

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, AUGUST 24, 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 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Work Study Session (Item A-4)

The superintendent gave a brief overview of new bond information provided to the Board.

RECESSED 6:37 P.M.

RECONVENED 7:16 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

BOARD BUSINESS

Overview of Bond Proposal and Alternatives (Item B-1)

Superintendent Gdowski reviewed information provided to the Board outlining plans to address critical needs if there is no funding from a bond election in November 2016. He indicated deferred maintenance would require a shift of \$6.3 million from General Fund that would adversely affect education programming and staffing. He also indicated without new construction approved by voters, overcrowding in northern schools would be addressed through boundary changes that could last ten years or until new schools are constructed.

Public Comment (Item B-2)

Ramon Montoya of Westminster and member of the Hispanic Advisory Council, touted the success of the District over the years, recognized the bond as an opportunity to continue the good work of the District and urged Board and public support of the bond proposal.

Lori Goldstein of Westminster, a Science and Special Education teacher and President of DTEA addressed the need for resources in Adams 12 to provide the best environment for students to learn and teachers to educate and urged the Board to vote in favor of a bond election in November 2016 to allow the community to decide the future it wants for students.

Tom Lombardo of Thornton and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Teacher at Bollman Technical Education Center recognized the increased interest in the medical services program over the years and the need for more capacity in Career and Technical Education offerings. He lamented the limited offerings of Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and EMT programs while students are calling for classes such as forensics, law enforcement and veterinary science that are offered at other schools.

Anne Nemeth of Thornton, an Adams 12 graduate and BTEC teacher for ten years, extolled the importance of CTE and the need to expand Bollman. She reported 1,213 students turned away due to capacity constraints and recognized the benefits of CTE in exposing students to career opportunities right out of high school. She urged the Board to put the bond on the ballot and give Bollman and CTE in Adams 12 the opportunity to grow.

Amy Ketels of Westminster and the Adams 12 Teacher Cadet Instructor, acclaimed the importance of CTE and introduced Teacher Cadet students as future teachers in Adams 12. She acknowledged their intrinsic desire to be teachers and the direct impact the bond could have on their careers.

Ellen Gutierrez of Broomfield, Adams 12 graduate and former Bollman student, attributed her success in life to attending Bollman where she discovered a career she would never have imagined. She graduated high school, graduated Wyotech for Diesel Technology with honors and enjoys a career as a heavy equipment and truck mechanic. She urged the Board to put the bond on the ballot to bolster the trades and develop students that are not only college ready but career ready too.

Marie Perez of Thornton, a Rocky Top Middle School teacher and parent of two Adams 12 graduates, enumerated numerous challenges created by the overcrowding at Rocky Top. She acknowledged a capacity of 1,250 students when the school opened and reported welcoming 1,369 students this year with expectations of topping 1,400 when local construction is completed. She also recognized the overcrowding effects on safety. She encouraged the Board to place the bond on the ballot.

Shawn Pac of Thornton and an Adams 12 parent, indicated he and his wife purposefully moved back to Adams 12 seven years ago where his children attended Eagleview and currently attend Rocky Top. He recognized the importance of the bond for current and future students and indicated a need to provide teachers the resources to help students become their best. He asked the Board to place the bond on the ballot and empower the citizens and parents of Adams 12 to get it passed.

Paul Williams of Thornton and CSEA President, indicated the importance of the bond for Classified and especially the over 1200 members of CSEA. He committed support in getting the bond passed and urged the Board to put the bond on the ballot in the best interest of all employees and students to let the voters decide.

Mary Litwiler of Westminster and Executive Director of the Five Star Education Foundation, recognized the Foundation's thirty year partnership with the District and the opportunity it has provided the community to invest in student success. On behalf of the Foundation, she strongly encouraged the Board to place the bond proposal on the November 2016 ballot and allow the community to invest in the District's success and in opportunities that deliver limitless returns by voting yes.

Lawrence Garcia of Thornton and an Adams 12 parent of Eagleview and Rocky Top students, related a conversation among Rocky Top parents at his son's soccer practice that focused on issues at Rocky Top and in the District which gave him the opportunity to talk about the bond and garner their support. He urged the Board to place the bond on the ballot noting that parents chose to support the bond because they understood it's not an option but a necessity for the future success of the school district.

Maura Devine of Broomfield, Meridian Elementary parent and Co-Chair of the Adams 12 Community Action Network (CAN) expressed her interest in finding solutions to the District's funding issues and her resulting participation in the Long Range Planning Advisory Committee and the Adams 12 CAN. She described work over the last year to support a bond and affirmed Adams 12 CAN would continue to work diligently to get it passed. She requested that the Board vote yes to place the \$350 million bond proposal on the November ballot and indicated the bond is critical for kids and future generations are counting on us.

Resolution to Establish Ballot Language for Authorization to Incur Bonded Indebtedness (Item B-3)

Motion by Ms. Lockley, second by Mr. Batz, to approve the Resolution authorizing ballot language for the November 8, 2016 election to permit long-term capital financing in the amount of \$350 million with no expected tax rate increase to fund needed capital improvements, as presented in Enclosure B-3.

Mr. Batz thanked staff for their work to provide information for the bond and called on individuals and the Adams 12 community to step up and realize the passion for Public Education and having the best schools in America. He looked forward to working toward something he truly believes in and respects.

Ms. Lockley expressed her deep care for the District, her excitement to see the collaboration between staff and the community to communicate what the District needs, and she looked forward to seeing how things move forward.

Mr. Jennings thanked all for the hard work put into bringing the bond process to this point. He expressed three issues with taking a bond question to the voters this year: 1) the damaged reputation of the District in the community makes passage of the bond unlikely, 2) District stakeholders did not receive the most unbiased process to identify solutions, and 3) the District

has a greater capacity for asking external stakeholders to make sacrifices than internal. Mr. Jennings requested the District delay putting a bond question on the ballot for one year until internal sacrifices are made and the District can say it has done everything it can to address inadequacies in the system and priorities.

Ms. Mitchell thanked everyone involved in bringing the bond package to a vote, participants and speakers at the meeting, and called all to action to make this election a success. She indicated her support given the collaborative effort of district staff and a diverse committee of community members to validate the integrity of the package, and an open and transparent process.

Ms. Plomer indicated her support of placing the bond on the ballot as it is a strong investment in schools and the community, it does not require an increase in taxes, it is fiscally responsible and it is funding space where students will learn, grow and thrive.

Ayes: Batz; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: Jennings. Motion carried 4-1.

Intergovernmental Agreement with City and County of Broomfield: 2016 Coordinated Election (Item B-4)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Ms. Lockley, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and County of Broomfield and Adams 12 Five Star Schools as presented in Enclosure B-4 for the purpose of conducting a Coordinated Election to be held on November 8, 2016.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.