

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 9, 2008

Call to Order

President Bob Colwell called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Education Services Center, 5776 South Crocker Street.

Present

Bob Colwell, President
Sue Chandler, Secretary
Renée Howell, Vice President
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
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 25, 2008, regular Board meeting. On the top of page 7, the name at the end of the first sentence, is Randy *Black*.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 25, 2008, regular Board meeting as corrected. SECOND: Ms. Nichols.
AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy reported that several members of the Goddard Middle School staff participated in the 174 mile Colorado Relay in support of Outward Bound. He also announced that Arapahoe High School was mentioned in the College Board's Advanced Placement Report to the Nation as a school with excellent student success rates on Advanced Placement exams. This recognition qualifies Arapahoe to apply for the prestigious Siemens Awards.

Mr. Murphy said that Arapahoe students Melanie Brown and Michelle Shebowich are two of five students in Colorado to receive achievement awards in writing from the National Council of Teachers of English. The English Department at Arapahoe also received a certificate of achievement for its excellent instructional program and high standards for writing. Mr. Murphy recognized Carla McWilliams, a music/theatre teacher at Euclid Middle School who was named this year's Colorado Middle Level Theatre Educator of the Year. Mr. Murphy thanked Loryn Gorsett, a member of the Littleton Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors for the Symphony's long-time support of music education in LPS. He recognized the Symphony for the generous annual donation of \$4,000 to support a strings program in middle schools.

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Mr. Murphy introduced Ms. Lori Kinney, director of human resources, and asked her to present information about the upcoming Classified Employees Week. Ms. Kinney said LPS has just over 1,000 classified employees. She introduced members of the Classified Employees Advisory Council who were in attendance: Rita Sanders, food services manager at Newton Middle School; Mary Mortensen, secretary at Littleton High School; Joann Levesque, school age child care manager at Wilder; Larry Bolden, school age child care manager at Highland; and Sandy Erickson, bus driver. She said each classified employee will receive a gift from the district, and she invited Mr. Colwell to read and sign the proclamation from Governor Bill Ritter that officially declares October 12-18 as Classified Employees Week.

Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Stanish attended the 50th anniversary celebration at Highland Elementary School. She attended an Arapahoe and a Littleton football game and noted that Littleton's homecoming celebration is this week. She attended a YoungAmeritown activity held at the Belmar facility with Runyon Elementary School fifth graders. She announced the LPS Foundation's Littleton Stride will be held on November 2.

Ms. Howell attended the Circle of Concern meeting where the topic of Internet safety was discussed. She attended a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Coalition (STEMEC) meeting and said the STEMapalooza event will be held on October 24-25 at the Colorado Convention Center. A number of LPS technical education students, along with Mimi Leonard, career and technical education coordinator, will attend the event. Ms. Howell attended a Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Region 5 meeting and said CASB is organizing a training session for people interested in becoming school board members. Ms. Howell also judged the Arapahoe Homecoming parade.

Ms. Chandler said the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) meeting will be held at 3 pm on October 10. She also attended the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) fund-raiser at Arapahoe.

Ms. Nichols attended a Colorado School Finance Project meeting and said its report concerning an analysis of school funding would be published soon. She attended a recent meeting of the Business and Marketing Education Advisory Committee that is part of the career and technical education program in LPS. She announced that the Gifted and Talented Advisory Council will meet on October 13. Ms. Nichols also said that she judged the Arapahoe Homecoming parade.

Mr. Colwell attended the CASB District 5 meeting and the Highland Elementary School 50th anniversary celebration.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

Dawn Goad, a Whitman Elementary School parent, addressed the Board regarding the Facility Use Task Force's application of its criteria to elementary schools.

Action

Consent Agenda

Mr. Colwell requested changes to Board Policy BIBA—Board Member Training and Continuing Education. In the third paragraph, number three, delete the first two words of the sentence so it reads: "*Subscriptions* to print or electronic sources" In

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the fourth paragraph, change the first sentence to read: “Board members shall receive no compensation for *their service*.”

Ms. Chandler requested clarification about the book *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* on the Multiple Copy Literature List. Ms. Susan Dalton, curriculum coordinator, responded that the book has been in elementary school libraries for many years, but is now being recommended for use in classroom instruction.

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, 1.2 District Accountability Committee (DAC) 2008–2009 Proposed Charge and Membership, 1.3 Board Policy BIBA—Board Member Training and Continuing Education with amendments made this evening, and 1.4 Multiple Copy Literature List. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Resolution on Amendment 59—Savings Account for Education (SAFE)

Mr. Murphy explained that the Board requested an opportunity to consider a resolution in support of Amendment 59—Savings Account for Education (SAFE) that will appear on the November ballot. Mr. Murphy commented that traditionally the LPS Board of Education has not passed resolutions relative to ballot measures, but this ballot measure is important to education financing across the state.

Ms. Howell remarked that she has struggled with this proposed amendment, but has concluded that it is good for kids, including children outside of the K-12 realm. It is important in today’s world to recognize needs of the whole child. She further acknowledged that this amendment is a reasonable approach to remove some of the Tax Payer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) constraints on the state’s finances.

Ms. Nichols said the language of Amendment 59 aligns with the Board’s legislative priorities, and it is important to support legislation that enhances public school funding and benefits students in the community.

Ms. Stanish said that she also struggled as she reviewed this proposed legislation. In the end, however, she sees the amendment as supporting the greater good. She noted that this amendment can help untie the financial knot that has been created and will ultimately help support K–12 education, as well as higher education and preschool.

Ms. Chandler said she sees this as a nonpartisan issue and it is important to stay focused on what is good for many within the state. Mr. Colwell stated that it is unfortunate that Colorado has a hodgepodge of Constitutional amendments that requires additional amendments to enable financing of various projects and programs. He further commented that public schools are sometimes left without necessary funding.

MOTION: Ms. Howell moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution in support of SAFE—Savings Account for Education, Amendment 59. SECOND: Ms. Chandler. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Howell, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

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Discussion

Special Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) 2007–2008 Year-End Report and 2008–2009 Charge and Membership

Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, introduced Mary Pat McNeill, Special Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) chairperson for 2007–2008, and Kathy Kennedy-Tuchfeld, SSAC chairperson for 2008–2009.

Ms. McNeill reviewed highlights of the committee’s accomplishments during the past year, noting information on the district web site and citing topics of parent workshops. She said the parent panel, “If I knew then what I know now” continues to be popular, along with the opportunity to network with other parents. She commented on findings of the sixth annual parent survey and said transitions are challenging for special needs students and their families.

Ms. McNeill said that SSAC members appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the District Accountability Committee in support of the annual Legislative Breakfast, which offers an opportunity to learn more about current legislation that impacts students with disabilities. She also commented on the committee’s work with the Gifted and Talented Advisory Council to look at issues around students with multiple exceptionalities.

Ms. McNeill expressed her appreciation for the district and commented about how well her child has done in the LPS system.

Ms. Kennedy-Tuchfeld introduced herself as a teacher at Highland Elementary School, but also as “Jake’s mom.” She reviewed the proposed charges for 2008–2009 and commented that she is thrilled to be part of SSAC and looks forward to a productive school year as SSAC continues to support the needs of families of students with disabilities.

Ms. Stanish stated that it is a privilege to be the Board liaison to SSAC and said it is an amazing group of parents and staff members who support and help one another resolve issues around educating students with disabilities. Ms. Nichols said this group does phenomenal work and thanked the committee for their support of the district. Ms. Chandler noted that SSAC helps the district better understand the unique needs of students with disabilities and the committee provides a way for parents to connect with one another. Ms. Howell commented that SSAC members always speak in a thoughtful and need-based way, so the voices of parents of students with disabilities are heard. She said her past liaison role with SSAC has helped her as she works at the state level on education issues. Ms. Hundley thanked SSAC members for their generosity, commitment, and support of LPS.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Hundley and the SSAC leadership. The 2008–2009 charge and membership will return for action on October 23.

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Educational Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC) 2007–2008 Year-End Report and 2008–2009 Charge and Membership.

Mr. Dan Maas, chief information officer, introduced Mr. Jim Stephens, 2007–2008 Educational Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC) chair. Mr. Stephens explained that ETAC held meetings at several school sites during the year in order to learn how schools are implementing instructional technology. He said that students are immersed in technology and some amazing things are happening in LPS schools. He commented that there are still inconsistencies among district schools with regard to technology implementation. Mr. Stephens showed video clips of technology implementation at several school sites that ETAC visited including: Lenski Elementary School, Options, and Arapahoe High School.

Mr. Stephens presented priority recommendations for technology developed by ETAC. These priority recommendations are: 1) Provide a standard set of technology tools for every classroom; 2) Support staff training so teachers understand how best to use technology; 3) Ensure teachers have the necessary technology tools; and 4) Plan for a future upgrade of the district's telephone system. Mr. Stephens concluded by stating that in the future every student will have a device that is a gateway to learning and it will be with them at all times. Mr. Maas said that the district needs to address the first two priorities, specifically access to technology and equity among schools, as well as teacher training. He further noted that these priorities require both funding and an investment of time.

Ms. Stanish asked how many schools have document cameras, and Mr. Maas responded about eight schools have cameras in every classroom. Ms. Stanish cautioned staff to limit the time teachers are out of the classroom for training. Mr. Maas replied that the recommendation suggests using contract days prior to the start of school for training. Ms. Stanish also asked what the current replacement timeframe is for teacher's computers. Mr. Maas said staff computers are replaced about every five years, based on a fixed amount of money, which will be exhausted after two more purchases.

Ms. Nichols asked what the standard set of classroom technology tools includes. Mr. Stephens responded that it includes wireless internet access, a mobile document camera that connects to a computer and a projector to display student or teacher work on whiteboard space.

Ms. Chandler commented that with changes in technology occurring so rapidly, it is important to understand and assess the essential skills students need in order to adapt to emerging technologies. She said technology purchases need to be very flexible in order to be useful into the future. Mr. Stephens remarked that the core set of technology tools recommended for classrooms is very flexible. He said that the need for network knowledge will continue to be a critical element, along with internet access.

Ms. Howell remarked that the students understand technology and ETAC can be very helpful to the district in its understanding of emerging technological developments. She also commented that students and teachers are very engaged in the committee's discussions. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Mass and the ETAC committee. Mr. Colwell said he attended an ETAC meeting at Arapahoe and

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commented that students see technology as part of life. He thanked the committee for their dedication, noting that holding meetings in schools provides a great opportunity for everyone to get a first-hand look at how technology supports student learning and what equity issues exist among LPS schools. Ms. Howell commented that being in schools gave committee members an appreciation for the differences among schools.

Mr. Colwell thanked Mr. Maas and ETAC for their work. The 2008–2009 ETAC charge will return for action on October 23.

Longitudinal Growth Model

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, said the Board received a preview of the new Colorado Growth Model in June, and introduced Ms. Patti Turner, assessment coordinator, who provided further information about the new model. She explained that the new growth model provides information about student growth and achievement and provides a way for educators to identify students who are achieving high growth so successful instructional programs can be replicated. Ms. Turner reviewed the various aspects of the model including student growth percentiles, school performance, and implications for district accreditation and school accountability reports.

Ms. Turner explained the differences in student performance, which are divided into high growth, typical growth, and low growth. School performance is measured by achievement and growth and shows the median growth percentile. She presented graphical representations of the growth model data for LPS schools in math, reading, and writing. The achievement level is based on the percent of students who score proficient and advanced on CSAP tests.

Ms. Turner said the growth model components will continue to evolve and expand, and additional data will be available to the public in the months ahead. She said the growth model data will replace the current academic growth of students indicator on school accountability reports using the descriptors high, typical, and low. She also noted that the LPS 2008 accreditation results show the district is accredited with distinction, the highest description possible.

Ms. Chandler commented that the graphic depicting student performance should include a way to show progress from year to year and it may be important to parents to be able to see trend data for their student. She asked how achievement of high school students is tracked and shared with the various teachers that a student has for different classes. Ms. Turner responded that this can be done through the student management system and teachers can access these data for their students. Teachers are still learning how to access and use this information. Mr. Colwell commented that it will be a challenge to help parents understand this new model as well as to help teachers best utilize the data.

Ms. Mollie McDonald, curriculum, instruction, and assessment director, remarked that these data will help staff identify students who are “on the bubble;” that is, students who are very close to moving from one level of proficiency to another, e.g. partially proficient to proficient. Ms. Turner commented that Heritage High School identified students “on the bubble” and provided appropriate interventions, which

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enabled them to stand out as one of the few large high schools in the state that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets.

Mr. Colwell thanked Ms. Turner and her team for their excellent work in developing the graphics seen this evening.

Board Policy JEB—Entrance Age Requirements

Ms. Hundley reviewed proposed changes to Board Policy JEB—Entrance Age Requirements, which include changing the cut-off date from September 15 to October 1 for students entering kindergarten or first grade. In addition, statutory language concerning early access to kindergarten or first grade has been added to the policy. Ms. Hundley noted that LPS is the only metro area district with a September 15 cut-off date; all other metro area districts have an October 1 date. She commented that parents have expressed some frustration with the earlier date and said a majority of the requests for early entrance would be eligible with an October 1 cut-off date. Ms. Hundley also stated that in addition to alignment with surrounding school districts, changing the cut-off date will reduce the costs associated with the early admission process and eliminates the potential loss of new kindergarten students to other districts.

Ms. Stanish commented that currently students admitted early for kindergarten are identified as gifted and talented students, so by relaxing the admission date, these students wouldn't necessarily be identified as gifted and talented. Mr. Colwell asked if the statutory language was necessary, and Ms. Hundley responded that it is an essential element of the policy.

Mr. Colwell said the policy will return for action on October 23.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the October 23, 2008, Board meeting. Action items include Educational Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC) 2008-2009 Charge, Special Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) 2008-2009 Charge and Membership, Board Policy JEB—Entrance Age Requirements and Quarterly Financial Report. Discussion items include Facility Use Task Force Final Report and Grading Practices/Grading Requirements: Board Values. Report items include a technology 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 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

ks (10/28/08)