

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

Littleton, Colorado BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 18, 2007

Call to Order

President Diana Holland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Education Services Center, 5776 South Crocker Street.

Present

Diana Holland, President
John Dunn, Vice President
Sue Chandler, Secretary
Bob Colwell, Treasurer
Renée Howell, Assistant Secretary

Others in Attendance

Connie Bouwman, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services
Lucinda Hundley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services
Kirk Madsen, Interim Superintendent for Business Services
Scott Murphy, Superintendent
Mike Owens, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Board Workshop: 2007–2008 School Year Calendar Proposal Update

Administration conducted community forums on December 5, December 11, and January 16, as well as a teacher forum on January 17, to seek input on the 2007–2008 calendar proposals. Administration presented an update on the current embedded time proposal based on feedback from these three forums. In addition, options for the 2007–2008 draft calendars were included for review and discussion. The Board will have an opportunity to continue its discussion of the embedded time proposal and provide further direction at the January 25 Board meeting.

The regular meeting began at 7:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Holland asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the December 14, 2006, meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education approve the December 14, 2006, meeting minutes as presented this evening. SECOND: Mr. Dunn. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy reported that in this past Sunday's *Denver Post*, LPS was shown to have the largest net gain of open-enrolled students in the metro area. He also noted that Heritage High School students Brendan Lang, Matthew Beard, and James Thompson were recently named to the All State Choir. Additionally, Alex Raab was named first chair in the State Symphony Orchestra and Neal Durbin and

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Anders Benson were named to the All State Symphonic Band. Arapahoe High School students Jeff Henton and Colton Crandell have been named to the All State Jazz Band. Mr. Murphy also recognized the Arapahoe High School Varsity cheerleaders who placed 4th out of 38 teams in the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) state spirit competition in December.

Board Reports/Requests

Mr. Colwell attended the community forums and teacher forum on the embedded time proposal. He also attended the Gifted/Talented (G/T) Advisory Council meeting and *Hairspray* where a Heritage graduate was one of the lead actors.

Ms. Howell attended the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce legislative action meeting. She also attended the Science Technology Engineering Math Education Coalition started by the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce. She also met with Chamber president John Brackney, attended the "Tough Choices, Tough Times" presentation at the convention center as well as attended the forums on the PLC.

Ms. Chandler attended the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) meeting. She noted that the LPS Foundation is looking forward to the Spirit of Littleton dinner on March 16, 2007, and Steve Spangler will be the guest speaker. The event will be held at the Wildlife Experience. She encouraged others to see the movie *Freedom Writers*.

Mr. Dunn attended the forums, and the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) Board meeting. There are 34 LPS students currently enrolled at RMSEL.

Ms. Holland attended the GLYI meeting. She noted they are in the process of developing a welcome packet for new people and their fund raiser will be delayed until next fall. The next meeting is February 9. Ms. Holland also attended the District Accountability Committee (DAC) meeting last evening where members discussed the embedded time proposal and school calendars. She noted the legislative subcommittee will meet again on February 21. Board members also agreed to meet with the committee during March.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

Sam Drury indicated that in the LPS annual report, there is an excellent transition to the professional learning community, school improvement plans and the three cornerstone goals for each of the schools. He also liked the format of the administrative work plan in that it follows the focus in the strategic plan and provides the school improvement plans critique.

Carrie Warren spoke in support of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC), asked that the success stories be communicated, and preferred the 16-day proposal to the 10-day proposal saying it is easier to take away days than to later add them.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Action

Consent Agenda

Ms. Holland asked if there was any further discussion on the consent agenda.

Mr. Mike Owens, assistant superintendent of human resources, reported this year there are 19 teachers on 93/93; next year there will be 32 teachers. Also, there are nine teachers that want to do a straight retirement at the end of this school year.

MOTION: Mr. Dunn moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda numbered 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations with the additions this evening, 1.2 Textbook Adoption: Arapahoe High School Trigonometry, 1.3 Supplemental Materials Adoption: Scholastic Guided Reading Series, and 1.4 School Accreditation Recommendations. SECOND: Ms. Chandler. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland and Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) Intergovernmental Agreement

Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, noted the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) intergovernmental agreement was presented to the participating districts' boards of education for review and approval. The agreement is in effect for 2006 through 2011. Littleton Public Schools is a partner to the agreement with Aurora, Cherry Creek, Denver, and Douglas County public schools. Ms. Hundley highlighted that this is multi-year contract and there would be some language on special education added in the future.

Ms. Howell asked if the Board approves the agreement this evening if an amendment could be made later. Ms. Hundley responded that this is basically the same agreement the district has had in the past but there was an issue with the special education language. She also said that for liability purposes it would be more beneficial to have a signed agreement.

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education approve the RMSEL Intergovernmental Agreement. SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

Discussion

Student Achievement Progress Monitoring

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, indicated that the district academic goal states that 90 percent of all students will be on or above grade level in reading, math, writing, and science by 2011 and that the achievement gap in student performance will be cut in half by 2009. She presented information about how this goal was determined, the importance of this goal as it relates to No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and why it is an achievable goal for LPS. Since the goal was developed, administration has been developing criteria to measure student achievement progress. The criteria, which will be arranged by grade level, are designed to determine whether students are below, on, or above grade level.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Ms. Bouwman indicated that two questions were asked when determining the goal rationale: For whom are we successful? Is “good” good enough?

Ms. Bouwman went on to say that district scores show a plateau and the achievement gap is narrowing. Ms. Bouwman presented the historic trend in Grade 4 reading, and highlighted how the majority of G/T students are in the proficient rather than in the advanced category. Ms. Bouwman also showed how LPS is beginning to slip in its rankings within the Denver metro districts.

Ms. Bowman also noted in the accreditation report from the Colorado Department of Education, it mentions significant work must be done with the subgroups. Some general conclusions in addition to slipping in ranking are: the district has the capacity to do better; significant system-wide changes need to be made; specific, strategic, measurable, attainable, results based, and time-bound goals must be set.

With respect to whether the goal is attainable, she said there are some pockets of success with some schools at the 90th percentile, and there is the will and the resources to do what it takes to make all students successful.

Dr. Jerry Lee Anderson, director of secondary education, created an average, based on the Colorado Student Assessment Program scores, for Grades 3–10 in reading, writing, math, and science. At present, as a district, the average is 70 percent. By adding four percent a year, the district can achieve the 90 percent goal by 2011. NCLB legislation states all children must be at 100 percent proficient by 2014, and this means there would need to be a 3.75 percent increase each year to reach 100 percent.

Ms. Bouwman indicated that the definition of success would be defined by grade level. In other words, students must meet the expectations for his/her age group peers on the defined essential learning objectives as measured by CSAP, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA), and classroom performance. It was decided to begin with reading, writing and math and to combine reading/writing into language arts because they are taught that way and philosophically they should not be separated.

Ms. Bowman said it was also decided to have multiple measures, grade or grade grouping specific, 11th and 12th needed to be taken out of the track because of graduation, and weighted index was needed. Ms. Bouwman explained the difference between formative and summative assessments. She said formative assessment is to inform teachers of the next teaching step. Summative tells us where a student is at a given point of time measured by certain criteria or norm reference tests. It was decided to pull out formative assessments and to make calculations twice a year on the student report card.

Ms. Bouwman indicated the systemic elements that must be in place to change the achievement trend are clear vision, data driven, facilitate collaboration, continuous improvement, and focus. The PLC framework will provide the vehicle for the necessary changes.

Next steps are: testing the criteria for each grade level grouping; finish the pilot data and evaluate the results; input CBLA data into the database; train teachers on

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

the process; run the data in the spring; and monitor and adjust for fall implementation.

Mr. Colwell asked about the body of evidence in the school improvement plans. Ms. Bouwman explained that the district body of evidence is based on the defined essential learning objectives as measured by CSAP, MAP, CBLA, and classroom performance. The school's body of evidence is CSAP, MAP, and the common assessments. For the achievement goal, the majority use CSAP and MAP.

Mr. Dunn asked about the weighted index. Ms. Bouwman responded that CBLA, for example, would have greater weight. Mr. Dunn suggested the American College Test (ACT) might be a part of that index for 11th and 12th grade students. Ms. Chandler asked about students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Ms. Bouwman said it is her belief that a large majority of these students will reach the desired goal. Ms. Hundley said the district has been running pilots and there is achievement growth with these students.

Ms. Howell asked about parent communication. Ms. Bouwman said a parent communication plan will be developed. Mr. Colwell said it appears there is a drop in math in the 6th grade and asked if Everyday Math will have a positive impact. Ms. Bouwman said there is a decline at middle school and then again at the high school.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda of the January 25, 2007, Board meeting. Discussion items included Proposed 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 School Calendars and Alternative Education Update.

MOTION: Mr. Colwell moved that the Board of Education meeting adjourn.

SECOND: Ms. Howell. AYE: Chandler, Colwell, Dunn, Holland, Howell. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Holland
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

mcB01-18-07 (2/11/07)