

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 13, 2011

Call to Order

President Bob Colwell called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Education Services Center, 5776 South Crocker Street.

Present

Bob Colwell, President
Renée Howell, Vice President
Sue Chandler, Secretary
Lucie Stanish, Treasurer
Mary Nichols, Assistant Secretary

Others in Attendance

Connie Bouwman, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services
Lucinda Hundley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services
Scott Murphy, Superintendent
Mike Owens, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Absent

Kirk Madsen, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Colwell asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the December 9, 2010, regular Board meeting. On page six, third paragraph Ms. Chandler corrected the sentence to read, "...and 21st century *teaching skills*."

MOTION: Ms. Chandler moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the December 9, 2010, regular Board meeting as corrected. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy announced that the Littleton High School marching band and color guard placed first in the Festival of Lights parade in Colorado Springs. He said Heritage High School physical education teacher and football coach, Mike Griebel, was named Coach of the Year by the Colorado High School Coaches' Association. Mr. Murphy said that the Arapahoe High School varsity cheerleaders placed fifth at the 2010 Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) state cheer competition. He reported that AHS senior Joe Selzer received the 2010 Football Scholar-Athlete Award from the Colorado Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

Mr. Murphy said that AHS language arts teacher Marlys Ferrill was recognized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as the most influential teacher of Thomas Roberts, who is an MIT freshman. He said that AHS science teachers Jesse

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Craig, Brian Hatak, and Jeff Smith will present at the national Science Teachers Annual Conference in March.

Mr. Murphy reported that Powell Middle School sixth grader Lucy Lawrence received a Winning Attitude award. Her essay was selected in a contest for middle school students by Qwest, FSN Rocky Mountain sports network, and the University of Colorado. He said students from Heritage and Littleton high schools will participate in the Continental League Music Festival at Boettcher Concert Hall.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Education Services Center (ESC) silent auction raised more than \$1600. These funds will be used to assist LPS families and LPS employees in crisis.

Mr. Murphy recognized the Board of Education as the recipient of the 2010 Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) All-State School Board Award. He commented that the Board was recognized at the annual CASB Convention in December, and the award and Board photo is on display in the ESC foyer.

Mr. Murphy provided information about the selection criteria for the award and offered some examples of the Board's leadership excellence. Mr. Murphy thanked the Board for their dedication to the district during these very challenging times.

Mr. Colwell thanked the staff and community for their support. He said the Board received letters of congratulations from former LPS Board members Jack Ballard and Karen Kaplan. Ms. Mary Haney, Littleton Education Association (LEA) president, congratulated the Board and expressed her appreciation on behalf of LEA for the Board's ability to shape district values and gain the trust of the community.

Mr. Keith Gardner, Centennial City Council member, remarked that the Board functions in a very unified manner. Mr. Bruce Stahlman, Littleton City Council member, extended his congratulations and noted that Littleton Public Schools and the City of Littleton have enjoyed a strong partnership for many years.

Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Stanish attended several meetings of the LPS Foundation Board. She said the LPSF Spirit Dinner will be held on April 16 at the DTC Hyatt Hotel. Ms. Stanish said the Foundation was one of the charities participating in the Colorado Gives Day, which was very successful. She also said the Foundation recently awarded funds to schools based on student count to support education. Ms. Stanish said the Littleton Leadership Retreat planning committee has held several meetings. The retreat will be held locally at the end of April. Ms. Stanish attended the ESC holiday lunch prior to winter break. Students from Centennial Academy of Fine Arts Education provided musical entertainment. Ms. Stanish also mentioned the Continental League Honors Music Festival will be held at Boettcher Concert Hall on January 24. Students from Heritage and Littleton high schools will participate.

Ms. Howell attended the economic forecast breakfast meeting hosted by the South Metro Chamber of Commerce. She commented that the information provided was somewhat more positive than in recent years. She attended a meeting sponsored by the Independence Institute concerning online education and noted that the number of online students is growing.

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Ms. Chandler met with Kay Wilmesher, City of Littleton, to plan Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) activities for 2011. She said GLYI will meet on January 14.

Ms. Nichols attended a Colorado School Finance Project meeting, the PTO Presidents Council (PPC) holiday social, a Gifted and Talented Advisory Council (GTAC) meeting, and a Wellness Committee meeting. She also attended the breakfast meeting at the South Metro Chamber of Commerce this morning.

Mr. Colwell attended the PPC holiday social.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

There were no citizens signed up to speak to the Board.

Action

Consent Agenda

Mr. Colwell asked if there were items that needed further discussion. Mr. Owens commented that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has a large backlog of teacher license applications; therefore, some teachers hired at the beginning of the school year are just now coming to the Board for approval.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda numbered 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations with the additions made this evening, and 1.2 School Performance Plan Update and Accreditation Recommendations. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Discussion

Budget Forecast and Planning

Mr. Scott Myers, chief financial officer, explained that the presentation this evening is designed to update the Board concerning current budget information. He commented that activities at the state level have impacted the LPS budget forecast.

Mr. Myers said the legislative council and the office of state planning and budget released the quarterly economic and revenue forecast on December 20. He also stated that the CDE, office of public school finance, held a "spur of the moment" webinar just prior to release of the economic forecast. Based on the information gathered, Mr. Myers reviewed the impacts to the LPS budget. He explained that the negative fiscal stabilization factor for FY 2010–2011 is expected to increase from the budgeted (6.35) percent to (7.0) percent, and could increase to (9.0) percent in FY 2011–2012, which would be a per pupil revenue loss of \$638.00. Mr. Myers stated that federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Ed Jobs funds will be used at the state level to backfill this loss of revenue for 2010–2011. Mr. Myers reviewed School Finance Act (SFA) funding cuts to LPS from 2008–2009 through 2011–2012, which total \$24 million over four years.

Mr. Myers reviewed LPS forecast assumptions, which include: 1) a (7.0) percent negative stabilization factor in 2010–2011, a (9.0) percent negative stabilization factor in 2011–2012, and subsequent years' SFA based on the consumer price index

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(CPI) with no restoration of the nine percent cut from 2011–2012; 2) net salary increases based on CPI; 3) health insurance annual cost increase of six percent; 4) PERA employer contribution increase of 0.9 percent annually; and 5) no new on-going or one-time spending.

Mr. Myers presented a five-year forecast comparing revenue and expenditures with and without the approved \$12 million mill levy override. He emphasized that the additional override funding will need to last well beyond the forecast period.

Mr. Myers outlined the budget planning timeline that will culminate with the budget adoption on June 23, 2011. Interim steps include a proposed budget workshop for the Board in February, health insurance committee recommendations in February, LEA negotiations throughout the spring, and the proposed budget presentation to the Board on May 26, 2011.

Mr. Colwell commented that based on the projected negative PPR stabilization factor of nine percent for 2011–2012, the district will need to make additional budget cuts. Mr. Myers agreed and added that inflationary pressures will affect the budget as well, and the mill levy funds will help with the budget balancing process.

Ms. Howell asked when information about assessed property values will be available, and Mr. Myers responded that he anticipates it will be down about seven percent, with more accurate information available in May.

Mr. Colwell remarked that health insurance costs are likely to increase at least in the short term. Mr. Owens said that he has received verbal communication from Kaiser that the premium cost increase will likely be about 11 percent.

Ms. Howell asked what other districts are doing to address the state funding deficit. Mr. Myers suggested that some districts may not be addressing the anticipated budget deficit yet. Ms. Howell remarked that the state's financial outlook is very troubling and state leaders and citizens need to decide if they are satisfied with the current situation. Mr. Myers said the district will need to become more efficient in the way it operates.

Ms. Howell asked how budget information is being shared with the community.

Mr. Myers responded that he and Ms. Diane Leiker, director of communications, are working on a communication plan. Mr. Murphy commented that there needs to be a balance between focusing on student achievement and focusing on the budget.

Ms. Nichols commented that the district has a long history of being good financial stewards and maintaining high academic achievement.

Mr. Colwell thanked Mr. Myers and his staff for their attention to district finances.

Closing the Achievement Gap for English Language Learners (ELL) and Students with Disabilities

Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, said that the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act has created a need to focus on subgroups of the student population, particularly the English Language Learners (ELL) and students with disabilities. She introduced Ms. Melinda Ness, who has assumed some

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English Language Acquisition (ELA) coordinator responsibilities in addition to her gifted and talented education coordinator responsibilities.

Ms. Ness reviewed district statistics about ELL students, noting they comprise about seven percent of the total student population. She gave an overview of the ELL program in LPS, stating that most ELL students attend a center-based program at designated schools; however district staff work with all ELL students even if they do not attend a center-based program. Ms. Ness also reviewed state and federal requirements and explained the limited funding under the English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA).

Ms. Ness reviewed the instructional support available for ELL students including literacy materials, an itinerant .5 FTE ELA resource teacher, and parent liaisons at The Village Preschool and at various district schools. Ms. Hundley explained that a portion of the funds designated for the ELA coordinator salary position, which is currently not filled, as well as federal stimulus funds were used to purchase instructional material for both ELL and students with disabilities.

Ms. Hundley provided an overview of district students with disabilities, noting that the total number of students is decreasing while the number of students with complex disabilities is increasing. Mr. Murphy commented that a large gap in funding exists for students with disabilities, noting that only about 17 percent of actual costs are covered through federal funds.

Ms. Patti Turner, director of learning services, reviewed district Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) targets, contrasting overall district performance to those of the subgroups of students with disabilities and ELL students.

Ms. Julie Carlson, instruction coordinator, reviewed the district's Professional Learning Communities (PLC) model as it dovetails with the Pyramid of Intervention (POI) model for instruction. She commented on the importance of robust and effective instruction for all students in Tier 1. She also emphasized the importance of data analysis, screening assessments and progress monitoring, and differentiation of learning based on student needs, which are the building blocks for Tier 1 instruction. Ms. Carlson stated that PLC work is more than simply work on PLC late start days; it has become part of the district's culture.

Ms. Pam Deulley, elementary special education coordinator, reviewed the literacy and math support used with students with disabilities, which includes computer based instruction as well as specific interventions that align with individual student needs.

Ms. Hundley described some of the ongoing work incorporated into the POI model including: 1) staff development and study groups; 2) implementation of interventions with fidelity; 3) coordination between general and special education; 4) increasing the capacity of general education staff; 5) identifying effective instructional models and collaboration of staff; and 6) maintaining high expectations for student achievement.

Ms. Stanish commented that it is important to help parents understand the need for ongoing PLC work as teachers work with different students each year. Ms. Howell remarked about the importance of intervention beginning before students fail.

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Ms. Chandler asked about the range of support for students with disabilities.

Ms. Deulley explained that literacy intervention positively impacts many aspects of student learning, and all needs are met for these students as indicated in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Ms. Hundley explained that the district is working with teachers to support the use of best practices to bring about systemic change. She added that schools must learn to use staffing resources differently as a result of budget reductions.

Ms. Nichols said there is a sense of interconnectedness in work going on across the district and PLCs are making a difference. Ms. Howell stated that PLCs have created significant change.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Hundley and her staff for the work they are doing to make the district mission statement a reality for students.

Proposed District Calendar for the 2011–2012 School Year

Ms. Hundley presented background information concerning the development of the 2011–2012 instructional year calendar. She explained that administration is only bringing a calendar for one year, which is not in accordance with Board policy which calls for the development of calendars for two years. Ms. Hundley said the due to current economic uncertainties preparing a calendar for one year is more appropriate. Ms. Hundley also explained that the two instructional furlough days that are currently in the 2010–2011 calendar are in place in the proposed 2011–2012 calendar, although a change in the number of teacher contract days is subject to negotiations with the Littleton Education Association (LEA). She noted that two furlough days realize a savings of approximately \$800,000.

Ms. Hundley reviewed basic calendar assumptions as well as the Board's values that guide the work of calendar development. These assumptions include: 1) first semester ending before winter break and a similar number of days in first and second semester; 2) preserve teacher planning time and parent-teacher conference schedule; 3) end second semester at the same time due to planned high school activities; and 4) preserve PLC time to continue towards the 90 percent student achievement goal.

Ms. Hundley explained that the approved waiver from CDE concerning the number of student contact days will be in effect through 2011–2012. Mr. Murphy remarked that the district may wish to seek an extension of the waiver from CDE. Ms. Hundley further noted that administration has received positive feedback from parents and staff members concerning the placement of furlough days.

Ms. Hundley reviewed the proposed calendar for 2011–2012 noting it is similar to the current calendar. She said that pending Board approval, which is scheduled for January 27, the number of teacher contract days will be negotiated with LEA, and communication concerning the approved calendar will be disseminated to the community. Ms. Hundley said it will be important to convene a calendar committee for 2012–2013 as there are some important calendar adjustments that will be necessary due to days on which significant holidays fall. Ms. Howell asked about the complexity of the work of the calendar committee and how the administrative work will be done given the limited staff due to budget cuts. Ms. Hundley responded that

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the Board's calendar values, along with winter holidays drive the calendar and the process is less complex than in previous years. Ms. Howell commented that perhaps the Board's calendar values should be revisited.

Ms. Stanish asked if administration plans to look at the contact hours for middle level, which is the area with the least amount of excess time, to provide more flexibility for potential school closures. Ms. Hundley responded that this can be addressed.

Ms. Howell stated that January 2, 2012, is a legal holiday and the calendar shows it as a teacher work day and nonstudent day. Mr. Colwell commented that there are pros and cons that should be considered. Ms. Stanish noted that in order to provide a teacher work day before the start of second semester, returning to work on January 2 may be necessary; otherwise students would not return until Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

Ms. Nichols asked what would happen if the district and LEA could not reach agreement on the two instructional furlough days proposed for 2011–2012.

Ms. Hundley said the Board would need to approve an adjusted calendar.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Hundley for the calendar presentation. This item will return for action on January 27.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the January 27, 2011 Board meeting. Action items include Proposed District Calendar for 2011–2012 School Year. Discussion items include Update on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and Next Steps.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education meeting adjourn.

SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

ks (1/28/11)