

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

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

September 24, 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 September 3, 2009, special Board meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Ms. Chandler moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 3, 2009, special Board meeting as presented. SECOND: Ms. Nichols. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Mr. Colwell asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the September 10, 2009, regular Board meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 10, 2009, regular Board meeting as presented. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Howell, Nichols. Mr. Colwell and Ms. Stanish abstained due to their absence on September 10. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0.

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

Mr. Murphy recognized the following LPS employees. Amber Hall, Littleton High School business teacher was named 2009 New Teacher of the Year by the Mountain Plains Business Education Association and the Colorado Association of Career and Technical Education. Joe Holliman, art teacher at Arapahoe High School was selected as the 2009 State Art Educator of the Year by the Colorado Art Education Association. Brian Kula was the boys' track and field coach at LHS last year and helped lead the team to a state championship. He was named the 2009 All-Colorado Boys Track and Field Coach of the Year by the *Denver Post*. Jill Mullarkey was the LHS girls' track and field coach last year and led the team to a state championship.

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She was selected as the 2009 All-Colorado Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year by the *Denver Post*. Steven Newell, science and technology center facilitator at Sandburg Elementary School, was named the 2009 Top Technology Teacher by the Colorado Software and Internet Association. Guy Cerasoli, AHS boys' lacrosse team coach was named the 2009 All-Colorado Boys Lacrosse Coach of the Year by the *Denver Post*.

Mr. Murphy also recognized volunteers who have participated in the Senior Citizens Tax Rebate program for 10 years. They are: Tommie Coleman, Austin Coryell, Nancy Minerly, and Ron Watson.

Mr. Colwell thanked teachers and said that the Board appreciates what they do in LPS classrooms. He also expressed appreciation for the senior volunteers, stating they are an important part of the LPS family.

Mr. Murphy highlighted an article in the *Littleton Independent* that featured local artist/illustrator Janet Stevens. Ms. Stevens recently visited kindergarten students at Centennial Academy of Fine Arts Education.

### **Board Reports/Requests**

Ms. Nichols attended the Gifted and Talented Advisory Council meeting. She mentioned the book, *When Gifted Students Underachieve... What You Can Do About It* by Sylvia Rimm that the council will be studying this year. Ms. Nichols will share the book with other Board members. Ms. Nichols viewed the Liberty Bell Invitational at mile marker number two along the Highline Canal. She thanked the organizers of this event. She also attended the Arapahoe versus Heritage boys soccer game, and the Meals on Wheels open house at the Ames facility.

Ms. Chandler attended the Meals on Wheels open house and the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) board meeting. She said that former LPS Board member Diana Holland has stepped down as chair of the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI), and Ms. Chandler will assume that role, along with John Brackney as co-chair.

Ms. Howell attended the Meals on Wheels open house and commented that the sign outside the facility looks nice. She further noted that Mr. Brackney was pleased that the Ames facility now houses the Meals on Wheels program. She attended the Special Services Advisory Committee meeting in place of Ms. Stanish. Ms. Howell also attended the District Accountability Committee (DAC) meeting. At both district committee meetings, Mr. Murphy presented budget information.

Ms. Stanish said she was unable to attend the Meals on Wheels open house and was pleased to see it at Ames. She attended the Education Technology Advisory Committee meeting in place of Ms. Howell and noted that Mr. Murphy presented budget information. The committee also saw a demonstration of assistive technology used by students with disabilities. Ms. Stanish attended the LPS Foundation board meeting where Ms. Bouwman and Mr. Maas presented budget information. The Littleton Stride will be held November 7 and will include family-centered activities in addition to the 5K and 1K runs.

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Mr. Colwell attended the PTO Presidents Council meeting and met the new LPS Foundation director, Beth Best. He attended the Meals on Wheels open house and participated in his first-ever ribbon cutting ceremony. He gave a presentation to students in personal finance classes at Arapahoe High School and commented about the students' use of interactive technology.

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

Mr. Sam Drury spoke about public visibility of student academic achievement progress, specifically the usefulness of the Student Achievement Index and AssessTrack.

## **Action**

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Colwell asked if there was any additional information about personnel recommendations on the consent agenda. Mr. Mike Owens, assistant superintendent of human resources, corrected the information in the hand carry documents concerning Susan Truitt. The position is a .17857 full-time equivalent (FTE). He noted that this fills the requested teacher needs at Heritage High School.

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda numbered 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations with the additions made this evening, and 1.2 Gifted and Talented Advisory Council 2009-2010 Charge and Membership. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

## **Discussion**

### **District Accountability Committee (DAC) Year-end Report and 2009-10 Proposed Charge and Membership**

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, expressed appreciation for the dedication of District Accountability Committee (DAC) co-chairs Kelly Perez and Carrie Warren-Gully. She introduced Ms. Perez who reviewed the monthly activities of DAC as presented in the year-end report for 2008-2009. Ms. Perez also reviewed the 2009-2010 proposed charge and at-large members.

Ms. Chandler expressed thanks to Ms. Perez and to members of DAC. She noted the thorough documentation and reporting of DAC activities. Ms. Chandler asked about the inclusion of Amendment 23 in the proposed charge. Ms. Bouwman explained that Amendment 23 continues for one more year. Inclusion of that language will be reconsidered for 2010-2011.

Ms. Stanish remarked that all current Board members have served on DAC and appreciate the value of the committee. She said it is important for the Board to use DAC members as key communicators within their schools and with the community at large. Ms. Nichols stated that the work of DAC is important and valued, and asked Ms. Perez to express her appreciation to DAC members.

Ms. Howell commented that DAC meetings included great presentations last year, especially noting the presentations about district programs. She expressed

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appreciation for the summary of comments made at the September 16 DAC meeting about the budget and encouraged DAC members to share this information with school accountability committees.

Mr. Colwell asked if anything needed to be added to the proposed charge, and Ms. Bouwman responded that the charge is comprehensive and the committee did not recommend any additions. Mr. Colwell also encouraged DAC members to continue to communicate with the school communities and the community at large, especially with regard to the budget issues. He said it is important for the Board to receive feedback from the community. Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Perez for the presentation.

The 2009–2010 proposed charge and at-large membership will return for action on October 8.

## **Math Implementation Update**

Ms. Bouwman introduced Mollie McDonald, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Ms. McDonald stated that the Board received an update on math implementation in February 2009. She explained that the 2009 Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) results prompted administration to schedule this update to provide time to share both celebrations and challenges in the area of math achievement.

Ms. McDonald reviewed the elementary math achievement gains made since the implementation of the revised math curriculum in 2006, which show sustained achievement. The 2009 CSAP math results showed the highest percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced ever received in LPS. Ms. McDonald also noted that English Language Learners made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets in math for the first time at all three levels, demonstrating that efforts to close the achievement gap are working. Ms. McDonald said that students from Littleton High School who chose to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in 2009 had the highest math scores on that test in the district, which follows the fourth year of math instruction using the Interactive Mathematics Program (IMP).

Ms. McDonald reviewed various factors that contributed to the improvement in math achievement, which include: (1) curriculum aligned with state standards; (2) clear expectations; (3) work done in professional learning communities (PLCs); (4) use of implementation rubrics to clarify best instructional practices; and (5) professional development with embedded support. She highlighted the math training the district provided for middle and high school math teachers in June 2009, and stated additional teachers will receive training in the coming year.

Ms. McDonald explained that the ninth grade math CSAP and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores are showing a downward trend, and administration is working to address consistency in the delivery of instruction across the district. The district will also provide math intervention materials and training to help close the achievement gap with federal stimulus funds through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

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Ms. McDonald said that in order to continue to improve academic achievement, administration will continue to support professional development for teachers, including the use of classroom technology. The district will also address consistency issues and articulation by facilitating conversations among math teachers from each level, and use implementation rubrics during classroom visits to provide feedback to teachers. Ms. McDonald said that tier one instruction for every student will continue to be a priority, along with efforts to improve instructional materials and delivery of instruction.

Mr. Colwell asked if the work of PLCs includes time for core content teachers across all grade levels to meet. Ms. McDonald responded that PLC work is confined to teachers within a building but administration offers time for teachers to discuss content and best practices in articulation meetings. Ms. McDonald noted that it takes time to ensure “seamless” matriculation across grade levels. Ms. Chandler asked if feeder schools need to make adjustments to allow for the different instructional materials being used at the high schools. Ms. McDonald said administration will continue to discuss what the achievement data suggest with teachers. Ms. Nichols asked if the transition from middle to high school is easier for students who attend LHS where IMP is taught, and Ms. McDonald responded that data in this area has not been reviewed.

Ms. Nichols asked if the number of students in Advanced Placement (AP) math has increased, and Ms. McDonald responded that she will provide that information to the Board. Ms. Howell asked if students from schools outside the district make a successful transition. Ms. McDonald said there is an adjustment period and most students make this adjustment within a year.

Ms. Nichols asked if there is an intervention program at the high school level similar to the programs offered at Euclid and Goddard middle schools. Ms. McDonald said there will be a program available later in the year that will be funded through a grant.

Ms. Chandler commented that the Board was aware at the beginning of the math revision process that training for teachers would be important. She acknowledged the efforts of administration and teachers, which are beginning to show results.

Ms. Chandler also asked about communication with parents, and Ms. McDonald responded that administration held parent information meetings during the first two years of the implementation process.

Ms. Stanish remarked that it is good to begin to see progress in math achievement. She thanked teachers and administration for their hard work. Ms. Howell said she is excited to see progress as well and commented that PLCs have created a culture in which teachers can discuss student achievement and adjust instructional practices when needed.

Mr. Colwell commented that there was concern among parents about the revised math curriculum, and he now sees that it is working. He stated he would like to see more district-wide PLC work.

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## *Future Agenda/Adjournment*

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the October 8, 2009, Board meeting. Action items include Lacrosse Memorandum of Understanding. Discussion items include Multiple Copy Literature List, Textbook Adoption: Arapahoe High School, Education Technology Accountability Committee (ETAC) 2008–2009 Year-End Report and 2009–2010 Proposed Charges and Membership, and Elementary Large-Scale Student Assessment Results and Colorado Growth Model.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell  
President

Sue Chandler  
Secretary

ks (10/13/09)