

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, APRIL 5, 2017.

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: 36 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present except Mr. Batz who arrived at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

Motion by Ms. Mitchell, second by Ms. Lockley, to approve the agenda as stated.

Ayes: Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session (Item A-4)

Motion by Ms. Lockley, second by Mr. Jennings to recess for an executive session to discuss security arrangements regarding the District's Information Technology pursuant to Board Policy 2.5 Asset Protection and C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(d).

Ayes: Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

RECESSED 5:37 P.M.

The Board of Education discussed security arrangements regarding the District's Information Technology for 59 minutes.

RECONVENED 6:37 P.M.

WORK STUDY SESSION

Work Study Session (Item A-4)

Board Outreach to City Councils – Ms. Plomer reminded members to identify city council meetings they can attend and let staff know so talking points/information pertinent to that city can be provided.

Graduation Requirements – Priscilla Straughn, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction updated the Board on community engagement sessions to gather feedback on graduation requirements. She reported 254 parents participants so far, 155 of which are also employees. She reported the Graduation Committee would meet on 4/18 to synthesize data, determine trends and patterns, and report to the Board. State statute requires Board adoption of graduation requirements by June 30, 2017.

Standards Based Grading (SBG) – Ms. Straughn updated the Board on outreach around SBG reporting 20+ staff engagement sessions with 485 participants, 5 parent sessions with 81 participants, and a session at every high school, middle school and K-8, and 6 elementary schools with 361 student participants. She conveyed the positive aspects and challenges identified in surveys noting there is no easy fix and it will take time. Next steps include another survey of parents, conversation about the end goal of creating a system where teachers understand and can prepare students to achieve mastery of the standards, that provides feedback to students and parents, and that provides support for parents and teachers.

Superintendent Gdowski informed the Board of public interest in a District position regarding a House Bill that would change the required 1,000 foot distance for oil and gas extraction from the school building to the school property boundary.

RECESSED 7:02 P.M.

RECONVENED 7:09 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATION

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

Scott Alias and Michelle Smith from Apple recognized Cherry Drive Elementary as a 2016-2018 Apple Distinguished School. They recognized Principal Tina Hepp and her team for providing an exemplary learning environment for innovation, leadership and educational excellence. The administration faculty and staff demonstrate the five best practices as an Apple Distinguished School of visionary leadership, innovative learning and teaching, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success and a flexible learning environment.

RECESSED 7:25 P.M.

RECONVENED 7:36 P.M.

Mr. Batz reported:

- a rewarding experience working with the IBS Team. He indicated the open conversation and continuous forward movement with no roadblocks was refreshing.
- attending the National School Boards Association's 77th Annual Conference.

Ms. Lockley:

- reported attending the NSBA 77th Annual Conference and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to see what's going on in other districts and across the nation. She was excited to see that Adams 12 is doing great things that others are catching on to and discover new possibilities. She acknowledged an inspiring keynote from Astronaut Scott Kelly that was an example of coming to great things in unconventional ways.
- expressed her appreciation to the staff, parent, community and business members that comprised the District Accountability Committee. She acknowledged their energy, thought and effort throughout the year and is excited to have them report to the Board at the next meeting.

Ms. Mitchell reported attending:

- a CDE forum on dyslexia and indicated it is becoming a hot topic across the country with recognition that there is work to be done in the education sector to identify students early and minimize the impact on them. She believes the District should be addressing and applying resources to this issue.
- the NSBA Annual Conference indicating she found it powerful to talk with people across the country and find out what is working. She indicated there were sessions she attended that Adams 12 should have been teaching with the great things the District is doing for students and in the community. She suggested planning topics that the District could address at next year's conference.

Ms. Plomer reported:

- also attending the NSBA Conference and indicated there are lots of possibilities to pursue.
- IBS Team started a meaty conversation at their last session that was open and in depth. She expressed pride in the work the team does to stay positive and talk through tough issues. She indicated it's a great group and the process continues to serve the District well.
- attending the Heart of Broomfield Awards where Michelle Pearson, Century Middle School Teacher was honored in the Arts category for her work in historic restoration.
- interesting conversation at the teacher cadet advisory panel meeting regarding who is attracted to the program, how to keep students involved and recruitment of more male and minority candidates. She acknowledged increased participation in the program over the last four years and the importance of growing our own given the teacher shortage.
- that the CASB Board meeting included an in-depth presentation from Glen Gustafson, Budget Director for one of the Colorado Springs schools regarding the longer term trends of how things are going and a thought provoking look ahead.

Superintendent Gdowski updated the Board on:

- the budget situation indicating that while it is not as dire as expected the negative factor would still have implications throughout the system including a budget reduction of \$500,000 at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, likely growth in class sizes, and possibly reductions in course offerings. He expected budget reductions would be addressed without job loss at the schools through attrition, retirement and people transitioning out of the system. There would be a reduction in positions at the ESC that will be communicated out the end of April. He commented that notwithstanding the substantial improvement in student achievement it's important to realize the District is still taking steps backwards in terms of providing support to schools, what schools can offer and class size. He also indicated negative implications for staff compensation.
- personnel movement in the District: District Athletic Director Lee Peters will be the Executive Director for Secondary Schools, Mtn. View Elementary Principal Lynn Saltzgaver will be the Executive Director for Gifted, Talented and Advanced Academics, Leroy Elementary Principal Teresa Benallo will be the new Anthem K-8 Principal, and Director of Professional Development Beau Foubert will be the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, The superintendent also reported interviews for Chief Human Resource Officer are ongoing with a decision expected in the next week and STEM Launch Principal Kellie Lauth would be taking a position as CEO for the Morgridge Family startup company Think Space. The District will pursue leadership for Leroy Elementary, Mtn. View Elementary and STEM Launch K-8 and likely one to two more principal positions for next year.

General Public Comment (Item B-2)

There were no requests to address the Board.

CEA Education Update (Item B-3)

Amie Baca-Oehlert, Vice President of CEA updated the Board on CEA's work on Community Schools. She discussed CEA's partnership with CASH (the Colorado Alliance for School Health) to develop collaboration between the school and health care communities to access resources, the National Home Visit Network and efforts to expand teacher home visits, and she reported the Community Schools Institute accepted the application from the Adams 12 team.

BOARD BUSINESS

Minutes (Item C-1)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Ms. Lockley, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of March 15, 2017 as presented in Enclosures C-1.

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

Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities (Item C-2)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Ms. Lockley, to adopt revised Board Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities as presented in Enclosure C-2.

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

Operating Limitations Policy 2.10 Effective Family School and Community Partnering (Item C-3)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to adopt the new policy language as revised this evening for Board Policy 2.10 Effective Family School and Community Partnering as well as to adjust the monitoring schedule to report in June, starting in 2018, and to have Policy 3.4 also reflect this change.

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

Board Policy Development: Operating Limitations Policy 2.1 Treatment of Students, Their Families and Community Members (Item C-4)

Board members brainstormed ideas about “what the superintendent should not fail to do” with regard to students, families and community members. The Board will continue discussion at a future meeting.

Debrief of National School Boards Association 78th Annual Conference (Item C-5)

Board members, Superintendent Gdowski and General Counsel Phil Spare shared information from sessions they attended at the NSBA conference held in Denver March 24–27, 2017. The Board developed a Google doc to share the information received at the conference. Topics board members may be interested in pursuing will be added to future work study session agendas.

- Nebraska Land piece regarding policy development
- New avenues of working with technology
- working with students in poverty, providing teachers tools to understand the lives of students in poverty and address situations in classrooms
- ASFAB tools for parents and students
- maker movement
- creating a STEM middle school
- value of strategic plans
- community engagement
- Star Talk program that provides grants for language program
- Career and Technical Education
- Tiffany Anderson, trauma informed approach to turning around schools in poverty
- attendance
- coding, language of the future
- best practices of high functioning boards, self-evaluation
- superintendent evaluation
- Ends policy evaluation for Poudre School District
- IBS, treating employees like assets instead of liabilities, importance of facilitators, importance of board participation in the process
- Council of School Attorneys - opportunity to meet with 70 attorneys that are in-house counsel from around the country and receive information on topics ranging from supreme court updates to Title IX and the Department of Justice.
- CTE program Center for Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO), an organization that provides students and aspiring business owners pathways to careers.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Calendar (Item D-1)

The Board will attend the Annual Education Board Dinner hosted by the City of Westminster on April 18, 2017, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., at the Westin Westminster.

The Board acknowledged the District Art Show at the Front Range Community College and determined who would choose the Board Art Purchase Awards; Mr. Batz – high school, Ms. Lockley – middle school, Mr. Jennings – primary (K-2), Ms. Plomer – intermediate (3-5).

Adjournment (Item D-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Education at its special meeting of May 24, 2017.