

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 14, 2009

Call to Order

President Bob Colwell called the meeting to order at 6:45 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 April 23, 2009, regular Board meeting. On page 2, first paragraph under Board Reports/Requests, Ms. Nichols corrected the fifth sentence to read, "*an Arapahoe* student council meeting." Also on page 2, third paragraph under Board Reports/Requests, Ms. Howell corrected the second sentence to read, "*the Arapahoe* student council meeting."

MOTION: Ms. Chandler moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 23, 2009, regular Board meeting as corrected. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy announced that the LPS PTO Joint Scholarship Committee awarded continuing education scholarships to 15 LPS teachers. Scholarships have been awarded since 1958, and are funded by individual school PTOs. Ames kindergarten teacher Sara Duncan has been accepted to the doctoral program at the Teachers College at Columbia University. Karl Fisch, director of technology at Arapahoe High School was named the 2009 Outstanding Leader by the International Society for Technology in Education. Littleton High School athletic director Butch Risoli was named Athletic Director of the Year by the Colorado Athletic Directors' Association. Bruce Fox, Newton music teacher, was selected to receive a Fulbright grant to participate in a teacher exchange in Switzerland next year.

Mr. Murphy expressed congratulations to Arapahoe junior Thomas Roberts for earning a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. Littleton sophomore Alexandra Wood will

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travel to Eastern Europe with the organization Bold Leaders Emerging Youth, which focuses on civic engagement, action, and democracy. A number of Sandburg Elementary School students received high honors in the Rocky Mountain Talent Search hosted by the University of Denver. Fourth grader Abby Hathorne earned the highest English score in Colorado. Several Littleton students and social studies teacher James Gordon were used as a positive example in the book, *Disconnect: Why Americans Don't Understand the World and How We Can Learn*, by Mark Robert Schneider. Several Powell Middle School students received national recognition for excellent performances on the 2009 National Spanish Examinations.

Mr. Murphy said last week was Teacher Appreciation Week, and LPS parents honored teachers in a variety of ways.

Mr. Colwell read the following proclamation in celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week 2009:

WHEREAS, teachers make public schools great; and

WHEREAS, teachers work to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams; and

WHEREAS, teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators, and mentors; and

WHEREAS, teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories;

NOW THEREFORE, WE, Mary Haney, president of Littleton Education Association (LEA); and Bob Colwell, president of Littleton Public Schools Board of Education; do hereby declare the week of May 3–9, 2009 as Teacher Appreciation Week in Littleton Public Schools and ask citizens to join in honoring and acknowledging the impact of teachers on our lives and those of our students.

Mr. Colwell and Mary Haney, president of the Littleton Education Association signed the proclamation. Ms. Haney thanked the Board for the time they spend in support of teachers. She expressed her appreciation for the work teachers do to educate students each day at all levels of learning, noting it takes a special connection between the teacher and student before learning happens.

Ms. Howell remarked that teacher blogs provide insight into the amount of work teachers give on behalf of students. Ms. Stanish recalled the years she spent with PTOs organizing teacher appreciation celebrations, and said she is in awe of teachers' accomplishments. Ms. Nichols stated that teachers are constantly planning and thinking about their students. Ms. Chandler commented about the passion of teachers and their involvement in activities throughout the community, noting that teachers play a big role in the lives of students. Mr. Colwell said the Board truly values LPS teachers.

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Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Nichols said she enjoyed reading to children at The Village recently. She attended the Centennial Elementary School 50th anniversary celebration and the Centennial fine arts show held at Goddard Middle School. Ms. Nichols also attended the breakfast meeting with the Classified Employees Advisory Council (CEAC), and the Hopkins Elementary School arts festival. She attended a meeting of the Colorado School Finance Project, and the LPS retirement dinner.

Ms. Chandler attended a Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) board meeting. She congratulated high schools on their successful proms and after-prom parties. Ms. Chandler commented about the many LPS athletic teams that are competing in state finals. Ms. Chandler traveled to Washington, D.C. for a health and wellness conference and said LPS is fortunate to have great partnerships with community agencies to provide activities for children.

Ms. Howell attended a Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Region 5 meeting, the Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC) annual luncheon, the Arapahoe High choir concert, and the CEAC breakfast meeting. She attended the retirement celebration for Ed Cannava, Arapahoe band director, the Centennial Elementary fine arts fair, and the LPS retirement dinner. She attended a student leaders discussion at Heritage with Ms. Stanish. Ms. Howell participated in a CASB webinar concerning federal stimulus funds, and the final meeting of the Governor's online learning advisory board. She expressed appreciation for the new photos in the Board Room.

Ms. Stanish attended the Centennial Elementary anniversary celebration, the LPS retirement dinner, and the PTO Joint Scholarship awards celebration. She attended a pops vocal concert at Littleton High and the Heritage leadership class discussion with Ms. Howell. Ms. Stanish also attended the CEAC breakfast meeting and the PEBC luncheon.

Mr. Colwell attended the Centennial Elementary 50th anniversary celebration, the LPS retirement dinner, and the CASB Region 5 meeting. He attended the PTO training session for incoming PTO presidents, and mentioned a recent trip to California where he visited his high school alma mater. He commented about the severity of California's state budget crisis.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

Mr. Sam Drury spoke about public visibility of LPS student achievement progress, specifically the Grade 3 reading CSAP results and the district's initiatives to improve student achievement.

Action

Consent Agenda

Mr. Colwell asked if there was any additional information or questions about the items listed in the consent agenda. Mr. Mike Owens, assistant superintendent of human resources stated that a new assistant principal for Heritage is being recommended to the Board tonight. Ian Wells currently teaches at Mountain Vista High School in Highlands Ranch. Mr. Owens noted that 21 teachers are retiring this

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year and choosing to work a 93/93-day contract in 2009–2010. He further commented that 21 teachers are completing a 93/93-day contract at the end of the current school year.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda numbered 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations with the additions made this evening, 1.2 Multiple Copy Literature List, and 1.3 Textbook Adoption: Arapahoe High School. SECOND: Ms. Nichols AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Discussion

PLC Update, Part 2—Secondary Simulation

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, said that Professional Learning Communities (PLC) work plays a vital role in improving student achievement. A PLC demonstration has been prepared to give the Board a better understanding of the work done in PLCs at the secondary level.

Julie Carlson, instruction coordinator, reviewed the connection between PLC work and the district’s pyramid of intervention (POI), noting that PLCs focus on learning and foster a collective culture of responsibility for student achievement. She said much of the work done in PLCs focuses on defining essential learnings and results of assessments.

Ms. Carlson introduced Lisa Sutterer, instructional coach at Euclid Middle School, Ray Hawthorne, instructional coach at Arapahoe, Marty Oliver, ESL teacher at Goddard, Krista McDaniel, language arts teacher at Littleton, and Charlie Brown, instructional coach at Powell Middle School. Ms. Carlson explained that these teachers will demonstrate the work of an eighth grade social studies team that is focusing on the question, “What do we do when students are not learning?” During the simulation teachers discussed the results of a recent assessment and discussed shared strategies for better classroom instruction to improve student learning. The teachers discussed and charted ideas about using consistent strategies in all classrooms.

Ms. Stanish said she appreciated the simulation as it gives a view of PLCs without interrupting actual meetings. She especially liked the group interaction that was demonstrated. Ms. Chandler asked the teachers who presented the simulation if they felt they had the support needed to do PLC work. Mr. Hawthorne said Ms. Carlson has provided excellent support to follow the Board’s direction. He noted that change is slow because traditional teaching methods are deeply embedded, but change is happening. Mr. Brown said that instructional coaches meet regularly, which provides opportunities to learn from each other across buildings.

Ms. Howell expressed appreciation for the efforts of teachers and instructional coaches to support this work. Ms. Nichols said she recognizes the risk-taking involved in PLC work. Mr. Hawthorne responded that PLCs have broken down the walls of isolation and created an opportunity for collaboration. Ms. Chandler remarked that PLCs expose teachers’ vulnerability and provide time for sharing that did not exist in the past.

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Mr. Colwell expressed appreciation for the work of the district instructional coaches and their support in improving teaching and learning for students.

School Finance Update

Mr. Scott Myers, chief financial officer, presented information about the School Finance Act (SFA) in place for 2009–2010, as well as other finance-related legislation that affects the district budget. Factors in the SFA include an increase based on the consumer price index and Amendment 23 of 4.9 percent, the state rescission in 2008–2009 that takes away 0.3 percent of SFA funds, LPS declining enrollment, which decreases funding by 1.0 percent, an increase to per pupil revenue (PPR) of 3.6 percent, and restricted reserves for fiscal emergency, which decreases available funds by 2.0 percent. The net increase in SFA funding for LPS is 1.6 percent. Mr. Myers noted that the overall increase in revenue for 2009–2010 is lower than 1.6 percent when other revenue sources are factored in. Mr. Myers explained that the restricted reserve dollars may not be spent before January 29, 2010, and these funds may very well be called back by the state if the state tax base does not increase. He said the 2009–2010 proposed budget amount is \$1.7 million more than the 2008–2009 adopted budget, and noted that health premiums and PERA increases alone are greater than \$1.7 million.

Mr. Myers said that the 2008–2009 rescission impacts LPS by an estimated \$381,000 as an on-going base PPR reduction. Mr. Myers said the School Finance Act retains the five-year student count averaging, and supplemental full-day kindergarten funding will continue at .58 full-time equivalent (FTE). He further explained that 2.8 percent of the SFA is back-filled with federal stimulus funds.

Mr. Myers reviewed additional changes to school finance, which include authorization of additional property tax revenues from 20 to 25 percent. This provides some additional flexibility for future mill levy elections. Minimum spending requirements for instructional supplies and materials were removed, and capital reserve and insurance reserve funding requirements were also eliminated. Mr. Myers noted, however, that even though restrictions are gone, capital construction and insurance costs are still part of the overall budget. The three percent TABOR emergency reserve was also modified to provide some flexibility.

Other financial legislation that will be sent to the Governor for signature includes modifications to the Arveschoug-Bird spending limit, the merger of the Denver Public Schools retirement system with the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), and changes to school district bond elections to include charter schools in future bond elections.

Ms. Nichols asked if charter schools are required to maintain reserves for capital construction, and Mr. Myers responded they are not under this requirement.

Ms. Chandler asked if the recent property tax evaluations affected LPS. Mr. Myers responded that property tax revenues have a greater impact on the state budget than at the local level because of the mill levy freeze.

Ms. Howell commented that there are many financial unknowns, and Mr. Myers agreed, stating that budget forecasts are more difficult and must be very conservative. Ms. Howell remarked that 2011 will bring significant budgeting

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challenges as federal stimulus money ends, Referendum C ends, and the one percent increase from Amendment 23 also ends.

Ms. Chandler stated that school districts are being cautioned against planning for the availability of restricted reserves. Mr. Myers said he is not confident that the district will be able to keep this money, and it will likely be very close to the January 29, 2010, deadline before anything is known. Ms. Howell commented that with the many uncertainties, it is difficult to know whether a future mill levy election is the right approach. She expressed appreciation for the concise and informative report.

Considerations for Repurposing Ames/Whitman

Ms. Bouwman said administration has been discussing possible alternatives for repurposing Ames and Whitman elementary schools. Mr. Kirk Madsen, assistant superintendent of operations, reviewed the unsolicited inquiries from outside groups about the possibility of using Ames Elementary School. These inquiries included a request from the Littleton Soccer Club for office space, a request to use space for Meals on Wheels, requests from two music groups, and two inquiries from private gifted and talented schools. Mr. Madsen's department also received an inquiry about selling the building for conversion to affordable living units.

Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, reviewed the proposed repurposing plan for Whitman Elementary School. This recommendation includes relocation of the Pathways program from the North building, moving two Options classes that currently share space at Options, and renting three classrooms to the Littleton Soccer Club for office space. Other space at Whitman will be held for future use. Ms. Hundley said the district will benefit from these recommendations with the creation of a comprehensive alternative education site and the addition of a library and computer lab for Options and Pathways students. The computer lab can also be used for evening training classes. The district also creates good will by making office space available for a community program, noting that Littleton Soccer gives back to at-risk students in the district. Costs for modifications include an estimated \$10,000 for the gymnasium conversion, which will require moving some plumbing lines. Funds to move furniture, equipment, and materials will also be needed. The space will be ready for the start of the 2009–2010 school year.

Ms. Bouwman reviewed recommendations for the use of Ames Elementary School, which include creation of a learning resource center that will be used for staff development and other training needs, along with meeting room space and a video production site. Ms. Bouwman commented that space for meetings, especially large groups, is very limited. Two programs that are part of the Arapahoe/Douglas Career and Technical School will also be housed at Ames. The Teacher Cadet Program is currently housed there, and the Health Science Technology program will also be located at Ames. Meals on Wheels will relocate its operation to Ames and will use the kitchen and have space for an office area. Ms. Bouwman said that these recommendations will serve district needs as well as community needs. She stated that no capital improvements are needed at this time and furnishings for training rooms will come from existing budgets. Costs associated with the health science

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technology program will come from the existing career/technology education budget. This space will be available at the start of the 2009–2010 school year.

Ms. Howell asked how the immediate neighborhood, as well as the larger community, will be informed of the new uses for these buildings. Ms. Bouwman responded that a communication plan will be developed. Ms. Stanish said she supports the learning resource center concept as there is a need for space for training. Ms. Chandler asked who people should contact concerning use of these facilities, and Mr. Madsen responded his department handles building rental. Ms. Chandler asked if restroom facilities would require modifications, and Mr. Madsen responded that restroom facilities at Whitman in the areas to be occupied by Pathways and Options students are adequate. Littleton Soccer Club will be responsible for its own facility modifications.

Ms. Stanish asked if the entire Meals on Wheels operation was moving from Bradley House, and the response was yes. Mr. Jim Mingle, a Meals on Wheels Board member said the organization is thrilled to partner with LPS and the kitchen facilities at Ames will enable the program to serve even more people in need.

Ms. Chandler asked if there will be any traffic or parking issues related to these recommendations. Mr. Madsen said administration is still working out logistics, but does not anticipate any problems.

Mr. Colwell said he is pleased with the repurposing recommendations as they represent a good mix of serving the community and meeting district needs. He stated that the recommendations support the values of the Board to enhance community partnerships.

Intergovernmental and Lease Agreements with South Suburban Park and Recreation District

Mr. Kirk Madsen, assistant superintendent of operations, presented intergovernmental and lease agreements between Littleton Public Schools and South Suburban Park and Recreation District (SSPRD). The Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Joint Use of Elementary School Fields continues an existing agreement that was first established in 1994, and continues the agreement with automatic annual renewals for a period of 20 years. A ten-year extension of the lease agreement for Harlow Park is also recommended.

A new intergovernmental agreement concerns the joint use of playground facilities at East Elementary School. In January 2009 the Board approved submittal of a grant application for Arapahoe County open space parks and trails funds to be used for playground improvements and creation of a community park. Terms of the agreement are similar to the joint use agreement for elementary school fields. The agreement is contingent upon the successful grant award from Arapahoe County; the agreement is void if the grant award is not received. Mr. Madsen said the agreements have been reviewed by legal counsel.

Ms. Nichols asked why all elementary schools are not listed in the joint use of elementary school play fields agreement. Mr. Madsen responded that Ames,

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Centennial, Hopkins, and Lenski elementary schools have adjoining parcels of land already owned by SSPRD; no other play fields are needed in those areas.

Mr. Murphy introduced Ms. Joann Gould from South Suburban Community Partners. Ms. Gould expressed appreciation for the renewal of existing agreements and the creation of a new agreement. She thanked staff for their time and preparation and noted the great relationship that exists between LPS and SSPRD.

Report

Technology Innovation Grant Report

Ms. Howell thanked Mr. Dan Maas, chief information officer, for the informative report concerning the status of innovative grants. Ms. Stanish asked how Hopkins Elementary School will use the Alpha Smart computers in the future. Mr. Maas said they will be used at the primary grade levels. Ms. Nichols asked about video conferences at Littleton High School. Mr. Maas said LHS has hosted three to four virtual field trips per year, and on June 30 will host a virtual conference to see Karl Fisch receive the 2009 Outstanding Leader award from the International Society for Technology in Education.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the May 28, 2009, Board meeting. Action items include Teacher Status Recommendations for the 2009–2010 School Year. Discussion items include Legislative Wrap-up, Fiscal Year 2009–2010 Proposed Budget, and Exclusive Beverage Contract.

There will also be a Board meeting on June 11.

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education meeting adjourn.
SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish.
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

ks (6/2/09)