

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 15, 2009

Call to Order

Vice-President Renee Howell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Education Services Center, 5776 South Crocker Street.

Present

Renée Howell, Vice President
Lucie Stanish, Treasurer
Mary Nichols, Assistant Secretary
Bob Colwell, President, arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Absent

Sue Chandler, Secretary

Others in Attendance

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Howell asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the December 11, 2008, regular Board meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the December 11, 2008, regular Board meeting as presented. SECOND: Ms. Stanish.
AYE: Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy reported that student athletes from Heritage and Littleton high schools were named to the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* class 4A all state football teams. Emily Levin, an Arapahoe High School senior was named a finalist by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts in the youngARTS program and will take classes from and perform for renowned artists and educators. Heritage and Arapahoe students were among 75,000 high school students nationwide who participated in the U.S. Department of Treasury's National Financial Literacy Challenge. LPS students placed in the top 25 percent.

Mr. Murphy announced that the Powell Middle School 2008 yearbook received a gold medal certificate from Columbia Scholastic Press Association and will be featured in an upcoming publication that showcases top yearbooks. The Heritage marching band will be honored by the Littleton City Council as Guest Citizens for their 2008 marching season. Ten Powell students have been selected for the University of Colorado middle school honor band.

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Mr. Murphy congratulated LPS Business Services department for receiving the Meritorious Budget Award for the 2008–2009 annual budget. Sara Duncan, Ames Elementary School kindergarten teacher received a Susie Royer Syke Literacy Fellowship grant. CollegeInvest recently honored Littleton High School counselor Brian Powers as the Counselor of the Month in October. A number of LPS schools participated in fund raisers for charity during the holiday season. Mr. Murphy thanked the school communities for their example of generosity.

Mr. Murphy updated the Board on current discussions about state funding for Colorado public schools. These discussions are taking place because the state is facing a significant budget deficit and is looking to K–12 education funding to gain about \$400 million to offset this deficit. Mr. Murphy noted this is the largest proposed cut in public education funding he has seen. Mr. Murphy stated that a rescission in the current, 2008–2009 school year of about \$500,000 for LPS is probable, in addition to a cut of 10 percent for 2009–2010. Some of the program funding that is being considered for reductions includes full-day kindergarten, Colorado Preschool Program, special education, English Language Learners, Gifted and Talented, and transportation. He also noted that the five-year averaging of pupil enrollment for declining enrollment districts may go back to four-year averaging. Mr. Murphy said he has talked to all employee groups and they understand the significance of the state budget deficit coupled with the district's ongoing budget deficit.

Ms. Nichols asked if K–12 education could see additional federal funds for special education to offset the potential cuts at the state level. Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, responded that this is unlikely. Ms. Howell asked when the state would announce a rescission, and Mr. Murphy responded that it will likely be in the next two weeks. Ms. Nichols asked if a rescission would have any impact on the interest-free loan program, and Mr. Murphy said it would not.

Ms. Stanish asked when state funding information for 2009–2010 would be announced. Mr. Murphy responded that historically K–12 funding has been finalized late in the Legislative session, but it may be as early as March this year.

Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Nichols attended the Centennial Academy of Fine Arts Education Positive Behavior Support (PBS) assembly. She attended the Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council meeting, the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) meeting, the Gifted and Talented Advisory Council (GTAC) meeting, and an Arapahoe PTO meeting.

Ms. Stanish attended an Arapahoe PTO meeting with Ms. Nichols, and the Continental League Music Festival with Ms. Howell. Ms. Stanish also attended the LPS Foundation board meeting and noted the Foundation received a clean audit report. She said the Foundation Spirit Dinner will once again focus on support for technology.

Ms. Howell attended a Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) retreat and an Online Learning Advisory Board meeting. She said this advisory board has fulfilled its charge to define the rules for online learning and will sunset in July 2009,

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and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) will take over some oversight responsibilities for online learning. Ms. Howell also attended the Continental League Music Festival. She participated in a recent Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education Coalition (STEM-EC) and a Colorado's Math, Science, Technology, Engineering Coalition (COMSTEC) meeting. Ms. Howell said she will be part of the steering committee for the Colorado STEM Academy that will look at creating a STEM academy in charter, magnet, and innovative schools. Ms. Howell also took part in the South Metro Denver Legislative Action Committee, which discusses issues the business community faces, where she serves as the public education representative. Ms. Howell announced that the second Colorado Learning 2.0 Conference is on February 21. It is free and will be held at Heritage High School.

Mr. Colwell attended Heritage basketball games and stopped in at an Instructional Coaches training session. He also attended the Centennial Academy PBS assembly.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

Sam Drury spoke on public visibility of LPS student academic achievement progress, specifically adequate yearly progress data and the state School Accountability Reports.

Action

Consent Agenda

Mr. Mike Owens, assistant superintendent of human resources, stated that personnel timelines have been adjusted due to the upcoming closure of Ames and Whitman elementary schools. He also said that Captain Jason Whitehorn, a Heritage teacher who is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq, was featured in a live radio interview today.

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda numbered 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations with the additions made this evening. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

School Accreditation Recommendations

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, recommended that the Board take action to accredit district schools.

One citizen addressed the Board. Mr. Sam Drury suggested that the Board should include differentiation for top performing schools.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education accredit all district schools as required by law. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

East Elementary School Playground Grant Application

Mr. Kirk Madsen, assistant superintendent of operations, said that the East Elementary School PTO, in collaboration with the City of Littleton and the South Suburban Park and Recreation District (SSPRD) seeks approval to submit a grant application to Arapahoe County Open Space in the amount of \$260,000 to upgrade

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the school playground and create a community park. This collaborative venture began about three years ago and includes matching funds raised by the East PTO with the help of others, and in-kind services provided by the City and SSPRD. Mr. Madsen stated that no district funds are required for the grant application, but a letter of support is needed from the district. The district also must agree to the placement of a sign that acknowledges the funding source for the project. As the property owner, the district will need to enter into an agreement with SSPRD regarding maintenance of the area. Mr. Greg Sumlin, East Elementary School principal, provided architectural drawings of the new playground and stated that the grant funding will not be available until 2010.

Ms. Stanish noted this is a great example of collaboration. She asked if the playground and park will be open to the public while the School-Age Child Care (SACC) program is in session. Mr. Sumlin responded that the area is open to the public when school is dismissed and there have been no issues related to children in the SACC program also using the area. Ms. Nichols congratulated Mr. Sumlin and the East PTO for their excellent work.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education approve the grant application to Arapahoe County Open Space to upgrade the East Elementary School playground and create a community park. SECOND: Ms. Nichols. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

Discussion

Proposed District Calendars for 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 School Years

Ms. Hundley presented proposed district calendars for the 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 school years. She recognized calendar committee members who were present and noted they are a committed group that supports the Board's calendar values, which guided the work of the committee. She also acknowledged Dan Mass, chief information officer, for his role in finding appropriate software to develop and publish the calendar, and Jill Richardson for including all legal requirements in the calendar prototype. Ms. Hundley stated that the community had an opportunity to offer feedback on the draft calendars, which were presented to various groups including district committees.

Ms. Hundley gave an overview of various features of the proposed calendars, stating that the recommendations from the Late Start Review Panel were embedded in the calendar. She noted that Professional Learning Communities (PLC) late start days are spread more evenly throughout the school year as a result of feedback gathered by the Late Start Review Panel. Ms. Hundley also explained that the final day of school is a week prior to Memorial Day in May, which is necessary to balance the number of days in each semester.

Ms. Stanish stated that the change at Winter Break, which moves the nonstudent day from the Friday prior to Winter Break to the Monday following Winter Break, should be well received by staff. Ms. Nichols said she supports the plan to post calendar assumptions and key points, as well as the Board's calendar values with the calendars on the district web site.

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Ms. Howell said she appreciates the change to spread PLC days throughout the year and asked if the district plans to continue the telephone reminder of late start days. Ms. Hundley responded that the phone calls will continue. Ms. Nichols said she appreciated the thoughtful placement of PLC days so they are not in the same week as a holiday or a short day for elementary students. Mr. Colwell noted that almost all PLC days have a full week of school either before or after them.

Ms. Nichols asked if the committee had discussed preparing a calendar for a third school year. Ms. Hundley said that an analysis of the effectiveness of the late start model will be done following the 2010–2011 school year, which will drive calendar development for future years. Ms. Howell said she hopes that the calendar development will continue to be a more streamline process.

Mr. Colwell thanked the calendar committee for its work. This item will return for action on January 29, 2009.

Board Policy Revisions: IKA, IKA-R—Grading/Assessment System, IKE—Promotion and Retention of Students, and IKF, IKF-E—Graduation Requirements

Ms. Bouwman presented proposed revisions to policies, regulations, and exhibits related to the district's grading system, promotion and retention of students, and high school graduation requirements. She stated that these policies may require further revisions in the future due to the dynamic nature of graduation requirements and higher education admission requirements in Colorado. Ms. Bouwman said the policy revision committee included the high school principals, three high school assistant principals, and central administrators. Middle school principals joined the group for two meetings. Ms. Bouwman stated that the revisions reflect agreements reached by the secondary administrators and maintain the best interests of students as the top priority. The revisions bring consistency in practices among the secondary schools while maintaining the uniqueness of each school.

Ms. Bouwman highlighted proposed revisions to Policy IKA—Grading/Assessment System, which include a new regulation—IKA-R. This regulation defines weighted, transfer, and course withdrawal grades. It outlines a pass/fail option, and explains recoverability of failed courses for freshmen, which supports drop-out prevention.

Policy IKE denotes high school grade placement, adds language about communicating with parents, and stipulates that careful monitoring of students and early intervention will take place. The Board requested that similar language about timely communication with parents, and early intervention for students below grade level be added to the first paragraph of the policy that relates to elementary and middle school students.

Policy IKF takes the specific graduation requirements for each high school out of the policy and places them in the exhibit, along with higher education admission requirements. Proposed revisions to this policy include clarification about early graduation and stipulate the waiver rights of high school principals. Ms. Bouwman said that graduation requirements for each high school outlined in IKF-E now have a parallel format, making them easier to understand. Ms. Bouwman noted that most of

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the Board's values around grading practices and graduation requirements have been addressed, and several issues require additional discussion.

Ms. Nichols asked if the number of students needing a "fresh start" following their freshman year is relatively small, and Ms. Bouwman responded that it is a small number of students. Ms. Howell asked if failing grades for transfer students will appear on transcripts. Ms. Bouwman responded that only grades earned as an LPS freshman will be converted to "no credit" (N/C). Mr. Colwell asked about transcripts for students who have been home schooled, and Ms. Bouwman responded that these transcripts vary widely. Ms. Nichols asked if students have a specific amount of time to make up failed courses. Ms. Bouwman responded that there is no time limit specified, although some courses are sequential, which creates a time limit.

Ms. Howell thanked Ms. Bouwman and secondary school administrators for their work on these policies. She also expressed appreciation for the clarity of graduation requirements in the exhibit and the inclusion of the higher education admission requirements. Ms. Stanish said she was pleased to see the recoverability option for freshmen included in policy.

One citizen addressed the Board. Ms. Pam Cirbo stated that Policy IKE, Promotion and Retention of Students, lacks performance standards and remains a policy that supports social promotion and non-retention of students.

Mr. Colwell said these policies will return on January 29 for action, with the additional language requested in Policy IKE.

Library/Media Program Update

Ms. Bouwman introduced Susan Dalton, curriculum coordinator, and Mike Porter, assistant director of instructional technology. Ms. Dalton acknowledged members of the Library/Media Program Revision Committee and stated that the recommendations, philosophical assumptions, and essential conditions necessary for successful implementation of library media programs represent the best thinking of the committee to meet the needs of 21st century learners, given the district's current financial realities. She noted that as new state content standards are developed, technology literacy standards will likely be integrated into core curricular areas. Mr. Porter highlighted differences between 21st century learners and their library/media needs, and a more traditional library/media program. He said that students today need to be able to evaluate the quality and appropriateness of information from online sources, and they need to understand the responsibility involved in publishing their own writing on Internet blogs. Mr. Porter explained the need for increased collaboration among classroom teachers, technology specialists, and teacher-librarians to support student learning.

Ms. Dalton highlighted the philosophical assumption that support learning in all content areas. She reviewed the essential conditions necessary for successful implementation of a library/media program, noting these conditions emphasize student learning and are based on studies that demonstrate the benefits of school libraries and library media specialists on student academic achievement.

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Ms. Dalton reviewed the recommendations from the library/media team, which include: (1) provide equitable access to resources, especially high-quality online subscription databases; (2) continue to develop print-rich collections; (3) coordinate professional development to support 21st century learning; and (4) develop a collaboration model to integrate information literacy skills within content areas. Ms. Dalton further explained that professional development to support 21st century learning is an essential element. Professional staff and administration will continue to work on these areas of focus.

Dan Maas, chief information officer, stated that information has moved from a managed resource to a self-service industry, which places new responsibilities on teacher-librarians and technology specialists, as well as students. Mr. Maas said the district has begun the process of reviewing the district's Internet policies to better align with today's realities.

Ms. Nichols asked what schools have integrated information literacy into the content areas. Mr. Porter responded that the district has a number of successful models, which have some common elements including: common planning time, inclusion of computer coaches and teacher-librarians in PLC work, school-wide review of student needs and assessment results, shared resources, and collaboration.

Ms. Howell asked how time is provided for teacher-librarians to meet as a group, and Ms. Dalton responded that they meet four times a year as a district council to discuss professional development needs and their changing role. Mr. Maas pointed out that some schools have very effective teacher-librarians and some schools are without a teacher-librarian, resulting in an equity issue across the district.

Ms. Stanish asked if there are opportunities for teacher-librarians and computer coaches to meet together. Mr. Porter said the district is moving in that direction with common workshops, along with opportunities to meet and collaborate during the school day. Ms. Howell applauded Lenski Elementary School for their model program. Mr. Colwell asked how students learn about copyright laws and other online issues. Mr. Porter responded that students receive library orientation, typically at the beginning of sixth and ninth grade, and receive instruction when an online research project is assigned. Ms. Dalton mentioned that the district wants to incorporate national standards for Grades K–5 that outline the specific skills these students need to better understand and use online resources. Mr. Colwell asked how many elementary schools do not have a certified teacher-librarian. Ms. Dalton responded that approximately 50–75 percent of LPS elementary schools are without a certified teacher-librarian.

Mr. Colwell thanked the Library/Media Revision Committee for its work.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the January 29, 2009, Board meeting. Action items include Board Policy Revisions: IKA, IKA-R—Grading/Assessment System and District Calendars for 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 School Years. Discussion items include Board Policy Revisions: IKE—Promotion and Retention of Students, IKF, IKF-E—Graduation Requirements, Student Assessment Results—Secondary, and Board Policy

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Revisions: JECBB—Admission of Interdistrict Transfer Students. There will also be a report on Head Start Update.

Mr. Murphy noted some topics for upcoming Board meetings including a staffing update, transition and school repurposing update, and a legislative and budget update. Ms. Howell suggested a workshop format for the legislative and budget update.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Mary Nichols
Assistant Secretary

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