

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

August 14, 2008

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 June 26, 2008, regular Board meeting. On page 6, second paragraph Ms. Howell corrected the last phrase to read "...and that board advises caution *while* beginning a district online learning program."

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the June 26, 2008, regular Board meeting as corrected. SECOND: Ms. Chandler. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Mr. Colwell asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the July 22, 2008, special Board meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the July 22, 2008, special Board meeting as presented. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. Ms. Chandler did not vote due to her absence on July 22. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy noted that Western Welcome Week is in full swing with the Carousel of Music last evening, and the parade coming up on Saturday. He remarked that Heritage High School served ice cream for the district this year at the Carousel of Music. Mr. Murphy also commented on the new teacher breakfast that was held yesterday and thanked Board members for their attendance. He said schools are working hard and getting ready for students to return on Tuesday.

Mr. Murphy highlighted district schools that had notable gains on the 2008 Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). Heritage High School increased in all areas

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tested; Twain and Whitman elementary schools increased in eight areas, with Whitman increasing by five percentage points or greater. Six other schools including Ames, Lenski, Littleton Academy, Wilder, Powell, and Arapahoe showed sustained improvement. The district as a whole saw significant increases in ninth grade math. While district scores remain above the state average, LPS faces challenges in some areas, including third and eighth grade writing, and eighth grade science. The district has some things in place to address these challenges such as the summer literacy institute, a district-wide focus on literacy, and the pyramid of intervention. In addition, the Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC) will support a literacy program at Goddard Middle School. Mr. Murphy suggested that the Board may want to have a workshop on the topic of student achievement.

Mr. Murphy reported that LPS and Englewood School District have joined together to receive a \$225,000 grant, Powering Up the Writer's Workshop, which will fund 300 ASUS Eee laptop computers to be used in fifth grade classrooms. East, Field, Hopkins, Moody, and Whitman elementary schools, along with five Englewood elementary schools will participate.

Mr. Murphy announced that the Board will hold a workshop on Monday, August 18, 6 p.m., on the district budget as well as a discussion with the Facilities Use Task Force.

Mr. Murphy reported that students from Arapahoe and Littleton high schools competed in the national Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition in June, with seven Arapahoe students in the final fifteen. Sixty-five district middle and high school students competed in the national Technology Student Association (TSA) competition this summer as well, with some LPS students placing in the top 10 in the nation.

Mr. Murphy announced that about 75 high school soccer coaches attended a National Soccer Coaches of America coaching course held at Arapahoe High School. Mr. Guy Grace, director of security and emergency planning, was recently featured in an article in a Chinese security trade magazine. The annual report on the number of volunteer hours logged showed a total of approximately 217,000 hours donated by community members, which represents more than \$2 million of in-kind contributions. Arapahoe high school senior football players volunteered at Children's Hospital last week and they hope to make this an annual event.

Mr. Murphy highlighted the addition of the reference to strategic focus areas to each discussion item on the Board's meeting agenda, which is a way of showing alignment of the Board's discussions with the Strategic Plan.

Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Stanish has enjoyed Western Welcome Week activities including the Taste of Western Welcome Week and Carousel of Music, and she is looking forward to the Elk's barbeque and the parade. Ms. Stanish attended the senior citizens tax rebate program breakfast, and the new teacher breakfast. She also joined administrators for breakfast at their leadership workshop on August 1.

Ms. Howell attended the Taste of Western Welcome Week and the Carousel of Music. She also attended the new teacher breakfast and enjoyed presentations by teachers. Ms. Howell joined administrators for breakfast at the leadership workshop.

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She had a meeting with the Colorado Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Coalition (COMSTEC) government relations, a group that monitors policy and legislative activities. Ms. Howell attended the Science, Technology, Engineer, and Math Education Coalition (STEM-EC) meeting. She noted that the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce has hired Trevani Sandhi, who will work with the internship program.

Ms. Chandler attended a program held in Arkansas on childhood obesity and wellness as part of the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) state team. This group has been working on some initiatives under the title, "Colorado Connections for Healthy Schools – Making the Connection Between Health and Learning."

Ms. Chandler noted that three bills were passed in Colorado in 2008 related to wellness and nutrition in schools. Ms. Chandler thanked Connie Bouwman, Julie Carlson, and all those involved in the organization of the new teacher breakfast.

Ms. Nichols attended the summer meeting of the Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council, a group that advocates for early childhood education. She has been meeting with the South Suburban Parks and Recreation district Gold Medal subcommittee looking at facilities and programs, which gave her an opportunity to connect with community members. Ms. Nichols also enjoyed the new school year events including the Administrators' Leadership workshop and the new teacher breakfast. She attended Western Welcome Week activities including the Carousel of Music and the fireworks display.

Mr. Colwell attended the opening of school activities including the Administrators' Leadership workshop and new teacher breakfast. He also attended the Carousel of Music. Mr. Colwell attended a District 5 Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) board presidents meeting.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

Sam Drury addressed the Board regarding public visibility of LPS student academic achievement progress, specifically school improvement plans.

Action

Consent Agenda

Mr. Mike Owens, assistant superintendent of human resources, noted a correction to the personnel information contained in the Board Report. On page 2 of the section titled Employment, Resignations, and Terminations of Classified Personnel, the heading of the far left column should read "*resignations*" not employment.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols 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.

Discussion

K-12 Math Curriculum: Final Revisions

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, said that the Board approved revisions to the district's K-12 math curriculum in 2005, and for the past two school years teachers have used the curriculum in the guided practice phase

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of the curriculum revision process. In spring 2008, teachers met to recommend final revisions to the math curriculum based on their use of the curriculum in a classroom setting. Ms. Bouwman introduced Susan Dalton, curriculum coordinator, to further explain the final revisions to the math curriculum.

Ms. Dalton explained that all district teachers were invited to participate in a review of learner objectives in the revised math curriculum, with the guidance of Debbie Snemyr, elementary math resource specialist and Ann Summers, secondary math resource specialist. Teachers met by grade levels to consider whether learner objectives were appropriate for a particular grade level. Recommendations were thoughtful and based on research and current understanding of student learning. Connected Mathematics Project (CMP) materials and state standards were also considered as recommended changes were made. Ms. Dalton noted that the guided practice process allows all teachers to be involved in the curriculum revision process. Ms. Dalton stated that final recommended revisions are marked in the math curriculum.

Mr. Colwell asked why trigonometry was moved from ninth grade essential learnings to tenth grade. Ms. Summers responded that teachers believe trigonometry is a better fit at tenth grade, and the change does not negatively affect performance on the tenth grade math CSAP. Ms. Dalton noted that the math curriculum revisions were initially made with a strong focus on national standards, which placed more emphasis on process and communication. She said state standards in all content areas are currently being rewritten.

Ms. Nichols commented that the layout of the essential learnings was very user-friendly. She asked for clarification about changes to essential learnings that move an item to a higher grade level. Ms. Summers responded that classroom application during guided practice typically reveals the need for such changes based on instructional materials and state standards. Ms. Dalton further explained that assessment frameworks are also used in the revision process. These documents outline what skills will be assessed at each grade level based on state standards and benchmarks.

Ms. Chandler commented that there is some confusion in the community about the names of math classes and asked for some clarification. Ms. Summers responded that throughout the middle schools there are groups of students who are working above grade level in math. In the past, district middle schools used different terminology for the classes these students were taking. Currently, the term “accelerated” is used for these classes, and students are typically being taught using the curriculum for the next higher grade level, and the appropriate assessments are used as well.

Ms. Stanish made an observation about mastery of multiplication tables in third and fourth grade, noting that the third grade learner objective only states mastery of zero to five and 10, while fourth grade states fluency through 100. She said it is important to tell parents that work on multiplication facts will continue in fourth grade because of a long-standing tradition that multiplication facts through 12 were taught in third grade. Ms. Snemyr clarified that the third grade learner objective states a basic expectation, but teachers will move beyond this baseline as students progress.

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Ms. Howell asked for clarification about the ongoing revision schedule for the math curriculum. Ms. Dalton explained that the typical revision cycle for major content areas is a four-year period from the date of the last revision; therefore math would be scheduled for revisions again in two years. She noted that the curriculum department will be closely monitoring the revision of state standards and looking at alignment between district curriculum and the new state standards in order to ensure the district remains up-to-date with state expectations. Ms. Howell asked about math curriculum for eleventh and twelfth grade. Ms. Dalton explained that the math curriculum only covers required courses. Elective math courses are outlined on an individual basis and are approved by the Board of Education. Ms. Dalton noted that elective math courses have been in place for some time.

Ms. Nichols asked about the elimination of Algebraic Methods 2 at sixth grade. Ms. Summers explained that there are similarities between this area and Algebraic Methods 1, and teachers felt that Algebraic Methods 2 was somewhat redundant. Ms. Chandler urged administration to continue parent education about the revised math curriculum. Ms. Dalton said that Ms. Snemyr conducted a math overview for new teachers, including an emphasis on sharing information with parents. Ms. Summers has also held parent information sessions. Ms. Howell thanked the staff for their attention to detail during the revision process.

Mr. Colwell asked if parents are more comfortable with the math curriculum now than two years ago when the proposed revisions were presented. Ms. Dalton said Ms. Snemyr and Ms. Summers have been actively involved in helping parents understand the curriculum, as well as helping teachers develop strategies for working with parents. Ms. Snemyr noted that the parent workshop held last year received positive feedback. Ms. Summers noted that parents still have questions, particularly about accelerated courses and about how much help they should give to students.

Mr. Colwell asked how much algebra is contained in the eighth grade curriculum, and Ms. Summers responded that there is more algebra taught at eighth grade now than in the past, and eighth grade accelerated students are using the complete algebra curriculum, which is taught at ninth grade. Ms. Stanish asked if the transition from middle school to high school for accelerated students is relatively smooth. Ms. Summers responded that while course names differ, high school teachers are teaching the district curriculum. Ms. Chandler asked if the district is seeing any positive change on math assessments. Ms. Summers responded that the district did see an increase in ninth grade math CSAP scores, which will hopefully be an ongoing trend.

Mr. Colwell thanked staff for their work on the math curriculum revisions. This item will return for action on August 28.

2008–2009 Legislative Priorities and 2008–2009 Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Legislative Resolutions

Mr. Scott Myers, chief financial officer, presented a draft of the 2009 legislative priorities for the Board's consideration, which is an update of the 2008 priorities. He explained that these priorities will help guide the focus and efforts of administration and the district's lobbyists. Mr. Myers noted that Board members and

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superintendent's staff members have had an opportunity to update this document during the past several weeks. He reviewed substantive changes and additions.

Ms. Nichols asked if gifted/talented falls under the umbrella of categorical programs. Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, responded that while gifted/talented is a categorical program, funding is separate from special education; therefore it might be appropriate to add gifted/talented funding. Ms. Howell suggested that "electronic sources" be added to the item under governance related to textbook and materials selection. Ms. Howell asked if funding for the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) increases should be included. Mr. Myers said that when the legislation was passed, there was inference made that the increase should come from pay raises. Mr. Murphy cautioned the Board about making the document too specific, which could lead to the state dictating how districts use state funding and could lead to conflicts about local control.

Ms. Stanish asked for clarification about Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) reserves. Mr. Myers responded that all governmental agencies are required to reserve three percent, which results in both the state and local districts reserving three percent of funding for the same purpose. He further noted that the proposed November ballot initiative known as Savings Account for Education (SAFE) does not address TABOR reserves. Ms. Chandler asked if there is a place to include local support for improved school nutrition and green initiatives. Mr. Murphy indicated that the state has contributed some funding for the school lunch program, and language could be added to encourage funding for new mandates.

Ms. Nichols said she appreciated the language regarding a comprehensive plan for public pre-K through 20 education that includes multiple student pathways and changes to funded pupil counts that may or may not be based solely on classroom time because it moves away from funding for seat time only. Ms. Chandler said she liked the bullet addressing a rule change for drop-out calculations and asked if any progress has been made in this area. The response was little progress has been made.

Mr. Myers presented proposed Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) 2008–2009 legislative resolutions. While not required, the Board may choose to submit resolutions for inclusion in the CASB resolutions voted on by the delegate assembly in October. Mr. Myers recommended that the Board consider items from the financial section of the legislative priorities, including increasing the mill levy override and actuarial soundness of the state's education fund. Mr. Myers explained that the deadline to submit resolutions to CASB is September 5, so this item will return for action on August 28. Ms. Howell said that a Board member is needed to be a delegate at the October assembly.

Both items will return for action on August 28.

Board Policy Revisions

Mr. Scott Myers reviewed proposed revisions to Board Policy DBGA—Mill Levy Elections and DIE—Audits/Financial Monitoring. He also presented revisions to a regulation associated with Policy DFA—Investments, which does not require Board approval. Proposed policy revisions resulted after a review of the district's financial

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policies. The proposed revisions have been reviewed by the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). The revisions bring policies in line with current statutory requirements, accounting principles, and regulations. CASB sample policies, as well as policies from other districts were reviewed during the revision process. A significant change to Policy DBGA—Mill Levy Elections, is the addition of language regarding other levies the Board may place on an election ballot, including special building and technology levies, and kindergarten levy. Mr. Myers stated that the significant change in Policy DIE—Audits/Financial Monitoring is the updated language concerning the scope of the audit and the audit selection committee, which will now include at least two Board members, including the Board treasurer. Mr. Myers explained that based on very recent conversations, language will be recommended that will allow the current auditor to be included in the request for proposal for a subsequent five-year period. This proposed change is based on the fact that there are fewer audit firms willing to bid on a request for proposal (RFP). The regulation to Policy DFA—Investments provides additional detail about allowable investments as identified in state statute as well as procedures related to internal control. Ms. Chandler thanked administration for the changes to the audit selection process, which came as a result of the Board's discussion during the audit selection process in spring 2008. Ms. Chandler also asked if the FAC was involved in the audit selection process. Mr. Myers responded that the Board could recommend that FAC members be part of the committee that selects an auditor.

Ms. Howell asked about the process used to prepare proposed revisions to policies. Mr. Myers responded that policy revisions are recommended based on CASB sample policies and other district's policies. He noted that much of the language contained in DFA-R—Investments is standard verbiage for government entities. Mr. Murphy commented on changes to Policy DIE—Audits/Financial Monitoring that adds language to clearly state that the auditor is selected and hired by the Board. It also clarifies the timeline for the submission of the audit to the state and administration's written response to the Board concerning recommendations in the auditor's management letter.

Ms. Howell expressed appreciation for administration's attention to policy revisions. Mr. Murphy clarified that minor policy changes that do not significantly affect content can be made without Board action; however, all substantive changes to policy require Board approval.

Board policies DBGA—Mill Levy Elections and DIE—Audits/Financial Monitoring will return for action on August 28.

LPS@Home: Online K–8 Program

Mr. Dan Maas, chief information officer, presented information about a pilot online education program for in-district K–8 students who are being educated at home. The initial pilot would involve approximately 10 students, with a 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) allocation to either deliver a service or to assist with program development. The program will align with state standards and will utilize PLATO.com, which is a Board-approved instructional delivery source. Other district resources, including the district library database, United Streaming video, ALEKS.com math tutorial, and Study Island test preparation will be available to these students. Students will also

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take typical assessments including Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), as well as the assessments built into the online instructional resources. The program will be modeled after the district's current hybrid online programs, including the Center for Online Studies (COLS). Interested students will be enrolled as online students and can participate in before- and after-school activities at the host school, which is Ames Elementary School. To begin the program, an initial investment of 0.5 FTE support from the district is necessary, although this will be paid out of per pupil revenue if adequate revenue is generated. Per pupil funding will be at the online rate of \$6,355, although there is ongoing discussion with the Colorado Department of Education regarding the funding rate that would apply for LPS@Home. Other costs include PLATO.com, Study Island, and ALEKS.com subscriptions for each student enrolled. Mr. Colwell clarified that the ten prospective students would generate adequate funding to cover the 0.5 FTE, as well as subscription costs.

Mr. Maas explained that the district has held focus groups with parents of in-district home-schooled students and saw a positive reaction. Meetings will be held again on Friday and Mr. Maas said five to six students may confirm their enrollment.

Mr. Maas complimented Jean Martinez, director of elementary education; Karen Goodwin, director of alternative education; and Melinda Ness, coordinator of gifted/talented for their role in creating this pilot program.

Ms. Chandler asked if the district would provide a laptop for students enrolled in LPS@Home, and Mr. Maas responded that the district would loan a computer to students as needed. Ms. Howell asked for clarification about providing laptops to students in online programs. Mr. Maas said state law requires access to computers for online programs, but does not stipulate that every online student be given a computer. Mr. Maas indicated that there is a legal issue around giving a laptop to a student rather than loaning a student a laptop. Ms. Stanish asked about the grade level of interested students, and Mr. Maas said students range from grades one to seven. Ms. Stanish asked about onsite activities for middle school-age students. Mr. Maas responded that administration will work with a middle school to provide onsite activities as needed.

Ms. Chandler asked if LPS@Home students would be required to take CSAP tests, and what the consequences would be if these students did not take the tests. She also asked how cheating is controlled in an online setting. Mr. Maas responded that parents of LPS@Home students have the same right to opt out of CSAP testing as other LPS parents have, and PLATO has built-in safeguards to deter cheating, including paper and pencil assignments that must be sent to a teacher.

Mr. Murphy asked where the CSAP scores go for LPS@Home students. Mr. Maas responded that because this is a program under the supervision of the Ames Elementary School principal, the scores will become part of the school. Mr. Murphy commented that there is a higher drop-out rate for online students, as well as possibly lower assessment scores, which would have a negative effect on the home school. He asked if there has been any conversation about this issue. Mr. Maas said there is some misinformation about online programs because of the 30 to 60 percent non-completion rates. If these students re-enroll in another school, there is no negative

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effect on the online program. Mr. Maas offered the opinion that because of this “lost information” regarding online students, it is difficult to determine how well online programs are actually doing.

Mr. Colwell asked if there is a deadline for enrollment in the LPS@Home program. Mr. Maas responded that as a public school system, the district will take students when they come. He further suggested that an enrollment deadline prior to the October 1 pupil count sends the message that the district is only interested in the funding. Ms. Howell commented that online schools should operate within the same rules that apply to brick and mortar schools.

Ms. Nichols asked about the level of interest beyond the initial ten student target. Mr. Maas responded that the district has communicated with families of 104 home school students, and they are well aware of the LPS@Home program. Some parents have indicated they may be interested when the program is more fully developed, so the potential is greater than 10 students. He stated that the target size of ten allows the district to work very carefully as the program is developed and limits out-of-district student participation, which would put the program under the multi-district online program rules. He further noted that some home school families have a fear of public schools. Ms. Howell expressed her support of the program and the way it is being developed. This item will return for action on August 28.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the August 28, 2008, Board meeting. Action items include K–12 Math Curriculum Final Revisions, 2008–2009 Legislative Priorities and Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) 2008–2009 Legislative Resolutions, Board Policy Revisions: DBGA—Mill Levy Elections and DIE—Audits/Financial Monitoring, and LPS@Home: Online K–8 Program. Discussion includes Elementary Universal Literacy Framework Update.

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 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

ks (8/29/08)