschool and Elementary (Item F-2)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Ms. Plomer, to acknowledge that the board received a monitoring report as of October 15, 2014 for the period October 17, 2013 through October 15, 2014 of the Superintendent concerning Ends Policy 1.1.1 Preschool and Elementary, and found superintendent's interpretations were reasonable and supported by data that was relevant, justified and complete

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### Direct Inspection Monitoring: Board Policy 4.4 - President's Role (Item F-3)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Willsey, to acknowledge that the Board conducted a direct inspection monitoring as of October 15, 2014 concerning Board Policy 4.4 President's Role, and found the president has complied with the Board's policy statements.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### Joint Motion

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Jennings, to approve agenda item G-1, as stated in the board agenda dated October 15, 2014.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### 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.

## MINUTES

### Minutes (Item H-1)

Motion by Ms. Figueroa, second by Mr. Willsey, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of September 3, 2014, as presented in Enclosure H-1.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### Board Meeting Minutes: Content (Item H-2)

The Board expressed interest in making available an audio or video recording of board meetings on the district web site and requested information regarding the capability and cost. The Board determined it would delay further discussion and decision regarding preservation of its minutes until it has the opportunity to receive information regarding the impact of Proposition 104, the Colorado School Board Open Meeting Initiative, on board and district meetings.

### Calendar (Item I-1)

The Board determined it would reschedule the school presentation for the November 19, 2014 meeting given the lengthy agenda.

### Board Meeting Evaluation (Item I-2)

Mr. Figueroa suggested Public Comment be moved to the beginning of the agenda, following Board and Superintendent comments and the DSIT Report so community members do not have to wait so long to address the Board.

### Adjournment (Item I-3)

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

**Adopted by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of November 5, 2014.**