



Building Bright Futures

OFFICIAL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 28, 2008
Seminar 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.

CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting was called to order by Scott Benefield, President of the Board of Education, at 7:25 a.m. in the Seminar Room of the Education Center, 1829 Denver West Drive, Golden, Colorado.

ROLL CALL: Roll call indicated that the Board was present in its entirety – Scott Benefield, President; Jane Barnes, First Vice President; Dave Thomas, Second Vice President; Sue Marinelli, Secretary; and, Vince Chowdhury, Treasurer. Cynthia Stevenson, Superintendent, represented the administration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Upon motion by Ms. Marinelli, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board unanimously agreed to move into executive session to discuss a student matter and seek advice of legal counsel. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:47 a.m.

**APPEAL OF DECISION REGARDING EXPULSION OF A STUDENT –
COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL (EL-10, 12; TREATMENT OF STUDENTS;
SCHOOL SAFETY)**

MOTION #1 (To Affirm Superintendent Decision): Upon motion by Ms. Marinelli, seconded by Mr. Thomas, a majority of the Board affirm the Superintendent's decision of November 26, 2007, that a student at Columbine High School, student identification number 527481, be expelled from all Jefferson County Public Schools through January 7, 2008; that the Board adopt the Final Determination of Appeal as presented; and that the Administration be directed to serve the Final Determination of Appeal on the student and the student's parents via certified mail, return receipt requested.

Aye: Ms. Barnes, Mr. Chowdhury, Mr. Thomas
Nay: Mr. Benefield, Ms. Marinelli

STUDY/DIALOGUE SESSION: At 7:55 a.m. the Board met in retreat session with a facilitator from the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB).

PURPOSE: For the Board of Education to review a schedule of future discussion topics and community engagements to further the Board's work in leading the district in fulfillment of its Ends policies, and to develop a "roadmap" for continuing Ends discussions at the Board table.

DISCUSSION: The Board discussed its barriers to engaging the ownership (community) in discussions, how to ask questions related to its Ends statements, and what three to four questions to use in their Ends data gathering. In community engagement, the Board focus is to hear what results the community group needs, and why that are given as answers to the questions addressed to each community group. Agenda setting was discussed, to include the Board members engaging the community at each regular meeting and debriefing conversations at the end of each meeting. The data collected in conversations is used to modify Board Ends policies, monitor district work, set Board expectations for district performance, and reporting to the public (ownership).

The Board discussed how they work to generate questions on topics for staff prior to staff giving the Board presentations. Ends discussions cover results for students or trade-offs related to available resources so that priorities among desired results are defined.

CONCLUSION: The Board generated a list of community groups to engage and questions that focus on how the district should meet community directives. The community groups include, in priority order: dropouts, business community, parents, teachers, citizens without children in school, middle school students, expelled/suspended students, high school students, large employers, non-college bound students, school counselors, senior citizens, higher education community, non-English speaking students/parents, single parents, church community, service clubs, career/technical students, Hmong community, Independence Institute.

The questions to address at each community engagement: What skills will you (or students) need for jobs we don't know will exist? Why should someone be a lifelong learner? How can we tell (How might you know) if someone is a continual learner? Why is it necessary (or important) to have a global perspective? What does a global perspective mean to you? Additional questions to ask: What should we be asking that we haven't? Who else should we be talking to? What do you want to tell us? What do you need to be successful in other parts of your life? The superintendent will work with staff to schedule community engagement sessions as directed by the Board.

The Board will schedule time in June 2008 to review and revise the executive limitation policies so that monitoring reports can be more reflective of Board direction for the superintendent.

The Board will develop a legislative-like Ends policy for its legislative platform statement.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for March 6, 2008.

Helen Neal, Recording Secretary

Approved and entered in the proceedings of the District on June 5, 2008.

Secretary of the Board of Education

President of the Board of Education

I hereby attest that in my opinion the portion of this executive session for which minutes were not kept constituted a privileged attorney-client communication.

Alex Halpern
Board of Education Attorney

I hereby attest that in my opinion the portion of this executive session for which minutes were not kept constituted a privileged attorney-client communication.

Allen Taggart
School District Attorney

I hereby attest that the portion of this executive session for which minutes were not kept was confined to the topic authorized for discussion in an executive session pursuant to C.R.S. section 24-6-402(4)(b).

Scott D. Benefield
President