

W e l c o m e



Dr. Jim Christensen
Superintendent

A Message from the Superintendent

We're glad that you're able to join us for this meeting of your Board of Education. Thank you for being here. Douglas County School District is committed to providing a world-class education for every child. We're very proud of our organization.

Our District covers nearly 900 square miles. We've seen record growth, and this school year we'll serve more than 53,000 students as the third largest school district in Colorado. We believe Douglas County is a great place for student learning.

Our motto is *Learn today. Lead tomorrow.* We expect students in our organization to acquire the knowledge and abilities to be responsible citizens who contribute to society. Your Board of Education and District administrators are committed to:

- developing students' ability to think critically and use reason and logic when facing decisions about what to believe or do;
- teaching students to embrace universal ethical principles such as honesty, integrity and justice;
- encouraging students to demonstrate the self-motivation and resourcefulness to continue their learning;
- teaching students to apply what they learn by using their knowledge and skills productively;
- helping students develop and demonstrate leadership skills so they can be influential in creating a vision of what the future can be;
- developing students' ownership and responsibility for their well-being;
- promoting the essential skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking and numeracy;
- increasing students' understanding of a core body of knowledge in science, information literacy, social studies, world languages, literature, physical education, personal finance and math;
- exposing students to the fine arts;
- helping students explore career and post-secondary options.

We want to provide an educational foundation that allows each student to reach his or her individual potential. We welcome you to become part of that process. You can find additional information about the District at www.dcsdk12.org or by calling our Communications Office at 303.387.0033. Again, welcome to a meeting of your Douglas County School District Board of Education!

Douglas County School District

620 Wilcox Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104
Phone: 303.387.0100
Fax: 303.387.0107

www.dcsdk12.org

Welcome to a
meeting of your
Board of Education.

We're glad you're here!

Douglas County School District 2008-09 Board of Education and Superintendency

Kristine A. Turner	President
Emily Hansen	Vice President
John Carson	Director
Clifton D. Stahl	Director
Ryan J. Stuart	Director
Timothy L. White	Director
Justin G. Williams	Director
Jim Christensen	Superintendent
Nona Eichelberger	Board Secretary
David Hart	Treasurer

About Board Meetings

Board meetings are held for the purpose of setting or amending District policies; acting on recommendations by the Superintendent on matters ranging from personnel to maintenance of facilities; adopting an operating budget and tax rate for the District; and authorizing the spending of budgeted funds.

An agenda for each meeting is prepared by the Board of Education President and Superintendent. All votes are recorded and minutes are kept on permanent record. Board members actively seek the advice and counsel of District residents. Citizens are encouraged to regularly attend Board meetings.

Meeting Information

Where: Board Room (3rd Floor)
620 Wilcox St.
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104
303.387.0100

When: The Board of Education meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, except January and July. A Board Work Session starting at 5:00 p.m. precedes meetings. Regular meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Variations to this schedule may occur, and Special meetings may be called as determined by the President of the Board.

Agendas and meeting locations are available the Friday before meetings from the Office of the Board Secretary, the Communications Office, the District website and on the bulletin board outside the Board Room.

2008-09 Scheduled Board Meeting Dates

July 15, 2008	January 20, 2009
August 5, 2008	February 3, 2009
August 19, 2008	February 17, 2009
September 2, 2008	March 3, 2009
September 16, 2008	March 17, 2009
October 7, 2008	April 7, 2009
October 21, 2008	April 21, 2009
November 4, 2008	May 5, 2009
November 18, 2008	May 19, 2009
December 2, 2008	June 2, 2009
December 16, 2008	June 16, 2009

Preparation

Preparation for each meeting of the Board of Education is of great importance and occurs over periods of time. Study materials, public discussion, advisory group/task force meetings and personal observations are a few of the many sources Board members draw upon to help in the decision-making process.

Board members receive the official agenda and related materials, such as staff reports, financial data, input from community residents and groups, as well as other background materials, in advance of the Board meeting.

The Agenda

The standard agenda format used for most Douglas County School District Board Meetings is as follows:

- I Executive Session (Board's discretion)
- II Work Session
- III Regular Session
 - A Call to Order/Roll Call
 - B Pledge of Allegiance
 - C Acceptance of Agenda
 - D Public Comment
 - E Consent Agenda
 - F Decisions
 - G Monitoring Reports
 - H Board/Superintendent Updates
 - I Community Engagement
 - J Recognitions
- IV Work Session continued

Regular Board meeting sessions (scheduled from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.) are preceded and followed by Work Sessions that may include an Executive Session.

Consent Agenda

As is the case with any large organization, Douglas County School District faces numerous routine tasks at each meeting. The

Consent Agenda portion of the agenda allows for a single vote resolution of matters such as approval of minutes from previous meetings, routine personnel matters and other detail work. Use of the Consent Agenda is not intended to remove items from public review. Board members have the right to have any item removed from the Consent Agenda and placed in a different portion of the Agenda

if they feel more public discussion is necessary. The Consent Agenda makes for a more efficient and effective meeting, permitting the Board to focus more time and attention on matters not already covered by specific policies and procedures.

How To Address the Board

The Board of Education works for the students, parents and patrons of the District. Community input that can help the District meet the challenge of becoming the best school system possible is always welcome.

Those wishing to address the Board must live within the boundaries of the District, be a student, parent or guardian of a student, a District employee, or represent a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board. Others who wish to speak, but do not meet the above criteria, must receive permission from the Board President.

Citizens are invited to speak during the public discussion time set aside for any agenda item. This is the time to voice opinions about specific agenda item(s) prior to any Board action. The Board Secretary maintains sign-up sheets that should be filled out before the start of the meeting. If written testimony or a handout is submitted, presenters are asked to supply 10 copies to the Board Secretary.

Speakers are asked to provide their name and address. At the discretion of the Board President, speaking time may be limited to three to five minutes to ensure that all who want to speak have an opportunity, and that the Board will be able to complete its business. Groups representing a consistent viewpoint are encouraged to select one spokesperson to address the Board.

Executive/Work Sessions

The public is invited to attend all open meetings of the Board of Education. Occasionally, Executive Sessions may be held to consider personnel issues involving an officer, employee, staff member or student; discuss labor negotiations; to acquire an interest in real property; to consider security; to consider records that are exempt by law from public inspection; and to discuss legal matters. No Executive Sessions are held for the purpose of taking final action or making any final decision. A decision to place an employee on probationary status may be made in Executive Session, but the employee shall not be named in the minutes of the meeting. All formal actions and decisions occur in open, public sessions.

Work Sessions are planned, facilitated round table discussions held prior to and after Regular Board meeting sessions. Work Sessions allow Board members to engage in in-depth analysis of issues that may or may not lead to future decisions by the Board. Work Sessions are open to the general public.

Board Responses to Issues

Many issues require review and deliberation by the Board if good decisions are to be made. Immediate answers usually cannot be rendered. The public will be notified through the local media and various District publications as to when Board meetings will be held to decide issues of concern.

Board-Superintendent Relations

As the legally designated governing body, the Board retains final authority within the District. The Superintendent serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the School District and leads the District administrative team. The Superintendent recommends policies to the Board, carries out Board approved policies and evaluates the results of such policies.

Compensation

Board members are not paid for any of the services and support they provide to the District. Board members may be reimbursed for mileage and travel expenses when on Board duty.

Meet Your Board of Education

Legal control of the Douglas County School District is vested in the seven members of the Board of Education, elected to staggered four-year terms by District residents. To be eligible for election, a Board candidate must be at least 18 years of age, a 12-month resident and registered voter of the District, and have no direct or indirect interest in District contracts. Board members are elected at large. School elections are held every two years on the first Tuesday in November in coordination with the County Clerk and Recorder.

Members of the Board of Education invite you to get involved in your schools. Your questions and comments are always welcome. Further information about Board members and Board meetings can be found on the District's website at www.dcsdk12.org.

Board Duties and Responsibilities

The Douglas County School District Board of Education sets the policies that guide the public education of the students in the community. Board members regularly assess community needs and aspirations to develop an educational program consistent with community resources. Once these policies are made, it is the job of the Superintendent to work with the administrative team and staff to creatively execute them.

Other duties include:

- acting as an advocate for students and public education;
- creating a District vision, mission and goals;
- hiring, evaluating and working as a unified team with the Superintendent;
- establishing District priorities through approval of the budget;
- monitoring student achievement and approving changes in the academic program.

Time commitments include:

- reviewing supporting materials and information in preparation for bimonthly Board meetings;
- attending quarterly off-site retreats and annual conferences;
- participating on at least one committee or outside entity;
- keeping current on education/world events and issues;
- attending high school graduations and occasional community events.

All policies established by the Board of Education must be consistent with the laws covering public education in the State of Colorado and the United States, and must follow guidelines established by the Colorado Legislature and State Board of Education.

DCSD Board of Education

Kristine A. Turner
President
District E



Emily Hansen
Vice President
District G



John Carson
Director
District B



Clifton D. Stahl
Director
District C



Ryan J. Stuart
Director
District A



Timothy L. White
Director
District D



Justin G. Williams
Director
District F



Learning about Your Schools

If you have questions or need more information about Board meetings, the Board of Education, or any Douglas County School District program or function, please call the Board Secretary at 303.387.0258, the Communications Office at 303.387.0033, or log on to www.dcsdk12.org.