

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, FEBRUARY 15, 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 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present except Ms. Lockley who arrived at 8:17 p.m.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

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

Ayes: Batz; Jennings; Mitchell; Plomer.

Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

WORK STUDY SESSION

Work Study Session (Item A-4)

Retreat Follow-up – Ms. Plomer provided an overview of the Board’s work at its retreat on February 4, 2017 indicating good progress on Operating Limitations Policy 2.10 Effective Family, School and Community Partnering. Board members were in agreement with a timeline to receive proposed policy language resulting from the 2/21/17 retreat, provide feedback by 2/28/17, review and discuss new policy language at 3/4/17 retreat and vote to adopt a revised policy at the 3/16/17 or 4/5/17 meeting. The Board will begin review and discussion of Operating Limitations Policy 2.1 Treatment of Students, Their Families and Community Members at the 3/4/17 retreat. Board discussion of direct inspection monitoring will be continued at a future meeting.

Outreach to City Councils – Ms. Plomer reminded members of commitments to attend city council meetings and indicated staff would assist with talking points. In anticipation of member visits the Superintendent updated the Board on District matters with municipalities that included ongoing discussions with the City of Westminster and the City of Thornton on expanding partnership opportunities with the cities and local businesses in Career and Technical Education, City of Westminster use tax on bond construction projects, and the 2/7/17 recall election of Federal Heights Mayor Daniel Dick and Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem John Hamlin that was not successful.

Board members discussed attendance at the Five Star Foundation Gala and determined Board budget could pay for Board members interested in attending. The Board also discussed expanding participation beyond the District and opportunity for complimentary attendance for teachers and staff.

Superintendent Gdowski provided the following updates to the Board.

- Informed the Board of an invitation from the Department of the Army to travel to the Pentagon and Fort Mead on May 3-4, 2017 to learn about the Army's work in STEM. The Superintendent indicated the Army would be paying all expenses and he is evaluating the benefit to the District.
- Reported that SB 17-061 Additional Funding Charter School Operating Costs passed out of the Senate Education Committee and it is being determined whether it would go to the Appropriations Committee.
- David Bahna, Director of Assessments and Accountability briefed the Board on SB 17-101 Concerning the State Assessments Administered in Public Schools and a possible request for him to testify at the state legislature. Further discussion of assessments and legislation including HB17-1181 Required State Assessment for Ninth-grade Students culminated in a decision to get a better sense of the viability of proposed legislation and not to testify.
- Priscilla Straughn, Chief Academic Officer would take the lead on the investigation of an anonymous letter sent to Board members regarding the Legacy High School football coaching team.
- Reported the lead testing of water at schools has produced about 26 sample sights with levels in excess of EPA thresholds. He indicated as sites are found they are taken off line, replaced, systems are flushed and then retested. All District administered schools will be tested. Stargate may not participate given the newness of their building, Prospect Ridge Academy has expressed interest and Westgate has been encouraged to participate.
- Reported a District team followed-up on the safety concerns raised by Thornton High School students and principal regarding the stage and auditorium stairs. The resulting report indicated no existing code or safety risk at the facility. Further testing of the stairs is being conducted and will be reported in the next day or two. The District is also addressing the sewer smell in the Field House and doing work to mitigate the issue until school renovation with bond construction funds begins in a couple years.
- Tracy Dorland, Deputy Superintendent reported on the work of a small group from Johnny Terrell's team in partnership with Kids First, over the last 18-24 months, to develop a school based health clinic in Thornton High School. The group identified a cost of \$600,000 to accomplish the project and raised \$570,000 through construction and operating grants. Funding includes a block grant from the City of Thornton for \$220,000 to begin construction. The clinic is planned to open the fall of 2017 and will be run by Kids First with a four year operating grant to build up Medicaid and sustainable funding to run the clinic long term. The clinic will serve Thornton High School and BTEC students and provide a range of services from mental health to dental health. Services will focus on areas impacting chronic absenteeism and target students who don't have healthcare. Kids First has operated similar clinics in Adams 14 since 1978 and has a good track record.

- Reported an Anthem community meeting on February 28, 2017 around the design of that school. Groundbreaking to begin construction is projected for late March. The Anthem Principal position has been posted with hopes to fill the position by mid-March.
- Personnel: The positions of Executive Director of Secondary Schools and Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction have been posted. Internal candidates for these positions could lead to further vacancies to fill. The position of Chief Human Resource Officer will be posted soon. Warren Rudkin, Principal of Hunters Glen has announced his retirement. Discussion is underway with Bianca Porter, Interim Principal at Eagleview and Stephany Taylor, Interim Principal of Hillcrest regarding continuing in and filling those positions. Pat Hamilton has been selected as the new Chief Operating Officer and Walt Kramarz, the new Deputy General Counsel.

RECESSED 6:51 P.M.

RECONVENED 7:01 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATION

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

Mr. Batz reported attending:

- the Hispanic Advisory Council Meeting on January 30, 2017. He noted discussion of HAC's history, the length of their service to the District and their accomplishments over the years. He looked forward to attending future meetings.
- the Board retreat on Saturday, February 4, 2017 where members worked on policy language and anticipated having final revisions soon.
- an Adams 12 Jazz Ensemble at Horizon High School and expressed his amazement at the musical talent of students today.
- the 2017 North Metro Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala & Business Awards where he promoted the District and invited dignitaries to visit Adams 12.
- an Eagle Scout Court of Honor presentation for Northglenn High School student Ben Chapel.

Mr. Jennings reported attending the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee meeting on February 8, 2017 that included discussion with Westlake Middle School Principal Dr. Rachel Heidi regarding their mascot project, a presentation from the American Indian College fund regarding opportunities for Native American Students, and a debrief of the Adams 12 Pow-Wow on January 14, 2017.

Ms. Mitchell:

- reported the Seal of Bi-literacy passed in the Colorado Senate and is moving the Colorado House of Representatives. She recognized the importance of emphasizing students working toward bilingual education and receiving benefit for their efforts.

- attended the Colorado School Finance meeting that addressed the Gallagher Amendment, the Negative Factor, options being offered by the Governor, a model to predict true cost to educate a student in Colorado, and Joint Budget Committee discussions regarding a uniform mill levy. She advocated engaging parents and the Adams 12 community in discussions about school financing and the need for the community to understand the issues.
- encouraged the sending of thank you notes to House Speaker Crisanta Duran for her leadership in keeping school funding at the table.
- visited Federal Heights Elementary School and recognized it as a bright, engaging and pleasant place for students to go. She acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Federal Heights teachers.
- met with the Adams County Education Consortium to learn about the work they do to support the District.
- attended the CASB Region 5 Meeting
- attended the Parent Leader Action Network (PLAN) meeting which had increased attendance and addressed fundraising. The topic of the next meeting will be “spending PTO funds.” funds.
- attended the Westlake Middle School dance and recognized the attendance of teachers and their interaction with students on an informal level.

Ms. Plomer:

- thanked Thornton High School for hosting the February 1, 2017 Board meeting and students for their candid and informative discussion.
- thanked DTEA representatives for meeting with the Board and Lori Goldstein, President for organizing the meeting.
- traveled to Washington D.C. with the National School Boards Advocacy Institute where they met with members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation and advocated for full funding of IDEA, fewer restrictions on the nutrition program, reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Acts, retaining local control in ESSA, and promoted the school choice offerings within the public school system.
- attended the CASB Board meeting where they discussed the goals of organization, better serving Districts, professional development, and distance learning. Legislation regarding charter school bills was also discussed.
- attended the Stargate Gala on Saturday, February 11, 2017 and noted the excitement around their new school and the expansion into high school.
- participated in an education town hall meeting with Senator Martinez-Humenik, Senator Moreno and Representative Winter that included a panel with representatives from Adams 12 Five Star Schools, Brighton 27 J and Mapleton Public Schools, She noted a shout out from a Northglenn gentleman who raved about Northglenn High School.
- promoted the Five Star Education Foundation Gala on March 11, 2017 and encouraged attendance to support the Foundation.

Superintendent Gdowski acknowledged the weight of budget challenges faced by the District. He reported on research indicating Adams 12 is 130th out of the 178 school districts in the state, based on per pupil funding the District receives under the state formula and supplemental income from mill levy overrides. Adams 12 is 9th out of the top ten Districts in the state using the same measurement, ahead of only Douglas County. He acknowledged the effect of the funding challenges on recruiting and retaining the best staff and providing programming for students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

General Public Comment (ItemC-1)

Amira Assad-Lucas of Thornton spoke on behalf of parents at Thornton Elementary School lauding the accomplishments of parents, students and staff in moving Thornton Elementary from turnaround status with recommendation of closure in May 2015, to performance accreditation status as of October 2016. She recognized the hard work, dedication and sacrifice of Principal Betsy Miller, Assistant Principal Tracie Stauffer and the Thornton Elementary staff. She credited the achievement to their implementation of the beginnings of the Innovation Plan and looked forward to students' potential with full implementation of the plan.

BOARD BUSINESS

Innovation Plan Presentation: Thornton Elementary (Item D-1)

Principal Betsy Miller, Assistant Principal, Tracie Stauffer, and Instructional Coaches Felicia Vigil and Shannon West celebrated the strong growth that moved Thornton Elementary School from a recommendation for closure, followed by a recommendation for innovation, to Performance Rating. They also acknowledged that less than 25% of students at Thornton Elementary were meeting grade level proficiency in literacy and math and the need to do better. They presented the Thornton Elementary Innovation Plan to the Board as the next step in the process to formally stamp the work at Thornton Elementary as an Innovation Plan. Steps to achieve Innovation Plan approval include an anonymous vote of school staff of 50% or higher, approval of DTEA membership by 60% or higher, Board of Education approval and approval of the State Board of Education. 100 % of staff approved the plan on February 1, 2017. The Board will take action on the plan at its meeting on March 1, 2017.

2017-2018 Budget Update Presentation (Item D-2)

Superintendent Gdowski and Chief Financial Officer Suzy DeYoung reviewed information provided to the Board regarding current expectations and resulting challenges for the 2017-2018 Budget and responded to Board questions.

Ms. Lockley arrived at 8:17 p.m.

RECESSED 9:48 P.M.

RECONVENED 9:56 P.M.

MONITORING

Internal Monitoring Report: Ends Policy 1.2 Graduates (Item E-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Lockley, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of February 15, 2017, for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policy 1.2 Graduates and finds the superintendent's interpretations are reasonable and supported by data that is relevant, justified and complete.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Internal Monitoring Report: Ends Policy 1.2.1 Dropouts (Item E-2)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Batz, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of February 15, 2017, for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policy 1.2.1 Dropouts, and finds the superintendent's interpretations are reasonable and supported by data that is relevant, justified and complete.

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

Internal Monitoring Report: Operating Limitations Policy 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities (Item E-3)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Lockley, to acknowledge that the Board has received a monitoring report as of February 15, 2017, for the period, July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, 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: Batz; Jennings; Lockley; Mitchell; Plomer.
Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Mr. Batz, to approve agenda items F-1 and F-2 as stated in the Board agenda dated February 15, 2017.

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

School and District Selected Instructional Materials (Item F-2)

Adopted the instructional material requested by the Learning Services Department presented in Enclosure F-2 as recommended by the Superintendent

BOARD BUSINESS

Minutes (Item E-1)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Mitchell, to approve the minutes of the special Board meeting of January 11, 2017, as presented in Enclosure E-1.

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

Board Meeting Debrief (Item G-2)

The Board postponed discussion of this item to the March 15, 2017 meeting.

Review of Resolution: Delegation of Authority to Superintendent to Execute Documents (Item G-3)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to adopt the resolution Delegation of Authority to the Superintendent to Execute Documents as presented in Enclosure G-3.

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

Community Meeting: Student Questions (Item G-4)

Board members reviewed questions used in previous student meetings and determined the questions for its meeting with Vantage Point students on March 1, 2017.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Calendar (Item H-1)

The Board noted the following additions to the calendar:

- a special meeting/retreat on March 4, 2017, from 8:30 – 1:00 p.m. at the Educational Support Center,
- the addition to the March 15, 2017 meeting agenda of a discussion item regarding the 2017-2018 Budget and action on the Thornton Elementary Innovation Plan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.