

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 8, 2007

Call to Order

President Diana Holland called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Education Services Center, 5776 South Crocker Street.

Present

Diana Holland, President
John Dunn, Vice President
Sue Chandler, Secretary
Bob Colwell, Treasurer
Renée Howell, Assistant Secretary

Others in Attendance

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

Executive Session: Personnel Matter, Superintendent's Evaluation

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education convene into executive session with Mr. Scott Murphy to discuss a personnel matter per CRS 24-6-402, Meetings—Open to Public, Section 4(f) relating specifically to the superintendent's evaluation. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

The regular meeting began at 6:37 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Holland asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January 18, 2007, regular meeting or the January 25, 2007 regular meeting. Ms. Howell noted on the January 18 minutes under Board Reports/Requests a change to the title of a presentation she attended. There were no changes to the January 25, 2007, minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Dunn moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 18, 2007, regular meeting as amended this evening. SECOND: Mr. Colwell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 25, 2007, regular meeting as presented this evening. SECOND: Ms. Chandler. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

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Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy reported that LPS middle schools did quite well in last Saturday's Brain Bowl. Goddard Middle School swept the overall competition with a 6th grade team taking 1st place overall, a 7th grade team taking 2nd place overall, and an 8th grade team taking 3rd place overall. Additionally, a Euclid Middle School 7th grade team earned a 1st place finish; a Powell Middle School 8th grade team earned a 1st place finish; and Newton 6th graders on all of their oral rounds. There were also several 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishes by LPS middle school teams as well.

Mr. Murphy recognized Heritage High School senior Naomi Peterson, who has been selected as a candidate for the Presidential Scholarship program. Semifinalists will be chosen in April, and scholars will be announced in early May.

Mr. Murphy noted that the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) has received the meritorious Budget Award for its 2006–2007 annual budget. This award reflects the recipient's commitment to meeting the highest standards of school budgeting.

Mr. Murphy thanked Board members Diana Holland and Renée Howell and LPS Foundation President Mary McGlone for volunteering their time to judge the ESC chili cook-off last Friday.

Mr. Murphy concluded his report on the unintended fallout from new Amendment 41 legislation which now expands restrictions on receiving gifts on money to most state and local government employees and their immediate family members. It is the opinion of the district's legal counsel that Amendment 41 does not affect K–12 public school employees, which means that the children of LPS employees remain eligible for scholarships as they were before.

Board Reports/Requests

Mr. Colwell attended the legislative update with district lobbyist Tonette Salazar, the Goddard Middle School 7th grade honors assembly, and the LPS elementary art show at Bemis Library. He also was a judge at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition at Littleton High School. All 24 LPS students placed in their events. Mr. Colwell also visited Littleton High School and taught students how to do their income taxes.

Ms. Howell attended the Educational Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC) meeting and toured the world language lab. She attended the Monday Models technology classes, and the Science Technology Engineering Math Education coalition. Ms. Howell was also a judge for the ESC chili cook-off.

Mr. Dunn attended the Ames Elementary School PTO meeting last evening.

Ms. Chandler attended the Circle of Concern consortium meeting. She also attended the Goddard Middle School 6th grade honors assembly. She visited Littleton High School and in particular, the foreign language lab, the Interactive Math Program (IMP) math classes, and three of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) groups.

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Ms. Holland was also a judge at the ESC chili cook-off. She noted that the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) meets on February 9 and will be working on upcoming plans including a fall fundraiser. She also reported that District Accountability Committee (DAC) will meet on February 22 and will be discussing curriculum updates. Their legislative subcommittee will meet with legislators on March 5. Ms. Holland highlighted that the Board is invited to attend the DAC meeting on March 21.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

Joe Welter spoke in support of certified art teachers.

Curry McMurry showed a slide show of student artwork at Sandburg and spoke in support of certified art teachers.

Joan Hitchens spoke in support of certified art teachers and noted there will be the LPS secondary art show at Bemis.

Action

Consent Agenda

Ms. Holland asked if there were any items that needed to be pulled for further discussion. Ms. Howell asked about the co-principal with Jim Brickey at Twain Elementary.

Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Madsen presented the financial report depicting financial operations of all district funds for the quarter ended December 31, 2006, for the Board of Education's review and approval.

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda numbered 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations and 1.2 Quarterly Financial Report. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Proposed 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 School Year Calendars

As a follow-up to the Board workshop on January 18th and discussion on January 25th, administration presented two options for proposed school year calendars for 2007–2008 and 2008–2009. As requested by the Board, these options were for either ten or eight days of embedded PLC time.

Mr. Murphy summarized that discussions on time and increasing student learning began two years ago. In January 2006, the Board asked the calendar committee to study options for early release days and in the fall 2006 the Board asked administration to develop models. Mr. Murphy said this evening the Board is presented with two options, an 8-day and a 10-day proposal. He went on to say the Board put significant effort into making sure they received feedback from parents, staff and community members during Board workshops, through various committees (i.e., DAC, PPC), and three parent forums and one staff forum.

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Through these discussions, administration has come to the following conclusions:

- That the Board take action on the 10-day PLC embedded time proposal recognizing that this creates the greatest opportunity for timely, responsive and meaningful PLC work around student achievement.
- That the Board include in their action to have a late start districtwide. This would simplify the many logistical issues that parents have raised, particularly those with children at more than one level, by providing one schedule; eliminates the 25-minute earlier start for elementary schools; addresses potential issues for the community, including businesses, around students having unstructured/unsupervised time that could result for an early release; eliminates the concern for the intervening time between early release and the start of extra-curricular activities; addresses the concern around student safety.

Administration also recommended that a “Blue Ribbon Panel” be formed to continue to study models for embedded time and to work with administration in monitoring the success of this embedded time model. It is suggested that the panel’s membership be comprised of parents, community/business representatives, teachers, classified staff, and site and level administrators.

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, indicated that pending Board approval, the Learning Support Team (LST) will begin discussions with principals on developing a communication plan for both the spring and fall.

The following citizens addressed the Board.

Catherine Stevens wanted to clarify two questions, specifically, student/teacher contact hours at Heritage High School, and if the Board had decided on the 8 or 10-day proposal. She also thanked the Board for listening to the public and for taking the time to research.

Jim Stevens said he believes all share a common goal to improve student learning and this evening’s proposal has the potential to do that. He went on to say that the district must change what it is doing in our schools. Some general observations on this evening’s option are change is constrained on many sides, there are other options that could be considered, and this change is not unanimously supported and it will require sacrifice.

Mr. Colwell thanked administration for the work they have done, and for the time and effort to make ongoing changes to proposals. He went on to say that he thinks we are doing what is best for the kids as the district is moving from teaching students to providing opportunities for them to learn.

Ms. Chandler said communication would be a challenge to the parents and the larger community and this is a data-driven decision. She appreciated the inclusion of a panel in the recommendation.

Mr. Dunn said there is widespread support for the PLC model, but it is difficult to accommodate all individual needs in finding that time. He went on to say that if we are going to achieve the district’s 90 percent goal, this is a proven, results-oriented process and he firmly supports this recommendation.

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Ms. Howell commented that the district is just at the beginning of change and PLC time is the way we are going to reach its 90 percent goal.

Mr. Dunn said giving parents an advance notice on the PLC days will help them to notify their employers and suggested that a brochure to the business community on why we are doing this would be helpful.

Ms. Holland said that over the years she has learned that the quality of the teacher in the classroom has the greatest impact on student learning. She went on to say that the 90 percent goal is a bold one and requires a change in the way we approach student learning. She went on to say she fully supports this initiative as it honors the teaching profession and keeps in mind the needs of families.

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education approve the following: 1) the recommended 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 school calendars with 10 days of embedded time for PLC work; 2) a districtwide late start schedule; 3) a charge to administration to convene a “Blue Ribbon Panel” to further study calendar options, monitor the results of this embedded time model, and to make future recommendations as appropriate to the Board of Education. SECOND: Mr. Colwell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Discussion

Textbook Adoption: Multiple Copy Literature List

Ms. Bouwman indicated that the multiple copy literature list is a compilation of titles, both fiction and nonfiction, that are used periodically for classroom instruction at various grade levels. The proposed additions have undergone a thorough review by the Materials Approval Committee, which is charged to review books teachers recommend for use in language arts instruction.

Ms. Susan Dalton, curriculum coordinator, was available to answer questions. She pointed out that the list reflects curriculum alignment and appropriate grade level. She noted there are four titles at the high school level, Grades 11 and 12, for elective classes.

She pointed out that *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* published in 2005 reflects the world we live in today and was written after 9/11. The committee discussed the language used, but recommends the title for its compelling story. This title is recommended for use in an elective course where there is an opt-in/opt-out option.

She also indicated that *Cider House Rules* would also be used as an elective class for Grades 11 and 12. The theme addresses social issues; the scenes are not described in a graphic manner; and this book has been referenced on Advanced Placement (AP) tests as a literary question.

Mr. Dunn clarified where these two books would be used. Ms. Dalton responded it would be for 11th grade and higher in an honors course.

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Ms. Chandler asked if there is any way staff would know if a title is flagged. Ms. Howell asked if approved, are these books placed in the library. Ms. Dalton explained that the media policy has criteria as well, but students make their own choices in the library.

Ms. Holland asked which school brought forward the books *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* and *Cider House Rules* and Ms. Dalton replied Littleton High School.

This item is scheduled for action at the February 22 meeting.

Electronic Reading Assessment Title Selection

Ms. Bouwman presented two groups of titles recommended for use in the electronic reading assessment program at elementary and middle level. These titles will be available for student self-selection as independent reading. Readers use the following criteria to evaluate books prior to recommending for inclusion in this program:

- Is the book appropriate for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning style, and social development of the students?
- Does the book have the potential to stimulate growth in reading?
- Does the book reflect appropriate consideration of sensitive issues for independent reading?
- Do recommended books represent a variety of genres?

Ms. Dalton indicated one list for elementary was forwarded by Highland Elementary School and the middle school list was forwarded by Newton Middle School. The middle school list includes newer copyright dates. Ms. Howell clarified that the test after reading the book is electronic, but the book is not electronically available. Mr. Colwell asked if that assessment is part of a class. Ms. Dalton said the concept of the reading program is to have students select books on their own and complete the associated work toward a goal in the classroom.

This item is scheduled for action on February 22.

Board Policy EGAEA and EGAEA-R—Electronic Mail and Internet Services Proposed Revisions

Mr. Dan Maas, chief information officer, presented revisions to Board Policy EGAEA and its regulation entitled Electronic Mail and Internet Services. Specifically, the recommended changes to the policy are as follows:

- Add the term “approved service provider” where the term “employee” is used.
- An approved service provider would be defined as a contractor working in the district who receives approval from the supervising Assistant Superintendent.
- Employees and approved service providers are required to sign an acknowledgment form before accessing services.

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With respect to EGAEA-R, Mr. Maas noted that district policy does not address unsolicited electronic mail except to prohibit employees from sending such messages. Spam filtering systems are available on the market that can help reduce the impact of this electronic mail phenomenon on district staff. The recommended changes are as follows:

- Add the term “approved service provider” into the regulation wherever the term “employee” is used.
- Under the “Prohibited Uses” section, insert the following language:

The district reserves the right to filter non-district senders of electronic mail if an unsolicited message is sent to more than 100 recipients and the message does not further the purpose and mission of the district.

Ms. Holland asked why service providers are needed in our schools. Ms. Bouwman explained that one example would be the Tennyson Center staff working with our special needs students. Ms. Holland clarified that these individuals are serving our students, but are contractors. Mr. Murphy said another example of a service provider would be the Jacobs group that oversaw the bond program.

Mr. Dunn asked if these individuals would have access to Infinite Campus or financial statements, and the response was no.

This item will return for action on February 22.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the February 25, 2007, meeting. Action items included, Electronic Reading Assessment Title Selection, and Board Policy EGAEA—and EGAEA-R—Electronic Mail and Internet Services. Discussion items included Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Change Management Update, Status of District Technology, and MAP and CSAP: Individual Student Reports. There will also be an Insurance and Risk Management Report.

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education reconvene into executive session regarding a personnel matter, the superintendent’s evaluation.

SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

The Board went into executive session at 8:35 p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Holland
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

mcB02-08-07 (2/23/2007)