

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

### Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 29, 2009

#### *Call to Order*

President Bob Colwell called the meeting to order at 6:37 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  
Kirk Madsen, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Scott Murphy, Superintendent  
Mike Owens, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Colwell asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January 15, 2009, regular Board meeting. Mr. Colwell said Ms. Nichols should replace Ms. Chandler as a signer of the minutes due to Ms. Chandler's absence. On page three, first paragraph, Ms. Howell corrected the association title beginning in the third line to read, "Colorado's Math, Science, Technology, Engineering Coalition (COMSTEC)."

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 15, 2009, regular Board meeting as corrected. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. Ms. Chandler abstained due to her absence on January 15. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Murphy reported that several LPS middle and high school students have won Colorado Scholastic Art Awards, including Gold Key winner Tyler Simmons who will go to the national competition.

Mr. Murphy said Lenski Elementary School hosted an Inaugural Ball on January 16 for families to celebrate the inauguration of the President. He also announced that Jill Schrader, Heritage High School science teacher was awarded a Biological Sciences Initiative Outreach Award.

Mr. Murphy recognized Board member Renée Howell who was recently highlighted in a quilting magazine for her quilt work. He also said Board member Lucie Stanish was featured in the *Littleton Independent* as the new owner of Super Suppers in downtown Littleton.

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Mr. Murphy stated that the LPS 2007–2008 Annual Report is now available online. This is the first year the district has done the report electronically, which saves about \$20,000 annually.

Mr. Murphy said that due to the state’s budget shortfall, it is likely LPS will not see any new money next year, and in fact the district could receive less funding in 2009–2010 than in 2008–2009. The Board will hold a workshop prior to the regular Board meeting on February 12 to discuss the current budget situation.

## **Board Reports/Requests**

Ms. Stanish attended the Lenski Inaugural Ball, the Heritage hockey game, and the Heritage winter pep assembly. She observed a freshman language arts honors class at Arapahoe High School while students were blogging about Daniel Pink’s book, *A Whole New Mind*. Ms. Stanish attended the Special Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) meeting and the first planning meeting for the 2010 Littleton Community Retreat.

Ms. Howell attended the Lenski Inaugural Ball. She attended an Educational Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC) meeting, which was held at Hopkins Elementary School, and a District Accountability Committee (DAC) meeting.

Ms. Howell went to the State Capitol with the South Metro Denver Legislative Action Committee. She also attended a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education Coalition (STEM-EC) meeting. Ms. Howell mentioned a Colorado’s Math, Science, Technology, Engineering Coalition (COMSTEC) meeting where Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) academies were a topic of discussion.

Ms. Chandler attended a Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) board meeting and noted that there are four finalists for the RMSEL executive director position.

Ms. Nichols attended the Colorado School Finance Project meeting. She also attended the Heritage winter pep assembly. She attended a meeting for LPS parents of fifth graders with the district’s middle school principals, noting it was well attended. She visited the student art show at Bemis Library and announced that the district spelling bee will be held on February 1. Ms. Nichols also announced the upcoming Circle of Concern Consortium meeting on February 12.

Mr. Colwell attended the basketball between Heritage and Littleton high schools, and visited the student art show at Bemis Library.

## **Citizens’ Requests to Speak to the Board**

There were no citizens who signed up to speak

## **Action**

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Mike Owens, assistant superintendent of human resources, stated that 22 district teachers are concluding their 93/93 teacher contract transition year, and three administrators are completing their 110/110 administrative contract transition year.

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He said that 22 teachers have requested a 93/93 contract for the 2009–2010 school year, with three straight retirements at the end of the current school year.

MOTION: Ms. Chandler 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 Multiple Copy Literature List. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

## **District Calendars for 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 School Years**

Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, stated that there is a minor error in the date of a six and twelve week grading period on the school year calendars. This will be corrected prior to distribution, and all other information on the calendars is accurate. Ms. Hundley said administration recommends approval of the 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 school year calendars.

Ms. Howell asked if the calendars will be posted on the district web site, along with the basic assumptions and key points relative to the calendars. Ms. Hundley confirmed that these items will be posted to the web site and distributed to all schools for dissemination to families.

Ms. Chandler asked that the statement under Key Points, “There is no more than one non-student day or modified day scheduled in any given week, to limit instructional interruption and limit family impact” be qualified to state with the exception of parent-teacher conferences.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education approve the district calendars for 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 school years. SECOND: Ms. Nichols. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

## **Board Policy Revisions: IKA, IKA-R—Grading/Assessment System**

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, stated that the regulation associated with Board Policy IKA, Grading/Assessment System, will be monitored closely and ongoing changes will be made as needed.

Mr. Murphy stated that typically revisions to policy regulations and exhibits do not require Board action, and the Board will be updated on substantive revisions to regulations and exhibits.

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education approve revisions to Policy IKA, IKA-R—Grading/Assessment System as presented. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

## ***Discussion***

### **Student Assessment Results--Secondary**

Ms. Mollie McDonald, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, presented information about large-scale student assessments at the secondary level, including district demographic information, Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), state-administered American College Test (ACT), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT),

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Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Ms. McDonald noted that the district demographics are the same as presented to the Board on December 11 during the elementary student assessment presentation.

Ms. McDonald advised the Board that Options High School is now approved as a testing site for ACT, thus eliminating the possibility of ineligible scores that occurred in 2008. Ms. McDonald reviewed 2008 ACT scores and contrasted these scores with 10<sup>th</sup> grade CSAP scores for reading, writing, math, and science. She noted that the ACT math section tests different skills than the CSAP math test. The SAT is a college entrance test not typically required for entrance into Colorado and other Western colleges and universities, but more often required in Eastern states. Results are for a self-selected group of high school students who elect to take this test.

Ms. McDonald reviewed CSAP results for grades six through 10. She noted that LPS scores rank in the top three among metro area school districts. Ms. Howell commented that the reading CSAP scores are similar from year to year and asked if this is expected. Ms. McDonald responded that the lack of progress in this area was one of the factors that led to the district's 90 percent student achievement goal, and schools are working with students who are close to proficient. Ms. Bouwman stated that the district's long-term goal is to help all students achieve improved results. Ms. McDonald noted that the English Language Learners (ELL) subgroup improved six percentage points on the reading CSAP, which is significant.

Ms. McDonald commented on the writing CSAP, noting the district ranked first, second, or third among metro area school districts. She further stated that the extended writing portion of the test is a problem area for LPS students, specifically noting the five percent decline at eighth grade. Ms. Howell asked how teachers help students prepare for extended writing in long-hand when such writing is typically done on a computer. Ms. McDonald said it is a challenge to remain in "both worlds." Ms. McDonald further noted that downward trends in writing among subgroups are of concern.

Ms. McDonald pointed out the seven percent gain at ninth grade on the CSAP math test, and stated that LPS again ranked first, second, or third among metro districts. Mr. Colwell asked if the district would likely see a similar improvement at 10<sup>th</sup> grade in 2009, and Ms. McDonald responded that the trend could continue. Ms. Howell asked when the district implemented the revised math curriculum, and Ms. McDonald responded that the district is in the third year of implementation. Ms. McDonald noted that the CSAP math test is a very difficult test, and the revised district curriculum has helped to improve scores because content being taught in classrooms is better aligned with state standards. Ms. McDonald again noted a positive improvement in the ELL subgroup. Ms. Chandler commented that perhaps the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) work is making a positive impact on test scores, and Ms. McDonald responded that PLCs support common agreements among teachers.

Ms. McDonald reported that the science CSAP is an area where subgroups show the greatest gaps, but the district is showing some improvement. She noted that the district again ranks first or second among metro area districts on the science CSAP.

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Ms. McDonald reviewed the matched cohort data for secondary CSAP tests.

Mr. Colwell asked why math scores show a decline, and Ms. McDonald responded that the CSAP math test is an increasingly more difficult test from grade to grade.

Ms. McDonald reported the district/national percentile comparisons for the MAP tests in reading and math. She explained that these tests compare LPS students to other students across the nation. She also reviewed fall to spring growth for secondary students. She stated that tenth grade reading scores show that students did not reach predicted scores, which is a concern. The district has scheduled a secondary literacy institute for summer 2009 to provide professional development for teachers. The MAP test for math shows students are outperforming predictions in all grades except tenth grade.

Ms. Chandler asked if the district uses other states' tests that are similar to CSAP for students who transfer from other states. Ms. McDonald responded that MAP tests are used to set learning goals, and other states' tests do not correlate with the CSAP test.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. McDonald and the assessment staff for the presentation.

### **Board Policy Revisions: IKE—Promotion and Retention of Students, and IKF, IKF-E—Graduation Requirements**

Ms. Bouwman explained that additional significant changes were made to these policies since the Board reviewed them on January 15, thus the decision was made to present them to the Board for further discussion. Ms. Bouwman said additional language for elementary and middle schools was added to Board Policy IKE—Promotion and Retention of Students to parallel the language for high schools. The language also better reflects current practice. Ms. Howell said she appreciated this change. Ms. Chandler asked how this information is conveyed to new teachers, and Ms. Bouwman responded that the building principal typically covers this type of information for new teachers.

Ms. Bouwman stated that revisions to the second paragraph of Board Policy IKF—Graduation Requirements, have been made to further clarify the differences between minimum requirements for high school graduation and admission requirements for higher education. The exhibit associated with this policy also reflects this further clarification with additional language in the text box at the end of each high school's graduation requirements and the text box on the higher education admission requirements page.

Mr. Colwell requested some additional modifications of the language in the text box at the end of each high school's graduation requirements. He suggested adding the name of the high school and a reference to the last page of the exhibit that shows the higher education admission requirements. He asked if parents and students receive a copy of the exhibit, and Ms. Bouwman responded that each high school prepares a course description booklet that includes graduation requirements.

Ms. Chandler asked for clarification of the sentence on page five of Policy IKF that reads: "A senior transfer student receiving a diploma from another school may also participate in commencement ceremonies." Ms. Bouwman explained that a student who transfers to LPS during his/her senior year would not be eligible to receive an

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LPS diploma, but could receive a diploma from the previous school and participate in LPS commencement exercises.

Ms. Howell said she appreciated the additional review by the committee that led to these changes. Ms. Chandler commented that this work indicates the district is doing what is best for kids. Ms. Stanish said that members of the Special Services Advisory Committee had a good discussion about this policy and said they appreciated the district maintaining minimum graduation requirements because not all students need to meet the higher education admission requirements to pursue their post-secondary goals.

One citizen addressed the Board. Ms. Pam Cirbo said she was pleased to see the additional revisions to Policy IKE—Promotion and Retention of Students, noting this is an important change that will have a positive effect on student academic learning.

Mr. Colwell thanked administration for their work on these policies, which will return for action on February 12.

## **Board Policy Revision: JECBB—Admission of Interdistrict Transfer Students**

Ms. Hundley stated that this policy revision is presented to the Board to bring it into alignments with Policy JEB—Entrance Age Requirements. In October, the Board took action to change the kindergarten entrance age date to October 1, and this same date needs to be reflected in Policy JECBB—Admission of Interdistrict Transfer Students.

Mr. Colwell stated the first sentence of the policy is unclear and asked administration to work on the language prior to action.

This item will return for action on February 12.

## ***Report***

### **Head Start Update**

Ms. Melissa Radulovich, principal of The Village Preschool Program, explained that the Head Start report is a synopsis of a large monthly report that is sent to Sheridan School District, the grantor for Head Start. It includes detailed information about Head Start students, and is required by Head Start. Ms. Howell stated that Ms. Radulovich presented at the District Accountability Committee (DAC) meeting last week and asked for clarification about a DAC subcommittee that was mentioned in the presentation. Ms. Radulovich clarified that the presentation to DAC was about the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP), not Head Start. The programs have different regulations and requirements.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Radulovich for the information.

## ***Future Agenda/Adjournment***

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the February 12, 2009, Board meeting. Action items include Board Policy Revisions: IKE—Promotion and Retention of Students and IKF, IKF-E—Graduation Requirements and Quarterly Financial Report. Discussion items include Course and Textbook Adoption: Arapahoe High School, Course and Textbook Adoption: Littleton High School, Math Implementation Update, and

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Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Update: Part 1. There will be a Board workshop on Budget/Legislative Update at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell  
President

Sue Chandler  
Secretary

ks (2/24/09)