

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

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

March 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  
Sue Chandler, Secretary  
Bob Colwell, Treasurer  
Renée Howell, Assistant Secretary

#### **Absent**

John Dunn, Vice President

#### **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

#### ***Board Executive Session: Negotiations Update***

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education convene into executive session to discuss negotiations update with Mr. Scott Murphy, Mr. Mike Owens, Ms. Lucinda Hundley, Ms. Connie Bouwman, Mr. Kirk Madsen, and Mr. Stan Damas per Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402 Meetings—Open to Public Section 4(b) relating to negotiations. SECOND: Ms. Chandler. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

The regular meeting began at 6:39 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Holland asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 22, 2007, regular meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education approve the February 22, 2007, regular meeting minutes as presented this evening. SECOND: Ms. Chandler. AYE: Chandler, Holland, Howell. ABSTAIN: Colwell. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0.

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

Mr. Murphy reported that Arapahoe High School technology teacher Karl Fisch has been selected to present at the Florida Education Technology Conference in Palm Beach on March 19. This is one of the largest technology conferences in the country, and he was invited to present based on The Fischbowl, the blog that has been getting attention. Arapahoe English teacher Anne Smith is presenting with

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Karl to demonstrate specifically how his work has positively impacted her classroom and students.

Mr. Murphy also recognized Goddard Middle school 7<sup>th</sup> grader Inkgin Inksighkahn who has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award, sponsored by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program on behalf of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Mr. Murphy also invited Board members to attend the Heritage High School's play, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat".

## **Board Reports/Requests**

Mr. Colwell attended the Gifted/Talented (GT) Advisory Council meeting, was invited to Highland Elementary to observe first grade teachers involved in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) work; gave tax preparation seminars at Littleton High School; attended basketball playoffs, the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) recognition dinner, and the legislative update.

Ms. Howell attended the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) presentation, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Coalition (STEM-EC) policy group meeting and the South Metro Denver Legislative Action Committee (SMD LAC). She encouraged Board members to visit Karl Fisch's, The Fischbowl.

Ms. Chandler attended the GLYI awards dinner, the Littleton Teacher Appreciation Dinner, and the planning meeting with GLYI on the fall conference. She also attended the LPS Foundation meeting and noted the Spirit of Littleton Dinner is March 16.

Ms. Holland attended the GLYI appreciation dinner, thanked the DAC legislative subcommittee for their breakfast meeting with legislators on Monday at the State Capital, and indicated the GLYI meeting is tomorrow at 3 p.m. She also announced that Scott Murphy and Board members, Renee Howell and she will be judges for the Field Elementary School Talent Show.

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

Don Mowery said he was prepared to address the Board this evening but has decided to wait for the process to unfold on school-level concerns.

## ***Action***

### **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Holland asked if there were any items that needed to be pulled for further discussion.

Mr. Owens, assistant superintendent for human resources, said with this evening's action, the Board will be approving a change of title for Guy Grace, Jim Lamb, and Kirk Madsen.

MOTION: Ms. Chandler moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda numbered 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations with the additions this evening and 1.2 Textbook Adoption: Multiple Titles. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

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## **2007–2008 Capital Reserve Fund Projects**

Mr. Kirk Madsen, assistant superintendent of operations, indicated that in order to give administration time to design and bid facility projects prior to the construction season (July–August) for the 2007–2008 fiscal year, preliminary approval is necessary at this time. Final approval of the Capital Reserve Fund, along with the 2007–2008 annual budget occurs in June 2007.

Mr. Madsen noted the beginning fund balance of the capital reserve fund is \$2,976,038 and the school finance allocation is \$2,424,536. Total expenditures include \$3,137,524, leaving an ending fund balance of \$2.4 million. He noted that funds are allocated annually for turf and track replacement.

Mr. Madsen indicated that the capital reserve projects fall into the categories of asset preservation, safety, and health and safety. Specific projects include concrete/asphalt repair, energy management and temperature controls, flooring, fire code compliance, playground refurbishing, ADA improvements, and upgrades to name a few. He also presented the Board with a list of building improvements by school.

Mr. Colwell asked if the Heritage High School building modification and acoustical treatment project is in response to the issue of the band room, and the response was yes.

Ms. Chandler asked about playground refurbishing, in particular if each playground is evaluated. Mr. Madsen said the playgrounds are checked for drainage, fall area, and concrete around the area.

Ms. Howell said there must be another list of projects that requires some attention. Mr. Madsen responded there are several projects but they are the largest and most expensive. Mr. Murphy reiterated that from time to time, it is necessary to go to the public for a bond election for building improvements.

Administration recommended the Board authorize the staff to begin planning the 2007–2008 Capital Reserve Fund facility projects which will total approximately \$1,550,000.

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education authorize the staff to begin planning the 2007–2008 Capital Reserve Fund facility projects which will total approximately \$1,550,000. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

## ***Discussion***

### **K–12 World Languages Curriculum**

In May 2005, the Board approved revisions to the district's foreign language curriculum, including a name change to World Languages. Guided practice occurred during the 2005–2006 school year. The World Languages writing team now returns with final modifications to the curriculum as guided practice is completed. In addition to these modifications, the writing team has reformatted the curriculum to follow the new model that began with math, social studies, and physical education. Essential learnings have been developed and integrated into the format as well.

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Ms. Susan Dalton, curriculum coordinator, presented the curriculum revision process that includes the following: a committee of teachers is selected to begin the revision process, they revise the curriculum based on national and state standards, the committee shares draft copies with district teachers and recommends revisions for approval, and the Board of Education acts on the recommendation.

Ms. Dalton indicated that after this process, guided practice begins where teachers use the revised curriculum, provide feedback on learner objectives, and make final revisions. Ms. Dalton noted there are currently five curricular areas in guided practice, and there are several levels of the World Languages curriculum and writing is the most difficult part. She noted during this process, Latin classes were aligned at Heritage High School.

French teachers, Lindsay Donaldson from Arapahoe High School and Becky Hayes, Euclid Middle School, and German teacher, Roberta Mitchell from Heritage High School, were available to answer the Board's questions.

Ms. Chandler asked what world languages are most popular in the district. Ms. Hayes responded Spanish, French and depending on the school there is student interest in German, Latin, Japanese, and Chinese. Ms. Dalton noted that Chinese is a pilot.

Mr. Colwell asked about other languages offered at lower grade levels. The response was feasibility is an issue.

Ms. Howell asked if this curriculum would be followed if world languages were offered at the elementary schools. She also asked if students come in at different levels. The response was this is the greatest challenge, and one of the main issues is the amount of time allotted for the world language classes as this varies significantly. Ms. Howell also asked if world language classes are optional, and the response was they are electives.

Ms. Howell indicated that the Education Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC) toured the Littleton High School language lab and asked if the world language teachers had the opportunity to do the same. Teachers described how language labs and such devices as MP3 players enhance world language programs. Ms. Holland asked if this curriculum will prepare students for college. Teachers responded they feel confident that the world languages curriculum will adequately prepare students for further world language studies at the post-secondary level.

Ms. Chandler asked about future wishes. One response was world languages interfere with the exploratory programs at the middle schools and there is no cohesiveness at the middle level as to how long a student is exposed to the language.

Board members expressed their support for continuing to look into the possibility of introducing world languages at the elementary level districtwide.

This item will return for action on March 22.

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## Technology and Student Achievement

Mr. Dan Maas, chief information officer, presented a research report on how technology enhances student achievement. The report is the product of a collaborative research effort by an array of district personnel. The topics covered in the report include applied technologies, word processing, collaborative tools, and immediate feedback system. The purpose of the report is to begin with a compendium of research, commentary, and district perspective that can be used by district leadership in determining ideas for future technology initiatives.

The following technology teachers and computer coaches were available to share information and answer the Board's questions: Michael Porter, Boni Hamilton, and Ann Summers, the ESC; Ben Nuebel, Powell Middle School; Karl Fisch and Anne Smith, Arapahoe High School; Sonja Lahana, Peabody Elementary School; and Diane Deering and Marc Finer, Newton Middle School.

Anne Smith, language arts teacher at Arapahoe High School, presented information on writing and how it increases student performance on all tests. She noted 16 LPS schools have set priorities for writing. Ms. Smith said ample access to word processors tends to correlate to more writing and higher quality.

Ms. Smith also addressed the advantage of having laptops in her classroom. Because of the laptops she can now provide instantaneous feedback to the student on their own work. In addition, students are pod casting, blogging, and doing creative writing. The students evaluate each other's work and free online research material is available.

Ms. Howell asked if more in-depth subject matter can be covered by using laptops. Mr. Holland encouraged the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century assessments as the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) test is still handwritten.

Ann Summers, math specialist, talked about instant response systems that allow the teacher to target instruction to student needs. They also use graphing calculators that are computers. She said the navigator system allows multiple choice response as well as open ended response.

Marc Finer, teacher at Newton Middle School, said each school has some technology whether it is metal or wood, graphic design, or video production. Diane Deering, teacher at Newton, said when middle school students are asked what technology means to them, they mention computers, e-mail, gaming systems, MP3 players, to name a few.

Mr. Finer commented on the difference between Technology Education and Educational Technology. Technology Education teaches about technology as a content area with the primary goal of technological literacy for everyone. Educational Technology uses technology as a tool. Its primary goal is to enhance the teaching and learning process. He said the LPS technology education curriculum guide includes tools, machines and materials as technological resources, technology systems (critical thinking), technological achievements, problem solving, resources, and technology-based careers.

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Ms. Deering covered what employers desire, which includes observing and inspecting, writing and communication skills, creative as well as analytic thinking, problem solvers, critical thinkers, decision makers, knowledge of tools, knowledge of technology and gathering pertinent information.

Ms. Chandler commented that technology is a vehicle to enhance all of those areas.

Mike Porter, technology integration specialist, and Karl Fisch talked about how classrooms are connected. Mr. Porter shared an experience in a classroom in New Jersey. Mr. Porter went on to describe an emerging technology called Skype where students and teachers can communicate across the world using a free internet communications system.

Mr. Colwell asked if students have the opportunity to use a foreign language, and the response was students can search which language they want to use.

Ms. Howell asked how difficult it is to use this technology. Mr. Porter said it takes some training and start up time. Ms. Holland asked how the equipment is being used. Karl Fisch said in terms of the way the grant was written, there are three classrooms where teachers have full access to the technology.

Boni Hamilton, assistant director of instructional technology, talked about 1:1 computing. She said elementary schools can do this as well as the high school. Ms. Hamilton said teachers need laptops in order to build confidence in using technology.

Ms. Howell asked what is going to happen to those students who become sophomores next year from Anne Smith's classes. The response was potentially a majority of these students could have a laptop all four years.

### **Enrollment Forecast**

Mr. Madsen indicated that enrollment projections are a key component in developing the district's 2007–2008 budget and long-range financial forecasts. He reviewed the 2007–2008 projected enrollments by level and school site with a comparison to 2006–2007 actual enrollment.

He highlighted that overall enrollment without charter schools is 209 lower than the 2006–2007 actual; charter schools are 18 lower than 2006–2007 actual; and average funded pupil count is 177.5 lower than 2006–2007, which equates to a loss of over \$1 million. Total 2007–2008 projected enrollment is 15,330.9 students.

Mr. Madsen noted that the elementary level is down 14 students. The middle schools are down 92 students, and the high schools are down by 91 students. He then showed projections by school. Next steps will be to update the capacity study, as the 2002 bond program has made some changes to capacity.

Ms. Holland asked how this relates to the demographics study. Mr. Madsen said these projections are closest to the middle scenario of the demographics study. Ms. Holland asked about historic enrollment at the high schools. Mr. Madsen said the district has reached a plateau. Heritage High School has space for more students but Arapahoe and Littleton high schools are at full capacity.

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Ms. Chandler asked if those on waiting lists are included in those figures.

Mr. Madsen responded only the students accepted during the open enrollment process are included. Ms. Holland asked if families are encouraged to put their students on waiting lists for LPS schools that are not full.

Mr. Colwell noted Centennial Academy is up by 24 students and asked if these students are out of district. Mr. Madsen responded it is the result of very strong kindergarten classes or all day kindergarten.

Ms. Howell asked at what point in time does the district address the repurposing of a school. Mr. Madsen said new district programs must be considered as they consume capacity. Mr. Murphy said it is also a matter of how space is used to attract more students to the district.

Ms. Holland asked how the full-time equivalents (FTEs) have dropped at schools. Mr. Owens said there will be reductions at Heritage High School, as well as a reduction of total FTEs across the district.

## ***Report***

### **Fuel and Utility Cost Analysis Report**

The Fuel and Utility Cost Analysis Report that shows fuel and utility consumption, rates, and total cost for the past five years as well as projections for the next five years was presented for Board information.

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

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda of the March 22, 2007, Board meeting. Action items included K–12 World Languages Curriculum and Superintendent’s Contract for 2007–2008. Discussion items include Student Achievement: Overview of Writing., Citizens’ Oversight Committee, and Textbook Adoption: *Everyday Math, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*—Kindergarten.

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education meeting adjourn.

SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Holland

President

Sue Chandler  
Secretary

mcB03-08-07 (3/23/2007)