

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

August 28, 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
Lucie Stanish, Treasurer
Mary Nichols, Assistant Secretary

Others in Attendance

Kirk Madsen, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Scott Murphy, Superintendent

Absent

Sue Chandler, Secretary

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Colwell asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the August 14, 2008, regular Board meeting. On page 4, fourth paragraph Ms. Howell requested, on behalf of Ms. Chandler, that the first sentence be corrected to read “Ms. Chandler commented that there is some confusion in the community *about the names of math classes* and asked for some clarification.”

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 14, 2008, regular Board meeting as corrected. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Murphy said the opening of school last Tuesday, August 19, went smoothly. He has enjoyed his school visits. He said the Facility Use Task Force met with the Board of Education in a workshop session on August 18. Task Force co-chairs presented the values and criteria used as ideas were developed. The Task Force will seek community input at two upcoming public forums – September 9 and September 22.

Mr. Murphy congratulated the Heritage High School marching band for their first place finish at the Colorado State Fair parade. He said Options teacher Maureen White was selected as a 9 Teacher Who Cares. Mr. Murphy complimented Littleton High School speech and debate team competitors Toby Jacob, Cameron Merrick, Joe St. Marie, and Ian Dalton, who competed this summer in various debate tournaments. Mr. Murphy said that Field Elementary School students in the Corral Club displayed herbs and vegetables they had grown at the Arapahoe County Fair horticulture competition, where they received first and second award ribbons in

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several categories. The students are mentored by master gardener Rana Van Leeuwen, who is the Field PTO president.

Mr. Murphy recognized three LPS volunteers who participate in the Senior Citizens Tax Rebate program, which is in its tenth year in LPS. Those recognized were: Ray Bowman, Mary Jane Coe, and Terry McCarthy.

Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Nichols attended the Gifted/Talented Advisory Council (GTAC) executive committee meeting and said she appreciated the workshop discussion with the Facility Use Task Force. She commented on the dedication of the soccer coaches at Heritage High School that was demonstrated at a parent meeting she attended.

Ms. Howell participated in the Western Welcome Week parade. She attended the first meeting of the Educational Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC) and noted that Littleton High School senior, Briggs Buckley chairs the committee this year.

Ms. Howell said Dan Maas, chief information officer, shared the Information Security Guide brochure with the committee. Ms. Howell also mentioned a “Did You Know” internet sighting she had made and noted that Sony BMG Music Entertainment, with the permission of Karl Fisch Arapahoe High School teacher and originator of the Did You Know blog, presented a remix of the original video at a meeting of 150 company executives earlier this year.

Ms. Stanish participated in the Western Welcome Week parade and commented that parade-goers were pleased Littleton Public Schools was represented. She assisted the LPS Foundation with the distribution of school supplies to LPS students that were collected by the Volunteers of America in conjunction with 9News. The Foundation held their annual planning retreat, which was designed to bring the Foundation board together to discuss their goals and objectives and how it can best support schools.

Mr. Colwell participated in the Western Welcome Week parade and participated in the Board workshop discussion with the Facility Use Task Force. He noted that the Task Force has been doing an immense amount of work and noted the values it developed, including equity and rich curriculum, choice, and high quality personnel, are driving ongoing discussions. Mr. Colwell emphasized that the Task Force is still gathering information and looking at ideas, and no decisions have been made.

Citizens’ Requests to Speak to the Board

Sam Drury addressed the Board regarding public visibility of LPS student academic achievement progress, specifically CSAP comparisons for the past three years.

Action

Consent Agenda

Mr. Murphy stated that the Board had previously discussed each of the action items on this evening’s agenda and could consider approving all items under the consent agenda. The Board agreed to place all action items on the consent agenda except item number three, 2008–2009 Legislative Priorities and Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) 2008–2009 Legislative Resolutions.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations with the

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additions made this evening; 2. K–12 Math Curriculum: Final Revisions; 4. Board Policy Revisions: DBGA—Mill Levy Elections and DIE—Audits/Financial Monitoring; and 5. LPS@Home: Online K–8 Program. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

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

Ms. Howell said she believed that while there are other ideas that could be forwarded, the Board has enough on its agenda this year, so the legislative priorities and CASB legislative resolutions as presented are adequate. She asked Board members about a representative to the CASB delegate assembly in October, and Ms. Nichols indicated she was interested in being the LPS delegate. Ms. Stanish will attend the assembly as an observer, and Ms. Howell will attend as a CASB board member.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education approve the Littleton Public Schools Legislative Priorities for the 2009 Session of the Colorado General Assembly and Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) 2008–2009 Legislative Resolutions. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

Discussion

Elementary Universal Literacy Framework Update

Mollie McDonald, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, provided an update on the current status of the elementary universal literacy framework as it relates to summer training, implementation plans, and the evaluation plan. Ms. McDonald reminded the Board that five district elementary schools were selected for the initial phase-in of new materials and training based on trend achievement data over a period of years, and complex student needs as identified by increasing sub-group populations. Ms. McDonald reviewed the Pyramid of Intervention that forms the basis of instruction. The universal literacy framework is the primary, or tier one reading and writing instruction that all elementary students across the district receive. Tiers two and three provide intervention for students whose learning needs are not met in tier one. The objective of the universal literacy framework is to meet the learning needs of 80 percent of students and these students will be on grade level.

The June 2008 summer literacy institute provided training to staff from phase one schools, plus four representatives from other elementary schools. More than 150 teachers and administrators participated in the five-day training in reading and writing instruction. Overall evaluations for the training were high, with 93 percent of the 109 respondents giving the institute a score of three or four on a four-point scale.

Ms. McDonald explained that over the summer literacy coaches and principals from the five phase one schools were given an overview of how to plan and set goals for student achievement in reading and writing with classroom teachers, and received training about the process for screening students. Ms. McDonald said elementary students are tested using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Developmental Reading Assessment, Second Edition (DRA2) during the first month of school.

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Mr. Colwell asked if students identified as needing tier two or tier three reading support also need similar support in writing, and Ms. McDonald said there is a high correlation between reading and writing.

Ms. McDonald explained that reading and writing materials have been purchased for the phase one schools, noting that all materials have been previously approved by the Board of Education. Teachers received an orientation on the new materials before the start of school. She also reviewed the components of the universal reading and writing block that are consistent in all classrooms, noting that training, materials, and supervision are all aligned with these expectations for reading and writing instruction. Evaluation of instruction using the universal literacy framework will ultimately be in the form of a rubric similar to the math rubric, which will become a guiding document for teachers.

Evaluation of the implementation of the universal literacy framework in phase one schools will occur in spring 2009, and will be based on the implementation rubric; student achievement data, including CSAP, MAP, and DRA2; and feedback from teachers about what helped them move students to higher levels of achievement. Ms. McDonald said future plans include a 2009 literacy institute for the next group of elementary schools and for secondary teachers as well.

Ms. Stanish asked if any mid-year testing is planned. Ms. McDonald responded that students who are below grade level are required to take mid-year MAP and mid-DRA2 assessments. However, students on grade level are not tested mid-year because it is a value of the district not to over-test students, but noted that typical classroom tests and quizzes are part of the instructional process.

Ms. Nichols asked if the number of students who are identified for tier two or tier three intervention is similar to district expectations, and asked what additional screening measures will be used. Ms. McDonald responded that the expectation is that fewer students will need additional intervention as a result of increased training for teachers and better classroom resources. Ms. McDonald explained that MAP testing will now include kindergarten, first, and second grades, and these tests include a skills test that match the five components of reading.

Mr. Murphy remarked that he saw an excellent example of the pyramid of intervention at an elementary school recently, noting that every student was accounted for according to their need for intervention in reading and writing instruction. Ms. Howell remarked that this instructional model is like “rocket science” in its precision, and she expressed appreciation for the cautious use of student assessment, as well as the evaluation components built into the system. Ms. Stanish said she appreciated that the model is data-driven and focused on the needs of individual students.

Mr. Colwell remarked that the summer literacy institute was similar to the Professional Learning Communities work being done during the school year. It provided a way to help teachers and administrators across the district understand and prepare to implement the universal literacy framework in the same way in all classrooms. He also asked whether phase two schools have been identified to come online in 2009. Ms. McDonald said administration is still looking at data to determine what remaining schools have the most significant needs.

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Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Dan Maas, chief information officer, and his staff for the technical support that enables teachers and administrators to have student achievement data in a useable format. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. McDonald to expand on the core literacy work at Hopkins and Moody elementary schools. Ms. McDonald explained that over the years, schools have purchased sets of books that were used as readers for students at a particular reading level. These purchases were made by schools on an individual basis. Materials for classroom instruction are now purchased at the district level in order to closely match the identified learning needs of students.

Mr. Colwell remarked that the universal literacy framework aligns well with the district's vision and mission statements that promote success for all students, and state the district will educate all students by challenging every individual.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. McDonald and her team for their excellent work in this area.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the September 11, 2008, Board meeting. No action items are scheduled. Discussion items include Gifted/Talented Advisory Council (GTAC) Year-End Report and 2008–2009 Charge, Review of Calendar Values, and District Enrollment Update. Ms. Stanish asked if workshops were scheduled prior to the September 11 or 25 Board meetings, and Mr. Murphy said there will be a grading values workshop prior to the September 25 Board meeting, with a student achievement workshop prior to the October 9 Board meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education meeting adjourn.

SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Mary Nichols
Assistant Secretary

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