



Building Bright Futures

OFFICIAL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 16, 2007
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.

STUDY/DIALOGUE SESSION: At 7:37 a.m., a majority of the Board met – Jane Barnes, President; Vince Chowdhury, First Vice President; Sue Marinelli, Second Vice President; and, Hereford Percy, Treasurer – in study/dialogue session in the Board Room at the Education Center, Golden, Colorado. Cynthia Stevenson, Superintendent, represented the administration. Scott Benefield, Secretary, arrived at 7:55 a.m. and left at 9:45 a.m. Breaks were taken from 8:54 a.m. to 9:09 a.m., and 10:06 a.m. to 10:20 a.m..

PURPOSE: The Board met in study/dialogue session with members of the 1338 Council to review the work of the council on teacher evaluations.

DISCUSSION: The Board received information on the establishment of the council by state statute, its membership, meeting schedule, purpose, and timeline on current work. The committee noted that ultimately teacher evaluations should be meaningful and affect student achievement with their purpose being to reassure good work is done, to provide security and status to effective teachers that their work is well done, to spread innovative ideas; and, to reassure the public that teachers are held accountable for the quality of their work. The committee is studying new methods of evaluation to include showcasing teacher work for continuous improvement, remediation, and a process to dismiss for documented poor performance. The council hopes to complete study in the current school year, work toward system design in 2007-2008, and a pilot in 2008-2009.

CONCLUSION: The Board has a better understanding of the process used by the 1338 Council in re-evaluation of the teacher evaluation process.

PURPOSE: At 9:09 a.m., the Board met in study/dialogue session with the representative from the Rose Community Foundation to discuss alternative teacher compensation.

DISCUSSION: The Board received information from the superintendent and the representative from the Rose Foundation regarding ongoing discussions on alternative teacher compensation. Discussion covered the history of establishing alternative teacher compensation systems, why the interest in Jefferson County Public Schools and alternative teacher pay; and, what support the Rose Foundation is offering for Jeffco Schools to pursue this effort. The steps involved in proceeding include an in-depth study of the issue to identify key components for a successful teacher compensation system, a survey of voters, a communications effort designed for teachers to understand the philosophy, design and systems issues for implementation; and, the involvement of an actuary to ensure the system design is affordable.

CONCLUSION: The Board will be kept informed prior to the district proceeding any further on this matter.

PURPOSE: At 10:20 a.m., the Board met in study/dialogue session with several high school principals regarding high school reform efforts in Jefferson County Public Schools.

DISCUSSION: The Board received an overview of the secondary reform efforts being put in place for the four core (mathematics, science, English language arts, and social studies) contents to eliminate gaps and redundancies through prioritized benchmarks aligned with Colorado standards for kindergarten through 10th grades. It is anticipated that more than 80 percent of Jeffco students will positively benefit from the districtwide training in Pre-AP (advanced placement) strategies which provide teachers with additional tools to help students think about their studies; and, Vertical Teaming in content areas, grades 7-12 by articulation area, which support consistent instruction across grade levels through teachers' professional learning teams. Opportunities for high school students to be challenged by college level studies with the potential to earn college credits occurs at 15 Jeffco high schools through coursework from Red Rocks Community College or the C.U. Succeeds program.

High school principals discussed with the Board how efforts currently underway in Jeffco Schools are exciting and supporting staff and students to increase achievement. Curriculum alignment, the additional FTE at high schools, electives in line with core courses, common language, prioritized benchmarks, progress monitoring, interventions, and mentoring efforts, as well as the efforts through Pre-AP and Vertical Teaming, are opening communications between levels to make students more successful. Principals cautioned that such system-wide work requires time to come to fruition and the ability to stay the current course is crucial. Discussions on increasing graduation requirements have principals thinking of what will be required to implement: additional resources for staff, credit recovery system, flexible scheduling, community and parent support and online coursework. Each principal had been through a school review process and supported that work in accessing school success and areas for improvement. Due to lack of federal funds, Jeffco will reduce the number of schools for review in 2007-2008.

Board of Education Special Meeting

March 16, 2007

Page 3 of 3

CONCLUSION: The Board has a better understanding of the work continuing in Jefferson County high schools.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for April 5, 2007.

Helen Neal, Recording Secretary

Approved and entered in the proceedings of the District on April 5, 2007.

Secretary of the Board of Education

President of the Board of Education