

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, DECEMBER 10, 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 5:46 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 6:56 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:05 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. Jennings, to approve the agenda as stated.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

School Presentation: Mountain View Elementary (Item B-1)

Sixty students from the Mountain View Elementary Signing Choir performed for the Board and community under the direction of Jenna Harris, Peggy Reuss and Patty Mock.

Mountain View Elementary Community Engagement (Item B-2)

The Board discussed “What is most important that students learn in school to be successful?” with Mountain View Elementary parents, staff and community as part of its ongoing effort to incorporate the community’s ideals in the Board’s decision-making. Notes reflecting the community’s feedback are attached.

DSIT Report (Item B-3)

A DSIT representative will report to the Board.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

Ms. Plomer:

- acknowledged the recent deaths of students in the district and extended her thoughts and prayers to the families and teacher/coach.
- attended the DSIT volunteer fair at Westview Elementary School where they had 10 community based organizations that presented information and solicited volunteers. There was a tremendous turnout with people waiting outside.
- attended a breakfast sponsored by Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County, Adams County Youth Initiative, and the Adams County Education Consortium, that talked about the importance of early childhood education, universal preschool, and the effects of investment in early childhood education on every kind of outcome for the future.
- attended the CASB 74th Annual Convention where board members met with students from Thornton and Vantage Point High Schools that were participating in the student leadership track. Ms. Plomer also attended sessions on Communicating with the Community in a Crisis, Building Relationships, and Assessments. She felt it was a good conference and she learned a lot.

Mr. Figueroa also extended his condolences and prayers to the family of the Northglenn High School student who passed away. He commended the great staff and students at Northglenn for pulling together and supporting each other in a very difficult time.

Mr. Jennings:

- thanked the district's crisis team and recognized their dedication and expertise in assisting students, staff, families and schools get through difficult times. He also extended prayers to the families.
- read Dr. Seuss to a class of second graders at Thornton Elementary,
- attended Legacy's dress rehearsal for the Colorado ThesCon Individual Event at the Colorado Convention Center. He enjoyed watching students practice their various performances of monologues, dialogues, singing and more. He commented the event is a great opportunity for theater students to compete with schools from around the state.
- attended the CASB Conference and indicated he enjoyed the keynote speaker Jim Colins who provided information for board and school leaders to put into practice to attain higher levels. He also learned about the ACT Aspire Test indicating it takes less time to implement, its aligned with the ACT and the standards, and feedback is available in forty-five days. He expressed interest in looking at it as an assessment option to consider. He also appreciated the time with students at the conference.

Mr. Willsey reported visiting the Medical & Bioscience Academy at Longmont High School and acknowledged the good work of Chris Chou, MBSA Program Coordinator. He indicated it was an impressive program and recommended visiting.

Mr. Clark:

- toured North Star Elementary with Lori Goldstein, DTEA President. He acknowledged the energetic students and teachers, meeting with Grace Taylor, Assistant Principal and learning how they are tracking every kid every day to monitor their progress. He indicated he's enjoyed the school visits with Ms. Goldstein and looks forward to going to Vantage Point next month.
- acknowledged Councilwoman Leslie Carrico and expressed his appreciation for her attendance at board meetings and the value the City of Northglenn places on education.
- also attended the CASB Conference and indicated it was an opportunity for great learning with the best being the meeting with Thornton and Vantage Point High School students. He appreciated having the opportunity to get to know students over breakfast. Mr. Clark noted that during the networking meeting with students and board member, students raised concern with over testing.

Superintendent Gdowski reaffirmed that the loss of life over the last several weeks has been difficult. He acknowledged the former student at Horizon High School, the Northglenn High School student, the

Coyote Ridge Elementary student and staff members. He recognized how the Adams 12 community has rallied together in a strong and positive way and will continue to support the families, staff and students to get through these tough times.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

General Public Comment (Item D-1)

Joe Holt of Northglenn addressed the Board regarding its Governance Process Policy 4.9 Legislative Platform requesting the inclusion of language opposing state and federal unfunded mandates. He also addressed fiscal transparency regarding salaries and budget staffing numbers and requested a line item budget that is more easily understood.

RECESSED 8:27 P.M.

RECONVENED 8:37 P.M.

BOARD BUSINESS

Minutes (Item E-1)

Motion by Mr. Figueroa, second by Mr. Jennings, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 19, 2014, as presented in Enclosure E-1.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Refunding Resolution (Item E-2)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Plomer, to adopt the resolution authorizing the general obligation refunding of Bond Series 2014B presented in Enclosure E-2.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Assessment of Options for Addressing School Crowding and Maintenance Issues (Item E-3)

Superintendent Gdowski provided information to the Board regarding use of certificates of participation (COPs) to address capacity, programming, and maintenance/repair needs in the district given the defeat of the bond and the mill levy override in the 2014 election. Board discussion raised concerns with the district borrowing money and expressed support for the use of COPs to address the most critical needs. A majority of members expressed interest in receiving further information regarding the use of COP's to address critical needs in the district. The superintendent will provide additional information at the next board meeting.

Legislative Report: Policy Matters (Item E-4)

Tanya Kelly-Bowry and Ernestine Mondragón with Policy Matters presented an overview of elections and provided information regarding committee structures, the governor's budget, political implications and legislation expected for the 2015 session.

Legislative Platform (Item E-5)

Board discussion indicated interest in specifically stating opposition to unfunded state and federal mandates. Proposed revisions to the policy will be updated and brought to the January 2, 2015 meeting for board action. Board members expressed interest in joining Tanya and Ernestine at the legislature and they will provide multiple options at interesting times for board members to be there.

Establish Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Tax Revenue and Mill Levies (Item E-6)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Plomer to adopt the Mill Levy Certification Resolution presented in Enclosure E-6.

Ayes: Clark; Figueroa; Jennings; Plomer; Willsey.
Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Meeting Minutes (Item E-7)

The Board postponed discussion of this item to the January 17, 2014 Board meeting.

Adjournment (Item F-3)

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of February 4, 2015.