

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, NOVEMBER 19, 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 5:32 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 6:55 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

**INFORMATION**

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

Ms. Plomer reported:

- visiting Westgate Community School and having the opportunity to see classrooms first hand.
- attending the Colorado School Finance Project meeting on November 14, 2014 which included a forecast of the effect of elections on school finance, report of a one time increase in school funding from the Governor and discussion of the TABOR refund limit and what it means for schools funding. She indicated it was a good opportunity to hear what other school districts are thinking about.

- attending the Adams County Education Consortium meeting which included a panel discussion about parent and community engagement. How schools can be culturally welcoming to all students and families and what barriers inhibit families from participating.

Mr. Figueroa addressed fellow board members and staff indicating there are a lot of hard decisions ahead with schools and no bond. He expressed his appreciation for the dialogue and creative ideas to find ways to replace roofs, etc. He thanked board members and staff for the work hard work already done and going forward.

Mr. Jennings reported visiting Westgate Community School and expressed his appreciation for the invitation and time spent time with Principal Chris Johnston and staff. He found it interesting that they have chickens and indicated they were putting the building to good use.

Mr. Willsey thanked Ms. Plomer for her work with various committees.

Superintendent Gdowski recognized Mr. Willsey's longstanding support of athletics in the community and congratulated him on his nomination as the Colorado Association of Athletics Directors School Board Member of the Year. He was nominated by the Front Range League and the East Metro Athletic Conference and a decision regarding the recipient will be made soon.

Mr. Clark:

- thanked Westgate Community School for the invitation and regretted not being able to visit. He indicated the school had come to him through one of their students who is an Eagle Scout and delivered a speech about service above self at a scouting event
- recognized Northglenn Boy Scout Troop 212 who presented the colors on a cold Veterans' Day. He acknowledged the commitment of district students to take the time to honor our veterans on a day off.
- acknowledged a sad situation where money was stolen from the Thornton Veterans Memorial and thanked Mayor Williams and the City of Thornton for their contribution and assistance to the veterans.
- wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and joyous time with family.

#### DSIT Report (Item B-2)

Stephanie James, DSIT President introduced DSIT to the Westgate community present and invited them to attend the "Give Back" Resource Fair at Westview Elementary School on Thursday, November 20, 2014. She indicated that Sweet by Katie, Ziggy's Coffee and the Women's Bean Project have donated door prizes for the event. Dr. James also reviewed DSIT objectives indicating they continue to review the uniform improvement plan, they will be reviewing the Westgate Community School charter renewal application, and they will begin the budget committee process over the next few months. Dr. James asked for Board response to the 2013 DSIT budget committee report.

#### General Public Comment (Item B-3)

Lori Goldstein of Westminster, and DTEA President, commended the Board's community engagement process and requested that teachers also have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Board's Ends Policies.

Elizabeth Micallef of Broomfield and a Westgate Community School parent informed the Board that her son has been at Westgate since the school opened, his fifth grade year, and is now a high school sophomore. She indicated he is concurrently enrolled in the Front Range Community College program, is thriving at the high school and college level, and attributed his success to the Westgate community, teachers and curriculum and encouraged the Board to extend the charter.

Josie Siegel of Thornton, a high school English teacher at Westgate expressed her enthusiasm for the school. She spoke to the wisdom and experience staff brings from all walks of life, the courage staff is empowered with to inspire students, the sympathy students develop for their surroundings and the comradery among staff, and the hope achieved through a deep optimism that they can reach any student that comes to Westgate.

## BOARD BUSINESS

### Minutes (Item C-1)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Ms. Plomer, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 5, 2014, as presented in Enclosure C-1.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### Westgate Community School Charter Renewal (Item C-2)

Chris Johnston, Westgate Community School Principal presented information to the Board regarding the Westgate application requesting a five year charter renewal. Patti Gilmour, District Charter School Liaison reviewed information provided in the staff recommendation to the Board that the Westgate charter renewal application be conditionally approved for a period of two years from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017 as presented in Enclosure C-2. Ms. Johnston requested the opportunity to meet with the Board of Education to discuss and respond to information provided in the staff recommendation. The superintendent will meet with Ms. Johnston. Westgate will present further information at the December 17, 2014 board meeting. The Board will take action on the renewal at its January 21, 2015 meeting.

**RECESSED 8:50 P.M.**

**RECONVENED 9:03 P.M.**

### Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) (Item C-3)

Paul Niedermuller and Michelle Hoffman, auditors from CliftonLarsenAllen LLP, presented the Fiscal Year 2014 CAFR. They reported one finding, a material weakness due to the district not complying with OMB Circular A-87 by not requiring employees to complete semi-annual time certifications for the IDEA Part B Special Ed Grants.

### Board Meeting Schedule (Item C-4)

Motion by Figueroa, second by Mr. Jennings, to cancel the regular board meeting of December 3, 2014 and address agenda items planned for that meeting at a special meeting on December 10, 2014.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## MONITORING

### Monitoring Report (External): Operating Limitations Policies 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities, 2.5 Asset Protection, and 2.6.1 Employment, Compensation and Benefits (Item D-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Figueroa, to acknowledge the Board received an external monitoring report from Clifton Larsen Allen LLP as of November 19, 2014, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policies 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities, 2.5 Asset Protection, and 2.6.1 Employment, Compensation and Benefits and 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.

Internal Monitoring Report: Ends Policy 1.1.2 Middle School (Item D-2)

Motion BY Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Plomer, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of November 19, 2014, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policy 1.1.2 Middle School, and 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.

Internal Monitoring Report: Ends Policy 1.1.3 High School (Item D-3)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Ms. Plomer, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of November 19, 2014, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policy 1.1.3 High School, and 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: Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities (July 1 – September 30) (Item D-4)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Figueroa, to acknowledge that the Board received a monitoring report as of November 19, 2014 for the period, July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, 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.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Monitoring Report: Operating Limitations Policy 2.10 Family School Partnerships and Community Engagement (Item D-5)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Figueroa, to delay the monitoring of Operating Limitations Policy 2.10, Family School Partnerships and Community Engagement until the next scheduled monitoring in June 2015, when further direction will be available following Board review of its policies at a Board Retreat in early 2015.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Direct Inspection Monitoring: Board Policy 4.6 – Board Liaison and Committee Principles (Item D-6)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Willsey to acknowledge the Board has conducted a direct inspection monitoring as of November 19, 2014, concerning Board Policy 4.6, Board Liaison and Committee Principles, and finds the Board has complied with the policy statements.

Board members discussed the need to review and revise this policy and indicated this would be done during policy review at their retreat meeting.

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Ms. Plomer to table action on item D-6.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### Joint Motion

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Figueroa, to approve agenda items E-1 and E-2 as stated in the Board agenda dated November 19, 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.

### Classified School Employee Contract (Item E-2)

Ratified the 2015 Classified Employee Contract.

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

### Calendar (Item F-1)

Mr. Clark acknowledged cancellation of the December 3, 2014 board meeting and board member participation in the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Colorado Association of School Boards Conference, December 4 – 7, 2014, at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs.

## BOARD MEETING EVALUATION

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

Josh Bastian, DSIT member, noted the CAFR was not available on line and requested it if available and thanked the Board for moving expeditiously through a long agenda. Shelly Becker, CFO, confirmed that the CAFR was not available publicly as it was still in draft form but would be posted to the District website once final.

Add agenda item for Figueroa

### Adjournment (Item I-3)

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

**Adopted by the Board of Education at its special meeting of December 10, 2014.**