

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 8, 2009

Call to Order

President Bob Colwell called the meeting to order at 6:35 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

Absent

Mike Owens, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Colwell asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the September 24, 2009, regular Board meeting. On page 2, fourth paragraph under Board Reports/Requests, Ms. Stanish corrected the fourth sentence to read, "...Mr. *Maas* presented budget information."

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 24, 2009, regular Board meeting as corrected. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy reported that two LPS teachers, Anne Smith from Arapahoe High School, and Chris Moore from East Elementary School, are among the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) annual list of "20 to Watch" emerging leaders in education technology. Mr. Murphy announced that 10 LPS seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists, four students were named National Hispanic Scholars, and 15 students were named Commended Scholars.

Mr. Murphy said \$34,000 was donated by employees during the LPS annual Charities Campaign to benefit the LPS Foundation, Interfaith Community Services, United Way, and Partnership for Colorado. Mr. Murphy also mentioned that Lenski Elementary School is celebrating its 30th year with a reunion on October 17. He attended the Arapahoe/Douglas Career and Technical School Health Sciences

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Technology program competition. The program is now housed at the Ames facility. Mr. Murphy also commented on the recent death of two LPS students.

Mr. Murphy introduced Lori Kinney, director of human resources. Ms. Kinney announced that October 11-17 is Classified Employees Week. She said LPS has about 800 classified employees, and 120 of those have worked for the district for 15 years or more. She expressed her appreciation for all classified employees. Ms. Kinney said it has been a long-standing tradition to provide a small gift to classified employees during this week, but an online survey will be conducted to determine if employees believe this is the best use of these funds or if other uses may be more appropriate. Ms. Kinney introduced Becky Kuykendall, who is a co-chair for the Classified Employees Council (CEAC), and JoAnn Levesque, past chair of CEAC. Kevin Colpitts, CEAC co-chair was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

Mr. Colwell read the Classified Employees Week Honorary Proclamation issued by Governor Ritter's office, which he signed as Board president, along with Mr. Murphy.

WHEREAS, Colorado's classified school employees are an essential part of our state's education system; and

WHEREAS, classified school employees assist in providing safe and orderly facilities where Colorado's students can learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, classified school employees perform the daily cleaning and maintenance of school property, safely transport students to and from school, prepare and serve nourishing lunches, maintain records and reports, assist in classrooms and on school playgrounds, and perform a variety of other tasks on behalf of our children; and

WHEREAS, classified school employees continue to seek solutions to prevent school violence, and are actively involved in countless school programs; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for Colorado to recognize the role of classified school employees in our education system, and to salute these employees for the valuable services they provide to Colorado's students and communities;

Therefore, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim October 11-17, 2009, Classified Employees Week.

Ms. Chandler asked Ms. Kinney to extend the Board's appreciation to all classified staff, noting they maintain the high standards of the district. Ms. Howell expressed support for the survey to determine the best use of funds that have traditionally been used to provide a small gift to classified employees. Ms. Nichols thanked Ms. Kuykendall and Ms. Levesque for attending the meeting this evening. Ms. Stanish commented that classified employees are the unsung heroes of the district. Mr. Colwell said the district values the work done by classified employees that helps to make LPS a great district.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Stanish attended Littleton High School homecoming activities. She attended the LPS Foundation executive board meeting, noting that final plans are being made for the Littleton Stride on November 7. Ms. Stanish also mentioned there will be a new holiday lights display at Hudson Gardens beginning in mid-November.

Ms. Howell commented that the new LPS Foundation director, Beth Best, was introduced at DAC. She commended the LPS staff members who received recognition on NSBA's "20 to Watch" list. Ms. Howell attended the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) board of directors meeting where finance was a major topic. She also attended a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education Coalition (STEM-EC) meeting and said the STEMapalooza will take place at the Colorado Convention Center on October 16 and 17. Ms. Howell said she participated in a Colorado STEM Network conversation. She mentioned the Hope Online Learning Academy that operates out of Douglas County School District and has 51 centers around the state.

Ms. Chandler attended meetings of district-wide professional learning communities that were held at Arapahoe High School and expressed her thanks for providing teachers with an opportunity to meet with peers from other schools. She attended the Circle of Concern Consortium meeting. Ms. Chandler announced that the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) will meet Friday, October 9. She also commented that an employee of David James Hair Studio organized a fundraiser that raised \$3,512 for GLYI. Ms. Chandler also attended the first-ever meeting of the district's health and wellness committee.

Ms. Nichols attended a Colorado School Finance Project meeting, noting that Todd Saliman, director of the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting was a speaker.

Mr. Colwell reported that the Rotary Club of Littleton recently recognized Mr. Murphy for his dedication, vision, and leadership while serving as the Rotary Club of Littleton's "Power of One" co-chair during the previous year. Mr. Colwell said the Kiwanis group in the Denver Tech Center recently recognized students from Field elementary, Powell middle, and Arapahoe high schools. He attended the Career and Technology Education Business Advisory Committee meeting, and the CASB Region 5 board presidents meeting.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

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

Action

Consent Agenda

Mr. Colwell asked if there were items that needed further discussion. There were none.

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 District Accountability Committee (DAC) 2009-2010 Charge and Membership. SECOND: Ms. Nichols. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Lacrosse Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, explained that in the absence of a director of secondary education in 2008–2009, she and Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, each assumed responsibility for some of the items typically handled by the director's office.

Ms. Hundley took responsibility for the lacrosse memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Ms. Hundley explained that during the 2008–2009 school year she worked with the Arapahoe High School administration and lacrosse parent organization to make some changes to the agreement relative to interviewing, hiring, and supervising lacrosse coaches and assistant coaches. These changes are included in the new MOU that covers the next five-year period, 2009–2014. All revisions have been reviewed by the district's legal counsel, and administration recommends approval of the MOU for the new five-year term. Ms. Hundley thanked Ms. Chandler for pointing out a potential discrepancy between what is written in the MOU and current practice with regard to providing copies of the MOU to families participating in lacrosse.

Ms. Hundley said families will receive a copy when they enter the lacrosse program and will be advised of its availability electronically.

Mr. Colwell asked for clarification about who pays for costs associated with the program. Ms. Hundley responded that families of participants pay all costs without any district subsidy. She further noted that while this is a club sport, it is sanctioned by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) and Title IV equity rules apply. Ms. Howell asked if the lacrosse program is similar to the ice hockey program, and Ms. Bouwman responded that they are very similar as both are CHSAA sanctioned and have similar hiring processes. Ms. Chandler said she supports the changes, which provide better oversight of personnel.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the Lacrosse Memorandum of Understanding for the new five-year term with revisions as presented. SECOND: Ms. Chandler. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Discussion

Multiple Copy Literature List

Ms. Bouwman introduced Ms. Susan Dalton, curriculum coordinator. Ms. Dalton reviewed the Literature Approval Committee process that takes place for each book that is recommended by a teacher to be included on the Multiple Copy Literature List. She noted that the committee acts as a filter to assess books based on curriculum alignment, controversial issues, and appropriateness of content for a specific grade level. Ms. Dalton stated that the committee is made up of community members, teachers, and administrators. Ms. Dalton briefly reviewed the different types of books on the list presented.

Ms. Bouwman asked the Board if there were any titles on the list the Board would like to discuss in greater detail. The Board requested additional information about *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Ms. Dalton provided some additional information about this title, which was originally recommended to the Literature Approval Committee in spring 2009. The usual committee process was used and the committee had some concerns about the book and did not elect to recommend the title to the Board of Education for approval. The teacher who submitted the title appealed the decision. During the summer 2009, all Literature Approval Committee members read the book and subsequently met with the teacher to discuss concerns about the book. The teacher outlined specific alignment to the curriculum and to state content standards. The teacher and the committee also discussed the district's opt-in/out procedure and the teacher explained how this process is applied. Ms. Dalton said that based on this discussion with the teacher, the committee unanimously supports the recommendation to add *Little Brother* to the Multiple Copy Literature List for ninth grade and above.

Ms. Howell asked how long the opt-in/out process has been in use, and Ms. Dalton said this is the sixth year it has been highlighted for parents annually, although the process has been in place for many years. Ms. Howell asked what changed the thinking of the Literature Approval Committee. Ms. Dalton responded that initially only three committee members read the book, in accordance with the usual process. Because of concerns expressed by these readers and the appeal by the teacher, it was important for all committee members to read the book. She further noted that the district's opt-in/out process factored into the committee's decision. Ms. Howell asked how an optional book is selected for students who choose to opt-out. Ms. Dalton responded that alternate selections are beyond the purview of the Literacy Approval Committee, and noted that teachers will often select a book that can be compared and contrasted with the other book being read by a class.

Ms. Stanish stated that she has questions about the book that need to be answered before she can take action. She suggested the Board have further discussion about *Little Brother* at the next Board meeting and postpone action until November 12. Ms. Chandler agreed that she also needs more time to make a thoughtful decision that is defensible to the community. Mr. Colwell stated that the book, *Little Brother*, would return as a discussion item on October 22.

Mr. Colwell invited Arapahoe language arts teacher Anne Smith, who recommended the book for addition to the Multiple Copy Literature list, to speak to the Board. Ms. Smith said *Little Brother* gives students an opportunity to think critically about what they read and to discuss choices in various situations. Three of Ms. Smith's students who read the book spoke in support of the book's merits.

Mr. Colwell asked what class the book would be used in, and Ms. Smith responded it is intended for ninth grade honors English. Ms. Stanish said her concerns are more far-reaching than some of the book's themes and the Board needs to have further discussion about the book prior to action. She further commented that parents should read the book along with their student.

Mr. Colwell thanked administration, staff, and students. *Little Brother* will return for discussion on October 22. The remaining titles on the Multiple Copy Literature List will return for action on October 22.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Textbook Adoption: Arapahoe High School

Ms. Dalton reviewed the request for a new Chinese textbook forwarded by the World Languages department at Arapahoe. The Chinese level 1 classes have previously used online resources and software for instruction in a pilot format, and these resources did not meet curriculum objectives. The textbook, *Huanying 1* meets World Languages curriculum objectives for level 1 instruction with an approach similar to that used by Spanish teachers. Ms. Dalton said there are two sections of level one classes with a total of 45 students. There are 16 students in the level two class and nine students in the level three class.

Ms. Stanish asked if the textbook has an online component, and Ms. Dalton responded that it has a DVD. Mr. Colwell asked if classes meet frequently enough to get through the book as stated in the preface. Ms. Dalton responded that instructional materials are used to support district curriculum objectives and portions of the text that are most relevant will be used. Ms. Howell asked when textbooks would be purchased. Ms. Dalton said purchasing would occur following Board approval, and the book will be incorporated into the classes upon receipt.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Dalton for the presentation. This item will return for action on October. 22.

Educational Technology Accountability Committee (ETAC) 2008–2009 Year-End Report and 2009–2010 Proposed Charges and Membership.

Mr. Dan Maas, chief information officer, introduced Briggs Buckley, 2008–2009 chair of the Educational Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC), and Matt Shankle, 2009–2010 ETAC chair. Mr. Buckley reviewed the committee’s charge and the recommendations developed by ETAC during the 2007–2008 school year. Mr. Buckley highlighted some of the uses of technology that ETAC members observed as the committee held meetings in various schools throughout the district. He also highlighted the Educational Technology Information Literacy (ET/IL) plan and district technology policies, both of which were discussed by ETAC. Mr. Shankle reviewed the 2008–2009 status report on the 2007–2008 ETAC recommendations.

Ms. Chandler asked if the free text messaging service, TextMark, used at Hopkins Elementary School might expand to other schools. Mr. Maas responded that text messaging is a good tool to use to advise the parent community, although this service may not be an optimal tool. Ms. Stanish applauded the committee for its recommendations and the healthy discussions the committee engaged in as they established these priorities. Ms. Chandler asked if Eee laptop computers work well for high school students. Mr. Shankle responded that the Eee is a good option. Mr. Maas commented that the newest model has a larger keyboard that is nearly full-sized. Mr. Buckley commented that the Eee is easy to use.

Ms. Howell commented that ETAC is a “change agent” for the district. She thanked Mr. Buckley and Mr. Shankle for their leadership. Ms. Chandler referenced information from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) about Thinkfinity.org, and Mr. Maas said he would do some further investigation.

Mr. Colwell thanked members of ETAC and Mr. Maas for his leadership in the field of technology.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Elementary Large-Scale Student Assessment Results and Colorado Growth Model.

Ms. Bouwman introduced Patti Turner, assessment coordinator. Ms. Turner said that the elementary large-scale assessments have been trimmed down to include only the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Ms. Turner reviewed the changes in student demographics that have occurred during the past year and over the last six years, noting that there have been slow, incremental increases in the percentage of students in the subcategories defined by CSAP.

Ms. Turner explained how school performance is charted on the Colorado Growth Model, which uses both achievement and growth measures. She reviewed LPS results for the 2009 CSAP tests in grades three, four, and five as measured on the growth model. Ms. Turner provided grade level performance results as well as results for subgroups. Matched cohort data was also presented for current fifth and sixth grade students. Mr. Colwell asked for clarification about changes in achievement results from 2008 to 2009. Ms. Turner will provide that data separately for elementary results and will include 2008 data on the secondary large-scale assessment report to the Board.

Ms. Turner reviewed MAP growth data for third, fourth, and fifth grade students in reading and math. She explained that MAP results are used in various ways by teachers, and scores from fall testing provide a good predictor of CSAP achievement results.

Mr. Colwell asked for the total percentage of students who fall into subgroups. Ms. Turner will gather that information for Board members, noting that one student could be a member of multiple subgroups.

Ms. Turner explained that the Colorado Growth Model is part of the new accountability and accreditation system and moves beyond using only CSAP achievement to measure school performance and reporting this information on annual School Accountability Reports (SAR). Mr. Colwell asked what replaces these SAR reports. Ms. Turner responded that the new accreditation model will be built on the Colorado Growth Model, and State Board of Education rules to define the process are still pending.

Ms. Chandler asked how content standards align with CSAP, and Ms. Turner replied that the new content standards have not been approved, and the old standards are still in place. She noted that the LPS curriculum is closely aligned with the current model content standards. Ms. Chandler asked how the district ensures that instructional practices that produce good results are replicated throughout classrooms across the district. Ms. Turner responded that administration regularly monitors best practices and uses assessment data to make program decisions. She further explained that the growth component of the new state model will be very helpful in informing instructional decisions.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Turner and the assessment department staff for their excellent work.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the October 22, 2009, Board meeting. Action items include Capital Lease Purchase Agreement Chase Equipment Finance, Inc. Discussion items include Special Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) Year-End Report and 2009–2010 Proposed Charges and Membership, Secondary Large-Scale Student Assessment Results and Colorado Growth Model, State Economic Forecast and Budget Update, H1N1 Update, and Multiple Copy Literature List.

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 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

ks (10/30/09)