



Building Bright Futures

OFFICIAL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 15, 2011
Board Room

Jefferson County School District R-1
1829 Denver West Dr., Bldg. 27
Golden, Colorado

Our mission: To provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future.

1. Preliminary

1.01 Location – Education Center

1.02 Call to Order

A special meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Dave Thomas, President of the Board of Education, in the Board Room of the Education Center, 1829 Denver West Drive, Golden, Colorado, Thursday, September 15, 2011.

1.03 Roll Call

Roll call indicated that the Board was present in its entirety - Dave Thomas, President; Jane Barnes, First Vice President; Laura Boggs, Second Vice President; Robin Johnson, Secretary; and, Paula Noonan, Treasurer. Dr. Cynthia Stevenson, Superintendent, represented the administration. Breaks were taken from 5:49 p.m. to 5:58 p.m., 7:51 p.m. to 8:03 p.m., and 9:21 p.m. to 9:29 p.m.

1.04 Approve Agenda

Motion #1 (Approve Agenda as Presented): Upon motion by Ms. Johnson, second by Ms. Boggs, the Board unanimously approved the meeting agenda of September 15, 2011 as presented.

Motion by Ms. Johnson, second by Ms. Boggs
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ms. Barnes, Ms. Boggs, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Noonan, Mr. Thomas

2. Study/Dialogue Session

2.01 Monitoring: 4th Quarter Financial Report (EL-5, 6)

PURPOSE: The Board of Education monitored the districtwide financial condition as outlined in Board executive limitation policy EL-5, Financial Planning and Budgeting, and EL-6, Financial Administration.

DISCUSSION: Staff identified the funds, departments and schools monitored closely in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Mary Everson, chair of the Financial Oversight Committee

(FOC), shared comments from the volunteer citizen oversight committee regarding the good work of staff in managing district funds as the external auditor notes, and in responsiveness to FOC questions. Additionally, she shared the FOC concern that the plan for spend-down of reserves be monitored, revenues received were less than anticipated and district cost-cutting decreased expenses, facilities needs be monitored as the district may not be meeting immediate needs, and that the Food Services enterprise fund had been a concern but that changes implemented made for substantial progress toward a break-even enterprise. The FOC acknowledged as a good effort the budget process to educate the public on district finances, that quality services are needed with declining resources to balance the taxpayer situation with the needs of students, and that consideration be given to how compensation is sustainable.

Board questions covered where the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) federal grant funds are reported (under Grant Funds), enrollment for Mountain Phoenix charter school, childcare fund and Outdoor Education Lab Schools fund, and the planned spend-down of reserves. Board members commented that the district reserves are higher (by 4%) than required by TABOR statutes.

CONCLUSION: The Board members commented that the report was good news and expressed appreciation of the efforts of staff in making needed turn-arounds in specific areas outlined in the report; and, additionally for the extra time given by staff, for work after-normal business hours to conduct the Citizens' Budget Academy.

2.02 Community Engagement and Monitoring: Social Studies Teachers (Ends 5)

PURPOSE: The Board of Education discussed with secondary school social studies teachers how students learn and apply lessons in civics and U.S. history to become responsible citizens upon graduation.

DISCUSSION: The project coordinator for social studies in the Division of Instruction explained how student curriculum is structured so that teachers can address citizenship issues at the elementary through high school level. Changes in Colorado standards led to the implementation of the citizenship concept for students. Students learn of their role within the community, role/rights as a state citizen, study of the state and federal Constitutions, American history, U.S. government, with a capstone course in economics in senior year. Teachers shared how they engage students, teach critical thinking skills, expose students to legislators and other elected officials, voting responsibilities, and judicial issues and tax preparation.

CONCLUSION: The Board received information and the opportunity to discuss with secondary teachers how the district meets the Board's goal outlined in Ends policy 5, every student will become a responsible citizen.

2.03 Strategic/Sustainable Change Task Force

PURPOSE: The Board of Education conversed with members of the Strategic and Sustainable Change Task Force concerning the work to be undertaken following teacher negotiations in 2011.

DISCUSSION: The Board had received the Memorandum of Understanding that defines the work of the task force: collaborative decisionmaking and professionalism, compensation structures and issues related to implementation of SB-191. Discussion covered interest in career path development, incentive compensation, position control to make starting point and raise points attractive to employees, anticipated pitfalls, compensation implications for other employee groups, job description revisions, development of a best practices system unbound by cost considerations, collaboration efforts tied to pay, decisionmaking involving how work is accomplished, and impact to principal authority.

CONCLUSION: The Board provided its ideas, beliefs, concerns and direction to the task force on its work. Guidance directed out-of-the-box thinking, recommendations for a best practices model with initial focus on implementation of SB-191.

2.04 Board Charter Application Process (Ends 8)

PURPOSE: The Board of Education reviewed the charter application process.

DISCUSSION: The charter school administrator reviewed the timeline given to the Board and responded to questions covering when last a charter was approved, why an annual process, length of contracts, timing for opening charter schools, and when funds are received by a charter school.

CONCLUSION: The Board reviewed its responsibilities in the charter school application process and had the opportunity to discuss all aspects of the charter school process.

2.05 Effective Board of Education Self-Survey (Ends 8)

PURPOSE: The Board of Education reviewed its efforts in meeting its goal as outlined in Ends policy 8, the Jeffco Board will be effective and responsible and will function as a highly effective team.

DISCUSSION: The Board received a summary of each member's assessment of Board work in areas covering making decisions, functioning as a group, exercising authority, connecting to community, working toward board improvement, and acting strategically. Members had a frank discussion of behaviors needed to improve board work together.

CONCLUSION: The Board will focus on the next six weeks of this board's work together. The new board in November will address next steps to meet the Board's goals as outlined in Ends policy 8.

2.06 Superintendent Evaluation Process 2011/12 (Ends 8)

PURPOSE: The Board of Education reviewed the process to be used in the evaluation of the superintendent for the 2011/2012 school year.

DISCUSSION: The Board discussed evaluation models from Washington and Oregon, policy governance practices, the superintendent's contract which outlines her job description, and next steps for the past year's evaluation and current year evaluation process.

CONCLUSION: The Board will provide feedback to Ms. Barnes on the Oregon model and the 2010/2011 draft evaluation by September 26 for discussion at the October 6 meeting.

3. Executive Session

3.01 Property Negotiations

Motion #2 (Executive Session for Property Negotiations): At 9:21 p.m., upon motion by Ms. Johnson, second by Ms. Boggs, the Board unanimously voted to enter into executive session to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest, pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a).

Motion by Ms. Johnson, second by Ms. Boggs

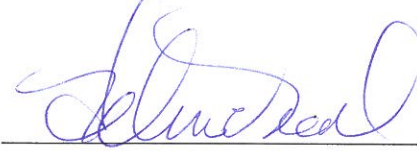
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ms. Barnes, Ms. Boggs, Ms. Noonan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Thomas

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:03 p.m.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for October 6, 2011.

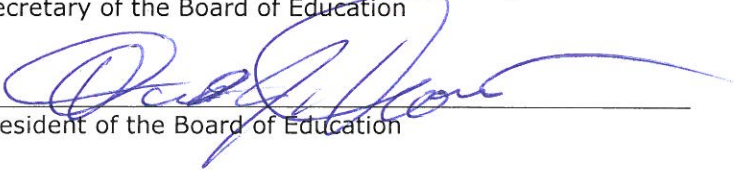


Helen Neal, Recording Secretary

Approved and entered in the proceedings of the District on October 6, 2011.



Secretary of the Board of Education



President of the Board of Education