

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, DECEMBER 17, 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 5:38 p.m.

Dinner and Discussion with the Adams 12 State Delegation (Item A-2)

The Board met with Representatives Steve Lebsock (D-HD 34), Kevin Priola (R-HD 56) and Joseph Salazar (D-HD 31) who provided information regarding bills they will be carrying and their plans and expectations for the 2015 legislative session. Board members and the superintendent shared Adams 12 priorities with legislators and updated them on work in the district.

Adjournment (Item A-4)

The work study session adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order (Item A-1)

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:13 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

INFORMATION

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

Ms. Plomer:

- attended a Great Ed Colorado meeting regarding Common Core Standards and how people are feeling about testing. They are holding 7-8 meetings around the metro area and will publish a report with the information they gather.
- attended the Transportation Department's holiday party that featured Santa and Mrs. Claus. They had 150 kids RSVP'd to attend and Nutrition Services donated cookies for the event, It was a festive event with great participation.

Mr. Figueora:

- thanked Impact Services and the Snack Shack for being at the board meeting.
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a good holiday.

Mr. Jennings:

- attended the Vantage Point holiday dinner which had a great parent turnout and enjoyed talking with students and staff.
- visited Thornton High School and gave the book *Heart of a Student Athlete* by Karl Mecklenburg to a student that had participated in the CASB Conference. He enjoyed the opportunity to talk with her and Principal Johnny Terrell.

Mr. Clark:

- wished everyone
- attended the Thornton City Council Meeting where Senator Beth Humenik was being honored and thanked her for her time and service.
- thanked police and fire fighters for all they do in the community to keep everyone, especially kids safe at all times. They are the unsung heroes of our community.
- acknowledged veterans that are overseas and won't be spending the holidays with their families, God bless them and God bless America.
- reminded folks that Legacy Marching Band will be in the Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2015.

Superintendent Gdowski:

- reported that the interest rate for the bond refinancing recently approved by the Board was locked in on December 17, 2014 and realized a net present value savings of 11%, which is \$6.7 million avoided in interest payments over the term of the bond. He noted that 3% net present value savings is considered a significant savings and worthwhile to incur the cost of refinancing, so 11% is outstanding. He acknowledged the work of the district Finance Team, PFM and Stifel Nicolaus.
- recognized Rob Buster, Head Custodian at Westview Elementary School, as the Classified Employee of the Year. Mr. Buster was acknowledged by Principal Jennifer Buck as the heartbeat of the school and loved by staff and students, and presented with a plaque and check by Paul Williams, President of the Classified Employee Association.

DSIT Report (Item B-2)

Stephanie James, DSIT President, reported on their November 20, 2015 meeting that featured a community fair with ten non-profit organizations offering opportunities to volunteer. The event was well attended with over 100 participants. Upcoming meetings include January 22, 2015, at Century Middle School, regarding Nutrition Services, February 26, 2015, at the ESC, regarding safety and March 12, 2015, at the ESC, Summer Camp Fair. Dr. James indicated while communication is improving there are still parents who don't know about DSIT meetings.

General Public Comment (Item B-3)

Joe Holt of Northglenn, expressed concern regarding the traffic accident on 112th that involved two Northglenn Middle School students. He advocated for an immediate solution similar to the A frame used by Malley Drive Elementary. He also advocated for a long term solution to be determined by the City of Northglenn and the District.

BOARD BUSINESS

Westgate Community School Charter Renewal (Item D-1)

Chris Johnson, Executive Director and Chelsea Crow, Business Manager presented a revised five year budget. Jana Porta, Westgate Board President addressed previous governance issues and efforts to develop an effective and stable board. The Board will take action on renewal at its January 21, 2015 meeting.

District Investment Policy and Strategy (Item D-2)

Superintendent Gdowski requested clarification of Operating Limitations Policy 2.4.14 "The superintendent shall not invest or hold operating capital without the highest levels of safety of principal." Given opportunity to pursue investments that could yield higher returns but might, on occasion, post negative returns on financial statements, he sought policy language that specified the Board's permissible level of risk. Chris Black, Director and Gene Andrus, Senior Client Manager with PFM Asset Management Group presented a plan to increase district earnings on investible funds of \$44 - \$50 million while meeting the mandate of board policy. The presentation included an overview of the district's investment policy, opportunities for investment and earnings, and the risk related to the investments. Board members discussed the proposal and policy language and expressed support for a policy that would provide greater flexibility of investment and increased returns within the limitations of state law. There was general consensus in support of revised policy language proposed by Phil Spare, General Counsel, "Invest or hold operating, capital, bond and reserve funds without following the "prudent investor" standard and complying with the legal investment of public funds requirements under C.R.S. 24-75-601.1 and other applicable law." A revised Board Policy 2.4 will be presented at the January 14, 2015 meeting for Board action.

RECESSED 8:50 P.M.

RECONVENED 9:03 P.M.

Governance Process Policy 4.9 Legislative Platform (Item D-3)

The Board postponed this item to the January 14, 2015 meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes (Item D-4)

There was general consensus among Board members to post an audio recording of all public board meetings on the district web site. The superintendent affirmed staff would work to begin posting with the January 14, 2015 meeting. Board members also expressed interest in revising policy or bylaws to incorporate the practice.

Board Bylaws (Item D-5)

The Board conducted the annual review of its bylaws and determined no revisions were necessary beyond the addition of language regarding posting audio recordings of board meetings.

MONITORING

Direct Inspection Monitoring: Operating Limitations Policy 2.05 Schooling (Item E-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Figueroa, to acknowledge that the Board has conducted a direct inspection monitoring of Board Policy 2.05 Schooling as of December 17, 2014 and finds the superintendent's interpretations are reasonable and that his conclusions are reasonably supported by data that is relevant, justified and complete.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Direct Inspection Monitoring: Operating Limitations Policy 2.7 – Communication and Support to the Board (Item E-2)

Motion by Ms. Plomer, second by Mr. Willsey, to acknowledge that the Board has conducted a direct inspection monitoring as of December 17, 2014, concerning Board Policy 2.7 – Communication and Support to the Board, and finds that the Superintendent has complied with policy statements.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Joint Motion

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Willsey, to approve agenda item F-1 as stated in the board agenda dated December 17, 2014.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel Actions (Item F-1)

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

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Calendar (Item G-1)

Superintendent Gdowski reviewed anticipated agenda items for the January 14, 2015 special board meeting which included Investment Policy and Board Policy 2.4.14, revision of Board Bylaws section 7.3 to include audio recording of board meetings, Certificates of Participation (COP), and Board Policy 4.9 Legislative Platform. There was general consensus of the Board not to schedule a school presentation and community engagement for the January 21, 2015 meeting given the lengthy agenda. Ms. Plomer suggested that they consider the January 24, 2015 Board Retreat agenda to assure priorities are accomplished. A draft agenda for the retreat will be developed and provided to Board members.

Adjournment (Item G-3)

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

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