

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION, ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS, HELD AT
1500 E. 128TH AVENUE, THORNTON, CO 80241, MARCH 1, 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 5:33 p.m.

Roll Call (Item A-2)

All Board Members were present.

Approval of Agenda (Item A-3)

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

WORK STUDY SESSION

Vantage Point High School Students (Item B-1)

The Board met with Vantage Point High School students to hear their perspective on their education and school.

RECESSED 6:57 P.M.

RECONVENED 7:10 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

BOARD BUSINESS

School Presentation: Vantage Point High School (Item C-1)

John Rethinger, Language Arts Teacher introduced Vantage Point's poetry and performing arts club INK (Innovative Non Konformists) and students Mikayla Williams, Kayla Jordan, Nicole Morgan, Kennedy Campbell, Mario Gonzalez, Destiny Rosenof, Ciera Campbell, Madison Shover, Alan Frazzell and Caitlin Crosley who presented a ten part calabo titled *Here* that spoke to students' experiences at Vantage Point High School.

Thornton Elementary Innovation Plan (Item C-2)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to approve the Thornton Elementary School Innovation Plan as presented under the Innovation Schools Act of 2008, as amended; authorize the Administration to submit the Plan to the State Board of Education seeking waiver of the regulatory requirements necessary to implement the Plan; and, authorize the Administration to take any other steps as may be needed to implement the Plan.

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

Career and Technical Education (Item C-3)

Tracy Dorland, Deputy Superintendent conducted a community engagement session to gather parent and community input on expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in Adams 12. The session included information regarding the current status of CTE in Adams 12, opportunities for the future of CTE, and student and industry needs. Participants researched and discussed other innovative and successful CTE programs and responded to surveys providing feedback regarding priorities for expanding current offerings, adding new programming and additional thoughts. Next steps in the process will include additional stakeholder engagement with teachers, principals, students, industry partners, industry professional organizations and city and county leaders.

RECESSED 8:40 P.M.

RECONVENED 8:50 P.M.

General Public Comment (Item C-4)

Ben Cleary, Legacy High School freshman, Colby Bird, Legacy freshman, Allison Cleary, STEM Launch 8th grader and Satish Upadhyaya, Legacy senior expressed their support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and conveyed their experience in the Technology Student Association (TSA) Club, a national organization dedicated to helping students develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills through friendly competition. The students will participate in the National TSA Conference in Florida.

Tanner Ford of Thornton and a 2015 graduate of Horizon High School and Bollman Technical Education Center (BTEC) presented himself as an Adams 12 success and advocated for the expansion of CTE. He attributed his accomplishment in becoming a mechanic with Ford to BTEC indicating his decision to pursue a career instead of college and the foot in the door having the specialized courses of Auto 1 and 2 afforded him.

Janet Jubenville of Thornton thanked the Board for allowing children with significant special needs to participate in School Choice. She indicated her granddaughter has a progressive degenerative neurological disease and School Choice has afforded her the opportunity to go to Woodglen Elementary School with the same kids for four years. Students have watched her go from walking to not being able to stand and have accepted her. She lauded the Woodglen staff and Principal Brett Drobney.

Minutes (Item C-5)

Motion by Mr. Batz, second by Mr. Jennings, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 15, 2017, as presented in Enclosure C-5.

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

2017-2018 Budget Update (Item C-6)

Superintendent Gdowski indicated there had been no changes in the key assumptions that may negatively influence the District's funding for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 reported at the February 15, 2017 meeting. No solutions have emerged to mitigate the Gallagher Amendment that will likely reduce contributions to K-12 funding statewide and SB61 regarding charter school sharing in mill levy override allocation remains in process at the legislature.

The Superintendent identified March 22, 2017 as the deadline for concluding budget planning in order to provide direction regarding District and department budget allocations. There was general consensus among Board members for his proposed budget process where 35-40 stakeholders will meet for the day on Friday, March 10, 2017 to discuss options for balancing a significant budget deficit. Stakeholders will review the pros, cons and implications of FY 2018 budget shortfall balancing options: Expense Reductions, Waiver of 3% Board Reserve, TABOR Letter of Credit and Salary Accrual, and work in small groups to develop plans. The larger group will consider the plans with the goal of reaching consensus around budget balancing options. Stakeholders include District Accountability Committee members, teacher leaders, support staff leaders, principals, and department chiefs. The Superintendent will present preliminary plans to the Board at its March 15, 2017 meeting to inform its discussion of fund balance and options. He requested the Board provide direction at that meeting regarding its tolerance for the proposed options. The Superintendent expressed his strong opposition to the TABOR Letter of Credit and Salary Accrual and concern with dipping into reserves.

The Superintendent acknowledged budget processes in previous years that included surveying and community engagement work to identify priorities. He expressed concern with a process that he expected would prove frustrating for the community when the likely outcomes would not solve the problem or could not be excluded from the solution. He expected community engagement would promote cuts to administration and reject increased class size and indicated neither were responsible options in implementing an \$8 - \$14 million reduction plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session (Item D-2)

Motion by Mr. Jennings, second by Ms. Lockley, to recess for an executive session to receive legal advice and discuss negotiations matters regarding Adams 12 Five Star Schools withdrawal from the Rocky Mountain Risk/Adams County BOCES and the Rocky Mountain Risk Insurance Group pursuant to Board Policies 2.0 General Operating Limitations, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e).

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

RECESSED 9:55 P.M.

The Board discussed the withdrawal of Adams 12 Five Star Schools from the Rocky Mountain Risk/Adams County BOCES and the Rocky Mountain Risk Insurance Group for 20 minutes.

RECONVENED 10:22 P.M.

Adjournment (Item D-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.