

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE.1
Tuesday, December 04, 2007, 5:00 P.M.

President Turner called the meeting of the Board of Education of Douglas County School District RE.1 to order at 5:11 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board members: Carson, Hansen, Stahl, Stuart, Turner, White, Williams.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Christensen, Assistant Superintendent Fante, Chief Operating Officer Herzog, Chief Financial Officer Hart, Chief of Staff McGraw, and N. Eichelberger, Secretary.

Work Session

1. Agenda Review

During this time, the Board will have the opportunity to review the Agenda, receive additional background knowledge on a topic and engage in discussions.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Motion by Stahl, seconded by Stuart to convene in Executive Session to discuss legal matters required to be kept confidential under C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4) (b).

VOTE: Stahl, aye; Carson, aye; Hansen, aye; Stuart, aye; Turner, aye; White, aye; Williams, aye. Motion carried 7-0.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 5:17 p.m.

Regular Meeting

President Turner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, Indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

3. Acceptance of the Agenda

Governance Process 1.5.3.4

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education move to accept the Agenda as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member White Moved, Member Stahl seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education move to accept the Agenda as presented.' White, aye; Carson, aye; Hansen, aye; Stahl, aye; Stuart, aye; Turner, aye; Williams, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment

4. Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Board of Education on any topic. Please sign a speaker's card and submit to the Board of Education Secretary. Those relating to a specific agenda item will be allowed following Board discussion on that topic. Time for subjects not included on the agenda will be allotted during the Public Comment section. Remarks should be limited to five minutes.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Carla Rovno, Douglas County School District parent of two children attending Saddle Ranch Elementary, addressed the Board with regard to the outstanding performances of the school administrators, Fred Rundle, Principal and Mandy Leensvaart, Assistant Principal, and teacher, Sari Stone.

Consent Agenda

5. New High School Self-Defense Course Approval.

Attached is the self-defense course proposal form from Chaparral High School.

Self-defense is physical, cognitive and affective. Motor skills and movement patterns are critical to this specific physical activity. The strenuous nature of practicing self-defense will enhance physical fitness while promoting behavior that respects self and others. Self-defense meets all of the national, state, and district physical education standards. Communication skills, problem solving and critical thinking are valuable skills that will all be an integral part of this class and will support cross-content standards. This course proposal has been approved by Ron Peterson, principal at CHS; a district study team representative; Keith Jacobus, Director of Schools; Dr. Tammy Heflebower, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and Annette Fante Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Self-Defense course proposal from Chaparral High School on the consent agenda.

6. Personnel Changes

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approves the Personnel Changes as presented

Member Stuart Moved, Member Hansen seconded to approve the Consent Agenda:

New High School Self-Defense Course Approval
Personnel Changes

VOTE: Stuart, aye; Carson, aye; Hansen, aye; Stahl, aye; Turner, aye; White, aye; Williams, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. Motion carried 7-0. (Copies attached to the official minutes.)

Board Decisions

7. The Naming of Middle School #8.

Attached is a PowerPoint that will be presented by students, parents, and the core team to address the timeline/process, selection, and rationale of the school name.

This is a middle school located in Founder's Village in Castle Rock scheduled to open for the 2008-2009 school year on a conventional calendar. The following elementary schools will feed into this middle school: Castle Rock, Cherry Valley, Flagstone, Renaissance, Rock Ridge and South. Middle School #8 will open its doors with 700-800 seventh and eighth grade students and relieve the over-crowding of Castle Rock Middle School.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the recommendation to name Middle School #8 as Mesa Middle School.

Assistant Superintendent Fante introduced Karmen Smith, planning principal of Middle School #8 scheduled to open for the 2008 school year. Karmen introduced members of the naming team: Jerrod, a current 7th grader at Castle Rock Middle School and his mother, Mary, Tanner, Eric, Mary and Terry. The team detailed the naming process as well as selection process for the school colors and mascot of the school. Board discussion followed.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member White Moved, Member Williams seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'Approval of the recommendation to name Middle School #8 as Mesa Middle School.' White, aye; Carson, aye; Hansen, aye; Stahl, aye; Stuart, aye; Turner, aye; Williams, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried 7-0.

8. Hope Online Charter Application Timeline

Hope Contract Extension 12.3.07 NOTE: Revised Hope Academy Online Charter PowerPoint

This is the first review for the Hope Online Charter. The intention of the PowerPoint presentation is to inform the Board about Hope Online and outline the process being utilized for the charter application.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chief of Staff, Pat McGraw, introduced the presentation team of RoxAnn Hiam, Options Coordinator, Dr. Brien Hodges, Director of Schools for the Castle View High School Feeder and Heather O'Meara, Executive Director of Hope Online. Heather provided some background information and a brief overview about Hope Online. McGraw detailed the purpose of the quality assurance teams, staff development teams and the transition teams in the development of the partnership. Dr. Hodges highlighted the timeline and dates of the application submission for the Board. He assured the Board that the process included a positive transition to ensure that all aspects of the submission are solid. Board discussion followed. Superintendent Christensen wanted to thank the team publicly for their part of public education's "triple threat" delivery of education to any child who seeks to enroll in Douglas County School District.

9. 2006-2007 Audit Report (Executive Limitation 1.6.6)
Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for year ended June 30,
2007

State statute C.R.S. 29-1-606(1)(b) requires the completion of an external audit by November 30 and submitted to Colorado Department of Education by December 30. Attached are the auditing firm's management letter and the Comprehensive Financial Report. Julia Stone of Bondi & Company will be reporting to the Board. 12.3.07 NOTE: The Final Report to Governance is provided in the "For Your Information - Correspondence" section of the Confidential Agenda.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

RECOMMENDATION: The Board of Education accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for year ended June 30, 2007 as presented.

David Hart, Chief Financial Officer, Diane Doney, Executive Director of Business Services, and Julia Stone of Bondi & Company addressed the Board on the 2006-2007 Audit Report process, findings and reports. Hart explained that audits allow you to reflect upon activities over the prior year, to offer the opportunity for self-assessment and improvement, and to assess how well you've done at identifying what work needs to be done in the year ahead. Julia Stone of Bondi & Company explained the contents of the report. She went on to explain that Government Auditing Standards require compliance of federal grants. Board discussion followed. The Report to Governance was provided to the Board as part of the Confidential Agenda. Doney further stated that a plan of action report will be brought before the Board at the January 15th meeting under Superintendent Updates.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member Carson Moved, Member Hansen seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'The Board of Education accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for year ended June 30, 2007 as presented.' Carson, aye; Hansen, aye; Stahl, aye; Stuart, aye; Turner, aye; White, aye; Williams, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried 7-0.

Legislative Update

10. Legislative Update

Board Meeting Report P-20 Council Recommendations Draft Document, Fall 2007

Board Lobbyist, Carole Murray, will brief the Board.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Each week Board Lobbyist, Carole Murray, meets with Cabinet to identify bills that may impact education and provide the status of current bills under discussion. She shared that last year was a relationship-building year and that as a Board we didn't take positions on bills. The Board members previously gave permission to Board Lobbyist to discuss with legislators any bills that may affect the District. She highlighted the work of the P-20 Council and the subcommittees to date.

Board/Superintendent Updates

11. Committee/Liaison Updates

1. - 4. items - Douglas County Youth Initiative First Quarter Reports: Agenda, Minutes and Directors Report
5. DAC - Draft Forum Agenda: ACTION NOTES a. Board approval of the Agenda; b. Board members to attend the discussion section of the meeting.
6. (12.3.07) Team Highlands Ranch 2007 Accomplishments

The Board reviewed the committee/liaison opportunities and responsibilities. As part of the discussion, Board members expressed their areas of interest. The Board heard committee and liaison reports as follows: District Advisory Committee Long Range Planning Committee Colorado Association of School Boards Douglas County Youth Initiative Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning Douglas County Partnership Higher Education Committee Team Highlands Ranch
APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Debby Novotny, District Advisory Committee liaison, shared that the eight member DAC Steering Committee will bring their SAC report to the Board on December 18. Novotny shared the agenda for the upcoming DAC Forum in January and encouraged Board participation. The meeting will be at the Douglas County Events Center from 7 - 9:00 p.m. Board had consensus that Justin Williams will assume the responsibilities of Board liaison held by former Director Wucherpfennig. The Long Range Planning Committee consists of representatives from the feeder areas working with staff to give preferred options for boundaries, sites and capacity. Director Stahl will continue as the LRPC liaison. President Turner will continue as the liaison to the Colorado Association of School Boards. Douglas County Youth Initiative is in year three of development and is an agreement with several municipalities in support of youth. Darci Mohr, legal counsel, will continue to attend. Board members were in agreement that Board member, Ryan Stuart, would participate on the DCYI Executive Board as the Board's liaison. Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning liaison, Director Hansen, will continue as a member of the five-district board and will provide updates. Steve Herzog attends Douglas County Partnership meetings and President Turner will continue as Board liaison. Director Carson, Team Highlands Ranch liaison, will continue in this position.

Superintendents Updates

12. North Star Academy

12.4.07 Note: Facility Proposal

Mike Nelson will address the Board and provide information on the North Star Academy land acquisition process.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

North Star Academy Board members Mike Nelson, Jennifer Larson, Dave Eberly addressed the Board and provided an update on their comprehensive facility plan.

Public Comment

Renee Anderson, resident of Highlands Ranch and parent of children attending North Star Academy, addressed the Board in support of North Star Academy's Board and application.

Debbie Lee, parent of four children at North Star Academy, addressed the Board in support of North Star Academy's application and request for land in Highlands Ranch.

Nicole Cimbur, Douglas County resident, encouraged the Board to approve the application of North Star Academy.

Ted Harvey, Highlands Ranch resident and parent of North Star Academy students, addressed the Board on school choice. Harvey commended the District and Superintendent Christensen for his leadership and vision on the work in educational choice and urged the Board to consider the application by North Star Academy.

Policy Revisions

13. Policy Revision: End Statement 1.7 and 1.8 Responsible Citizens: Student Achievement

After Monitoring Reports are submitted and accepted, it is the Boards practice to review the related policies at the next meeting. Therefore, we are bringing back End Statement 1.7 and 1.8 Responsible Citizens: Student Achievement for the Boards review for any possible policy revisions.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

It was the consensus of the Board that there was sufficient interest in continuing discussions on End Statement 1.7 & 1.8. A draft of the proposed language to this policy will be brought before the Board at the next meeting. Board discussion followed.

14. Policy Revision: Executive Limitation 1.0 General Executive Constraint

After Monitoring Reports are submitted and accepted, it is the Boards practice to review the related policies at the next meeting. Therefore, we are bringing back Executive Limitation 1.0. General Constraint for the Boards review for any possible policy revisions. A follow-up discussion on Ethics was proposed.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

No changes to policy were recommended at this time.

Policy Governance

15. Community Engagement

The Board will review the feedback from the Community Engagement activities to date, edit current questions, have a discussion about next steps to reach out to the community, and set new meetings.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Director Stahl offered to draft questions for the next round of Community Engagement activities as next steps. In January, the Board

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members are attending the DAC Forum and scheduled time on the agenda for Community Engagement. Jim Weigel, Board consultant, suggested that

when Board members are out in the community they engage in a conversation about the identified topics and report back to the Board at the next Business meeting. During the upcoming Open Enrollment period, a list of parents will be identified based on their choice to apply for enrollment at a school other than their school of record. This group is a valuable resource and could be invited to attend the February meeting.

16. BOE Retreat Debrief

This is an opportunity to finish any business not completed at the Retreat.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Board discussion followed.

For Your Information

17. Current Events

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Meeting Evaluation

18. Meeting Evaluation

Board members provided individual feedback for Board self-assessment.

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Adjournment

19. Adjournment

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Nona V. Eichelberger,
Secretary