

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 9, 2009

Call to Order

President Bob Colwell called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 March 19, 2009, regular Board meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 19, 2009, regular Board meeting as presented. SECOND: Ms. Chandler. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy reported that poems written by Twain Elementary School students were selected by Imagination Makers to be part of its performance, "Poetrees and Other Voices from Nature," a play that celebrates children's experiences of the Earth. The Littleton High School PeaceJam Club held its first annual PeaceJam Poetry Slam in recognition of the Remember the Forgotten campaign.

Mr. Murphy said that Heritage High School freshman Cheyanne Wilson will be honored by Governor Bill Ritter at the Governor's Holocaust Remembrance dinner for her first-place finish in the Anti-Defamation League's student essay contest. Arapahoe science department chair Jesse Craig was selected as the Colorado Biology Teacher of the Year by the Colorado Biology Teachers Association.

Mr. Murphy said that the Littleton High School International Baccalaureate (IB) art show featured the work of five seniors who are completing their IB art exam. Centennial Academy of Fine Arts will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Friday, April 24. Arapahoe High School technology teacher Karl Fisch will be honored at the third annual Arapahoe Community College Foundation scholarship luncheon for his contribution to technology and education. Mr. Murphy referenced an article

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in the newspaper *The Philanthropy* that featured Katie Dark, an Arapahoe High graduate. She is one of three young women who started Girls Incorporated Junior Alliance.

Mr. Murphy stated that the School Finance Symposium held on April 2 was well attended by about 75 people, including three legislators. He said the information presented was both sobering and enlightening. Mr. Murphy encouraged community members to visit the Budget Matters area of the LPS website for more information.

Mr. Murphy announced that May is Better Speech and Hearing Month. Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services introduced district speech-language pathologists Nancy Souther and Amy Philofsky. Mr. Murphy read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the audiologist and speech-language pathologists in Littleton Public Schools observe and celebrate Better Speech and Hearing Month during the month of May; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who have overcome their communication disabilities through the services of dedicated audiologists and speech-language pathologists; and

WHEREAS, audiology and speech-language pathology services throughout our nation help to enable and empower individuals with communication disabilities to lead independent, productive and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, Littleton Public Schools is proud and honored to have 31 audiologists and speech-language pathologists who offer quality educational and support services to approximately 561 students;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Littleton Public Schools proclaims the month of May as Better Speech and Hearing Month, and we encourage our staff and students to recognize the achievements of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in improving the quality of life for people with communication disabilities.

The proclamation was signed by Mr. Colwell, Ms. Souther, and Ms. Philofsky. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Colwell expressed appreciation for the work of these district staff members.

Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Stanish attended the School Finance Symposium on April 2, noting this is an important community topic. She attended the National School Boards Association (NSBA) annual conference, noting that a variety of sessions were offered. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was a keynote speaker.

Ms. Howell attended the School Finance Symposium. She thanked Scott Myers, chief financial officer, and Donna Holstlaw, director of finance and risk management, along with the business services staff and the Financial Advisory Committee for their work in organizing the symposium. Ms. Howell attended a planning meeting for the annual Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) convention in December. Ms. Howell attended the Education Technology

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Advisory Committee (ETAC) meeting held at Newton Middle School. She attended the Gifted and Talented Advisory Council meeting in place of Ms. Nichols. Ms. Howell said members of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education Coalition (STEM-EC) visited East Elementary School to observe the writing project using laptops. She said the group also toured a Heritage High School class that was live online with students in Center, Colorado. The visits were reported at a subsequent STEM-EC meeting.

Ms. Chandler announced that the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) will meet on April 10. Dr. Paula Riggs, associate professor, from the University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Psychiatry Department will be the speaker. Ms. Chandler said she received an email from Kaiser Permanente thanking her and others for participating in the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) meeting. Ms. Chandler attended the NSBA conference and attended sessions on health/wellness, leadership and accountability, Professional Learning Communities, and school consolidation.

Ms. Nichols attended the School Finance Symposium and the NSBA conference. She commented about the closing session speaker, Greg Mortenson, the session featuring Doug Reeves, and a session on improving school board work.

Mr. Colwell attended the School Finance Symposium and said that excellent information was presented. He thanked Ms. Howell for suggesting the idea of a school finance symposium.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

Mr. Sam Drury spoke about public visibility of LPS student academic achievement progress, specifically related to NCLB and Adequate Yearly Progress.

Ms. Pam Cirbo thanked LPS administrators for clarifying the math testing conducted at Heritage High School.

Action

Consent Agenda

Mr. Mike Owens, assistant superintendent of human resources, stated that the new principal for Wilder Elementary School is being recommended to the Board this evening. Ms. Jean Martinez, director of elementary education, introduced Dr. Patricia Cook, who is currently serving as curriculum director, assistant superintendent, and school psychologist in Douglas, Wyoming. Dr. Cook extended her thanks for the friendly attitude of the LPS community and staff.

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

Mr. Colwell asked if the Latin courses at Heritage would continue to be offered after the resignation of the Heritage Latin teacher. Mr. Owens responded that Heritage has arranged with Arapahoe Community College to bring its Latin teacher to the Heritage campus to teach these courses.

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Discussion

School Finance and Budget Implications

Mr. Scott Myers, chief financial officer, reported the current state of school finance issues in the Colorado Legislature. He stated that the Denver-Boulder Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used for Amendment 23 calculations, was 3.9 percent. Mr. Myers reviewed the various elements of Senate Bill 256 as it left the Senate, noting there was some hope that the bill would come out of the House with a less dramatic impact on district funding. He also compared this bill's proposed changes to current law. Mr. Myers said that Senate Bill 215 rescinded the 2008–2009 increase in Per Pupil Revenue (PPR) base funding, which would result in an ongoing reduction of base PPR funding for LPS of an estimated \$381,000. The changes proposed in both bills results in no additional revenue for LPS, which has a significant impact on the 2009–2010 district budget. Mr. Myers further noted that funding from the American Economic Recovery Reinvestment Act is still being reviewed to determine how these funds can be used by state education agencies and local school districts.

Mr. Myers reviewed the timeline for both legislative action and the LPS budget development process. He said the Legislature will pass the School Finance Act in May without federal stimulus funds. The LPS proposed budget will be presented to the Board on May 28 and is scheduled for adoption by the Board on June 25. Stimulus funds may become available in July.

Ms. Howell asked what the PERA and health care increases would be for 2009–2010, and Mr. Myers responded that the PERA increase is \$900,000 annually, and health care increase will be about \$750,000 in 2009–2010.

Mr. Colwell asked if most school districts are in a similar situation to LPS.

Mr. Myers responded that districts with declining enrollment are getting hit the hardest. Ms. Nichols asked if districts that passed a mill levy in 2008 are better off. Mr. Murphy stated that many school districts, even those that passed a mill levy in 2008, are having some serious problems. Mr. Murphy said this is the most serious situation in public school finance he has seen in his career.

Ms. Chandler asked if the federal stimulus dollars are guaranteed, and Mr. Myers responded that cuts to higher education funding currently under consideration by the Legislature could affect Colorado's opportunity for stimulus funds. Ms. Howell asked if the state's 2009–2010 budget could be affected by negative projections in the June economic forecast. Mr. Myers said the Legislature could call a special session and make adjustments to the budget that could include a rescission.

Mr. Colwell asked if the district could be faced with the need to lay off employees at the beginning of the school year, and Mr. Myers responded that it is a possibility.

Mr. Colwell thanked Mr. Myers for the update.

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Educational Technology and Information Literacy Plan

Mr. Dan Maas, chief information officer, presented an Educational Technology and Information Literacy (ET-IL) plan to meet the accreditation requirement of the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Mr. Maas explained that this plan must include a variety of elements including goals and objectives, professional development, budget, and evaluation. He further explained that E-rate requests must be included in the plan. Mr. Maas stated that technology is a priority in LPS, with four areas of the Strategic Plan referencing technology. Mr. Maas reviewed some of the technology innovations in LPS since 2002. He explained that the ET-IL plan builds on these innovations, particularly noting the 2006 technology innovation grants awarded by the LPS Board, the 2008 Power Up Writing for fifth grade classrooms at East, Field, Hopkins, Moody, and Whitman elementary schools, funded by CDE, and the ninth grade professional development grant from CDE in 2009. In addition, funds reserved for annual computer replacement for administrators would be redirected to support Phase I implementation of the plan, for a total of \$500,000. This project can ultimately support laptops for student writing for approximately 13,000 students over a four-year period.

Mr. Colwell asked how many classrooms would be impacted over a four-year period, and Mr. Maas responded that the number is 149 classrooms. Mr. Colwell clarified that the district funds for computer replacement are currently in the capital reserve fund. Mr. Maas stated that staff will not be negatively affected by this change in fund usage.

Gary Hein, Euclid Middle School principal, Greg Sumlin, East Elementary School principal, Mike Porter, assistant director, instructional technology, and Mollie McDonald, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and Briggs Buckley, ETAC chair, presented additional information about the ET-IL plan and its impact on student learning in the area of writing.

Ms. Nichols said she appreciated the excellent work done on the ET-IL plan document and its focus on learning and technology as a tool for learning.

Ms. Chandler asked how the student laptops have held up, and Mr. Porter responded that repair calls have been low, and no laptops have been stolen or vandalized. Ms. Chandler asked if students were demonstrating a different attitude about writing. Mr. Sumlin responded that students are interacting and collaborating with one another and otherwise engaged in learning in ways not typically seen in classrooms.

Ms. Howell asked if the current level of technology support in schools is adequate to handle additional laptop computers. Mr. Maas responded that these student laptops require minimal service support and teachers can often handle student needs for support. Ms. Stanish remarked that the district will need to change how computer skills are taught to students. Mr. Porter said technology skills are assumed as part of the overall curriculum and not taught as a separate curriculum. Ms. Howell asked about the professional development grant implementation for ninth grade teachers. Mr. Maas said the district stresses integration of technology to support teaching and learning, and said teachers are excited about the potential.

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Mr. Murphy remarked that the LPS Foundation (LPSF) has been instrumental in supporting technology and is committed to continued support. Ms. Howell noted that the 2002 bond project to build the district-wide fiber-optic network was pivotal to today's technology advances. Mr. Colwell said the district has made tremendous advances in technology during his tenure on the Board, and he supports the ET-IL plan that utilizes funds to support student learning.

One citizen addressed the Board. Mary McGlone, LPSF board president, said the Foundation is excited to continue its partnership with the district to support technology innovation. She encouraged the Board to move forward with the ET-IL plan.

Mr. Colwell thanked Mr. Maas and administration for their work on the ET-IL plan. This item will return for action on April 23.

Board Policy Revisions: JFBA—Intradistrict Choice/Open Enrollment and Transfers and JFBB/JFBB-R—Interdistrict Enrollment (Nonresident Students)

Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, reviewed proposed revisions to district policies concerning in-district optional enrollment and nonresident student enrollment. She stated that the rationale for the revisions is to better align district policies with state law regarding Colorado Public Schools of Choice, and district counsel assisted with the proposed revisions. Ms. Hundley explained that district practice of limiting an optionally enrolled resident student's return to the home school is not legal, and holding nonresident students to a higher standard than in-district students is not permitted.

Ms. Stanish said she is pleased to see the change regarding the return of in-district students to their home school. Mr. Colwell asked where "good standing" for nonresident students is defined in policy, and Ms. Hundley referenced the second paragraph on page two of Policy JFBB. She also said there will be more specific information in the Student Code of Conduct and on the district's nonresident enrollment forms.

Ms. Chandler asked if there is still a geographic area in the district where families may choose which high school they attend. Mr. Madsen responded that this "choice" area is at the geographic point where high school attendance boundaries come together, and high school students in this area would not be subject to the optional enrollment criteria in the policy.

Ms. Nichols asked that a cross reference to Board Policy KCB, KCB-R, Review of Decisions at Request of Community Members be added to Policy JFBA to be consistent with Policy JFBB.

Ms. Chandler asked if there is a reference to the transfer of student transcripts in these policies, and Ms. Hundley stated that is covered in the grading practices policies. Ms. Nichols asked if families are given reasons why a request for optional enrollment or nonresident enrollment is denied. Ms. Hundley stated the forms contain an area to indicate the reason for denial, and additional specificity will be added to the form.

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Ms. Hundley stated that considerable effort has been made to help principals operationalize the proposed revisions. During a meeting with principals further questions were raised that could lead to additional proposed revisions to these policies. If that occurs, administration will bring the policies back for further discussion on April 23.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Hundley for her work on these policies. The policies are tentatively scheduled for action on April 23, pending further discussion with district counsel.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the April 23, 2009, Board meeting. There will be an executive session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Action items include Nonrenewal of Probationary Teacher Contracts—Recommendations for the 2009–2010 School Year, 2009–2010 Employee Benefit Plans, and Quarterly Financial Report. Discussion items include Textbook Adoption: Arapahoe High School, Universal Literacy Framework: Update, Phase I Schools, and Student Achievement Tracking System.

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 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

ks (4/27/09)