

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, NOVEMBER 16, 2016.

PRESENT:

Board of Education

B. Batz

N. Jennings

J. Lockley

L. Mitchell

K. Plomer

C. Gdowski, Superintendent

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Ms. Plomer called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present, except Mr. Jennings who arrived at 5:47 p.m.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Ms. Lockley, to approve the agenda as stated, with revision to agenda item D-3 changing \$95 million to \$250 million.

Ayes: Batz; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Work Study Session (Item A-4)

Mr. Jennings arrived at 5:47 p.m.

Superintendent Update – Superintendent Gdowski reported to the Board on the following topics.

- Student reaction to the election and the support and response of the District.
- Expectations of a lower bond premium as a result of market volatility, a shortfall in bond securities in the second issue and recommendations from bond counsel and financial advisors.
- Safe to Tell complaints regarding the Legacy High School football team and coaches.
- Negotiations with the Classified School Employees Association.

RECESSED 7:00 P.M.

RECONVENED 7:10 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATION

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

Mr. Batz:

- attended the STEM Magnet PBL presentations regarding safe field trips, and how Science, Social Studies, Literacy and other academic standards are woven into field trips.
- attended the STEMinspired Partnership Breakfast at STEM Launch K-9 and recognized the talent and aptitude of students and thanked teachers and the District for engaging students.
- walked for 3D as a parent and expressed his belief in getting out into the neighborhoods and letting the community know parents care about securing funding for schools.
- attended the Legacy Band Assembly celebrating their 9th State Championship and expressed awe with the level of energy,
- attended the Public Education and Business Coalition Annual Breakfast which highlighted discussion of superintendents from across Colorado regarding challenges district face beyond funding including hiring and retention of teachers and cultivating future leaders.

Ms. Lockley:

- celebrated the Adams 12 Community for its work to get 3D passed with overwhelming support and expressed her excitement to see the community come together around an issue that will make a drastic difference for kids.
- recognized the schools activities around Halloween and engaging kids.
- recognized Totes for Hope, a community based food sharing program, and the schools holiday shops that provide student shopping opportunities for their families.

Mr. Jennings.

- commended the Adams 12 community on the hard work put into overcoming significant challenges and the effort put forth to pass the bond. He acknowledged Adams 12 efforts in transparency around the bond with a Bond Oversight Committee.
- reported attending the Legacy High School Band assembly and commended them for three championships in a row, and nine in the last eleven years. He acknowledged Legacy has the largest band in the state with over 10% of the school population participating and it is still growing. He commended Band Director Clay Stansbury, parents and students for their work to make the band a success, a point of pride for the District and a great opportunity for students.

Ms. Mitchell:

- expressed her appreciation to the Adams 12 community for its continuing support and work to get 3D passed. She recognized great leadership, hardworking staff and parents and an all-out community effort to send a message to teachers and students regarding the community's support for its schools.
- reported speaking at and touring Prospect Ridge Academy and seeing how bond proceeds will be utilized there. She recognized the great things they are doing for kids.
- experienced her first opportunity to read to kids in a classroom at Stellar Elementary for Halloween.
- attended the Adams County Youth Initiative Breakfast that was a fundraiser for the Catalyst Lift Program. She acknowledged their Cradle to Career message and work to provide resources to support students and families. She indicated Adams 12 was well represented by students from the Horizon SOAR Program and Thornton High School.
- attended the Parent Leadership Academy Network meeting where an Adams 12 parent presented information on grant writing. She looks forward to getting the word out about the importance of this group and grow its participation.
- attended the STEMinspired Breakfast and was blown away by students' ability to present in front of large audience that included businesses and many different facets of the community.
- attended the Adams 12 Orchestra Festival that included all middle and high school orchestras in the District including Stargate Charter. She was impressed with the organization, the program and the talented students.

Ms. Plomer:

- recognized the efforts of the District Twelve Education Association (DTEA), Classified School Employees Association (CSEA), the District Team and the Adams 12 Community Action Network (CAN) in the amazing election night results for 3D. She conveyed the interest of CAN members to stay involved and continue to work on behalf of students.
- recognized a variety of reactions to the national election from excitement to fear and uncertainty. She noted the District's support for freedom of expression and for a safe learning environment for all students. She acknowledged District policies in both areas and indicated District support for all students.
- indicated the Metro Chamber of Commerce reception for incoming legislators was a nice opportunity to meet new legislators, talk with legislators in new positions and introduce them to Adams 12.
- attended the Shark Tank watch party for STEM Lab 6th grader Jack Bonneau, a young entrepreneur who secured a \$50,000 loan from *Shark Tank* with his business - Jack's Stands & Marketplace. She indicated it was fund night and wonderful to see an Adams 12 student receive that recognition.
- thanked CSEA for hosting the special meeting with their board members and expressed appreciation to Paul Williams, President and Rob Keeney, Coordinator for meeting and keeping her informed.
- reported the Rocky Mountain Risk Insurance Group Meeting on November 7, 2016 and noted a successful audit.
- attended the CASB Region 5 Meeting that included a speaker who informed them about new legislation that gives school districts a seat at the table when talking about TIFs.

- attended the STEMinspired Breakfast and was inspired to see what the District is doing to empower students.

Superintendent Gdowski:

- observed that Board comments conveyed that the importance of the work of the District goes well beyond test scores and academic achievement.
- reported that the performance of Second Language Learners in acquiring English was well above the 50th percentile in terms of median growth percentile at elementary, middle and high school levels compared to kids throughout the state.
- indicated that staff in system are inspired by the support of Board members, parents and the community provided in the effort to pass the bond. It is a great feeling to have the community work and stand with you and recognize the value your work. He expressed gratitude to parents and the community for their partnership in the campaign effort.
- acknowledged the instrumental role of Kathy Plomer in charting a course for the success of the 2016 bond through her efforts to engage the community and develop and communicate a coherent plan. He also lauded Ms. Plomer's contributions in driving and inspiring change in the system and recognized Ken DeLay, Executive Director of the Colorado Association of School Boards who presented Ms. Plomer with the McGuffey Award. The Board nominated Ms. Plomer to receive this award which honors unique board members who bring committed and passionate service to their board work. Superintendent Gdowski also thanked Ms. Plomer and her family for their sacrifice on behalf of the District.

General Public Comment (Item B-2)

There were no requests to address the Board.

BOARD BUSINESS

Minutes (Item C-1)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to adopt the minutes of the regular Board meeting of October 19, 2016 as corrected and the special meeting of October 26, 2016, as presented in Enclosure C-1(b).

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) (Item C-2)

Paul Niedermuller, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP presented the 2016 CAFR which included an explanation of the Agreed Upon Procedures, review of the Independent Auditor Report, review of the Basic Financial Statements and review of the Federal Funds component. He highlighted that the Independent Auditor Report gave the District an unmodified/clean opinion in all material respects. He also noted that in the Federal Funds component looked at three programs - Nutrition Cluster, 21st Century Learning, Title II Improving Teacher Quality – and there were no findings in either Federal compliance or the financial statements.

MONITORING

External Monitoring Report: Operating Limitations Policies 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities, 2.5 Asset Protection, 2.6.1 Employment, Compensation and Benefits, and Superintendent Policy 4130 Staff Ethics/Conflicts of Interest/Nepotism (Item D-1)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to acknowledge the Board received an external monitoring report from Clifton Larsen Allen LLP as of November 16, 2016, for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policies 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities, 2.5 Asset Protection, 2.6.1 Employment, Compensation and Benefits, and Superintendent Policy 4130 Staff Ethics/Conflicts of Interest/Nepotism, and finds the superintendent's interpretations are reasonable and supported by data that is relevant, justified and complete.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Internal Monitoring Report: Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities (Item D-2)

Motion by Ms. Mitchell, second by Mr. Jennings, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of November 16, 2016, for the period, July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, of the Superintendent, concerning Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities, and finds the superintendent's interpretations are reasonable and supported by data that is relevant, justified and complete.

Superintendent Gdowski requested clarification from the Board regarding reporting data about growing reserves to 5%, balances in funds outside the General Fund and language about appropriations being made in future 2.4 monitoring reports. There was general consensus from the Board that these items did not need to be reported on unless there are anything unusual or areas of concern.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.
Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution: Sale of General Obligation Bonds and Refunding of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006A (Item D-3)

Motion by Ms. Mitchell, second by Ms. Lockley to approve the Bond Resolution presented in Enclosure D-3 authorizing the sale of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$250 million and the refunding of a portion of the General Obligation Bonds Series 2006A, in an amount not to exceed \$38,110,000.

David Hart, PFM, Maria Harwood, Butler Snow, and Antti Suhonen, JP Morgan provided information to the Board regarding the sale of bonds given the volatility in financial markets following the election. They addressed whether it is in the best interest of the District to be in the market at this point in time given changes in interest rates that effect net proceeds from the sales and the best amount to issue. Through board discussion and consensus, the Board authorized the Superintendent to collect necessary additional information, consider the costs and benefits, and to make a decision on the specific amount of bonds to issue in December 2016 between \$250 million and \$350 million as permitted by the parameters resolution.

Motion by Ms. Mitchell and second by Ms. Lockley withdrawn.

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Batz to approve the Bond Resolution presented in Enclosure D-3 as revised authorizing the sale of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$350 million and the refunding of a portion of the General Obligation Bonds Series 2006A, in an amount not to exceed \$38,110,000. However, given the current volatility in the bond market, the Superintendent is further authorized to take any action within the November 16 bond resolution.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.
Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

BOARD BUSINESS (continued)

Legislative Update: Policy Matters (Item C-3)

Tanya Kelly-Bowry and Ernestine Mondragón, legislative consultants from Policy Matters reviewed the outcome of federal and state elections which included highlights of the Senate leadership and review of the makeup of the Joint Budget Committee after leadership elections. They also provided an update on the governor's 2017-2018 budget request and revenue forecast and expectations regarding the 2017 Legislative Session specific to education.

The Board discussed rescheduling dinner with the Adams 12 Legislative Delegation after the session begins and were in agreement to consider breakfast in Denver to facilitate maximum opportunity for legislators to attend.

Governance Process Policy 4.9, Legislative Platform (Item C-4)

Board members conducted its annual review of Board Policy 4.9 noting a miscellaneous "1" at the beginning of the second to last bullet and inquiring about the need for the last bullet given 2016 legislation requiring school boards have a place on special tax commissions. The status of that legislation was unclear and Ms. Kelly-Bowry and Ms. Mondragón will look into and provide further information.

CONSENT AGENDA

Recommended Action

Motion by Ms. Mitchell, second by Mr. Batz, to approve agenda item D-1 as stated in the Board agenda dated November 16, 2016.

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel Actions (Item D-1)

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

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Calendar (Item F-1)

Due to a conflict with the governor's reception the Board dinner meeting with the Adams 12 Legislative Delegation will be rescheduled after the beginning of the year. The Board budget was added to the December 7, 2016 work study session to discuss Board member participation in the CASB Federal Relations Network advocacy session in Washington, D.C. and attendance at the 2017 National Association of School Boards Annual Conference in Denver. Board members also expressed interest in attending the Policy Governance workshop at the CASB Annual Convention in December.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Education at its special meeting on November 30, 2016.