



Building Bright Futures

OFFICIAL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 13, 2011
3AB Conference 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

1.02 Call to Order

A special meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Dave Thomas, President of the Board of Education, in Conference Room 3AB of the Education Center, 1829 Denver West Drive, Golden, Colorado, on Thursday, January 13, 2011.

1.03 Roll Call

Roll call indicated 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. A break was taken from 8:48 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

2. Study/Dialogue Session

2.01 Preliminary Facilities Master Plan (EL-8)

PURPOSE: The Board of Education will review the preliminary facilities master plan recommendations presented on January 6 and determine next steps in how to proceed with community communication, decision-making and related topics for discussion.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted their need to lay out the process for decision making, and how to gather information from the community that is useful for that process. The facilitator guided members to their January 6 request for a conversation on Board values. Discussion covered tactical and philosophical topics including: requests for community conversations on the recommendations, information on optimal size determinations, consistent metrics used across the district in decision-making, grade configurations, capacity at middle schools, repurposing buildings, unintended consequences, preschool support, and student achievement.

A majority of the Board supported a sixth grade move to middle school with the conditions that such a move must be beneficial for student achievement and noting the additional concern related to piecemeal change and the issue of choice in the central schools for existing sixth graders.

Board members discussed a districtwide k-8 model which would necessitate a 10-20 year master plan to reach as well as additional funding and the facilities recommendations made based on effective and efficient use of facilities, not a review of instructional programs in buildings. Staff noted the significant cost to build k-8 schools would not provide a similar significant gain in student achievement without additional resources to professional development for teachers across grade levels; no single grade configuration model provides guaranteed student achievement.

Motion #1 (Board Discussion Before Community Meetings): At 8:45 p.m., upon motion by Ms. Johnson, second by Ms. Boggs, a majority of the Board voted to schedule a Board discussion with Cabinet on the 2011 non-bond recommendations on January 20 before proceeding with community meetings.

Motion by Ms. Johnson, second by Ms. Boggs
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Ms. Barnes, Ms. Boggs, Ms. Johnson
Nay: Ms. Noonan, Mr. Thomas

CONCLUSION: The Board agreed to review the \$3.5 million 2011 non-bond recommendations on January 20 to address Board decisions needed by March 3 for implementation of the recommendations for the fall 2011 school year. In order to address Board concerns on the recommendations to be discussed, members will send their questions on the recommendations to Dr. Stevenson by Tuesday, January 18.

2.02 WALK-ON Policy Discussion: Media Contact (End 8)

PURPOSE: The Board of Education will discuss its policy language related to Board member media contact.

DISCUSSION: Board President Thomas indicated he will no longer follow the Board norm that the Board President alone comments to the media on decisions and policy of the Board of Education.

CONCLUSION: Board consensus was reached that each elected Board official can speak to the media. The Board President will review Board policy to determine if a revision to policy is needed to address this change to Board norms.

2.03 Calendar Committee Charge (End 1, EL-14)

PURPOSE: The Board of Education will provide direction to the members of the 2012-2015 Calendar Committee.

DISCUSSION: The Board discussed the need for calendar recommendations that include the length of the school day and year, the length of summer break, length of school week to engage all students for achievement.

CONCLUSION: The Superintendent will draft a charge for Board review, given the content of Board discussion.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for February 3, 2011.



Helen Neal, Recording Secretary

Approved and entered in the proceedings of the District on February 3, 2011.



Secretary of the Board of Education



President of the Board of Education