

BOARD Meeting Activity
March 8, 2023

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education convened into executive session to discuss negotiations [per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e)] particular matter: Interest-based Bargaining (IBB) with Colorado Springs Education Association (CSEA) / Meet and Confer for Educational Support Professionals (ESP) and Executive Professionals.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

More than 30 D11 Students were Selected for Middle School All-State Choir

Students from Swigert, Jenkins, Russell, Sabin, and Holmes were selected to represent District 11 at the middle school All-State Choir weekend. Each singer participated in one of the three choirs at the festival, comprised of 7th and 8th graders from around the state. Singers were selected after auditioning with a prepared song and demonstration of vocal theory and skills. Students were required to be recommended by their school vocal director, showing they have the discipline and maturity to participate in this high-level music event. At the festival, performers spent two days rehearsing and working with master choral directors to grow their vocal ensemble skills. At the end of the weekend, all ensembles performed a concert in the Bellco Theatre at the Colorado Convention Center on March 10, 2023.

Participants were:

- Swigert Middle School student Winnie Chambers, Director Michele Arthur
- Jenkins Middle School students Renee Albrecht, Shannon Biga, Violet DeGrove, Finral Carter, Melody Clark, Marissa Lehman, Gracie Loseke, Victoria Martinez-Vigil, Jane Rodriguez, Lorelai Winston, Diego Andrade, Jack Brenner, Kannon Conner, Nicholas Dickey, Xaidon Forrest, Cody Moore, and Caleb Wurtz, Director Lori Koester
- Russell Middle School students Black Wilson, Landon Walt, and Jasmine Dias-McGivern, Director Chereese Bennett
- Sabin Middle School students Tate Butts, Salem Wright, Saphyre Withers, and Nazareth Smith, Director Vicky Chiles.
- Holmes Middle School students Jocelyn Gleason, Deziree Gray, Lillian Kuhn, Jazymn Luna, Estella Lambert, Scott McNeil, and Lilly Waltz, Director Jeff Hodur

21 D11 HS Students Participate in the 2023 All-State Choir

Students from Doherty, Coronado, Palmer, and CIVA were part of the select few that were chosen from across the state to perform in the annual All-State Choir festival in Denver. Singers were required to be high school juniors or seniors and participate in their school vocal program. They were selected through a rigorous audition process, including melodic and rhythmic sight singing, scales, intervals, and a prepared vocal solo. At the festival, the singers rehearsed with master teachers in their vocal ensembles over three days. The festival's final day culminated with a performance at the Buell Theatre, showcasing their hard work, talent, and skills. The festival took place February 9-11, 2023, in Denver.

Participants were:

- Doherty High School students Joshua Agunos, Benjamin Fromuth, Maiya Galloway, Joshua Koester, Jasmine Logsdon, Matthew Lynn, Rebekah McMurray, Katryna Reese, and Roisin Watt, Director Todd DiCamillo
- Coronado High School students Yzabela Cardenas, Wren Fortier, Mae Shaeffer, Katie Shane, and Michael Watkins, and Director Jeff Hodur
- Palmer High School students Elenore Broderick, Megan Bayer, Daniel Wicks, and Noah Hudgens, Director Jeffrey Peckham
- CIVA students Tula Wickencamp, Isaiah Friedrichs, and Shotaro Nance, Director Brio Lynam

Mitchell Thespian Troupe Selected as Colorado Thespian's February Troupe Spotlight

Under the direction of Lin Goodwin-Wittry, Mitchell High School Thespian Troupe 2959 was selected to be the Colorado Thespian Spotlight Troupe in February 2023.

After submitting for the opportunity to be chosen for this honor, the 20-student Troupe was selected for their demonstrated inclusivity, community, and excellence. Troupes honored by this spotlight strive to positively impact the communities they live in; Mitchell's Troupe has been reaching out to nearby community schools to educate them in Theatre and further spread their knowledge to younger students in the area. In addition to community building, the Mitchell Thespians hope their Troupe will inspire others around the state to find new ways to impact their communities. The Troupe was highlighted on the Colorado Thespians' social media platforms and in the February Colorado Thespian newsletter.

Troupe Members are:

President Selena Lewis, Vice President Mia Royer, Secretary Abdulhaq Alrudaini, Clerk Megan Briggs, Historian Saphaera Brown, Members Leah Archuleta, Sal Berry, Genesis DeHaan, Kaden Elston, Rhyland Evans Holley, Atreyu Goldizen, Autto Goldizen, Vinny Guzman, Mykee Herrington, Khylei Keller, Michael Lewis, Olivia Martinez, Aubree McVey, Jacob Myler, and Aja Pineda.

Doherty Wrestler Wins CHSAA Girls Wrestling Champion Title

Wrestling for the Doherty High School Girls' team, Katey Valdez has earned the Colorado State Championship in the 100-pound weight class. Katey started her wrestling career at Russell Middle School, where she won the City Title against the boys. Now a sophomore attending an online school through another district, Katey chooses to wrestle for Doherty High School. She is

allowed to do so since she lives within D11 boundaries, and her school doesn't offer sports. Katey is currently ranked 7th in the country in her weight class.

2023 is the third year of Colorado High School Activities Association's (CHSAA) sanctioned girls wrestling. They now award individual state champions and a team state champion.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT – CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL

Coronado High School Principal Darin Smith highlighted the following:

- Opportunities that build skills for the future
- Coronado CTE opportunities
- 2022-23 League and Regional Champions
- Star Data
- Shout-outs to the following teachers:
 - teacher Brent Urban by senior student Ana Ferguson
 - teacher Steve Ottmer by senior student Erin Gray
 - teacher Bryce McLean by senior student Carter Herman
- Coronado's first Robotics Team 2016 at the UCCS Cool Science Festival
- Community connections

SPECIAL REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gaal highlighted the following:

- Monroe Elementary School Counselor Maddie Francis
- Therapy Dogs: Anna Stewart with Tucker from Swigert and Kay Koepping with Chaucer and Cali from Achieve Online
- Homes Middle School partnership with Colorado Motion
- CARE team
- Contracted support for all schools: Burning Sage Therapy, Mindsight, Thriveworks, In the Schools Counselors (ITSCO), Children's Hospital, and Diversus Health
- Mental Health Support for staff
- Two-Teacher Tuesdays through March: Howbert Elementary PE Teacher Jason Minor, Columbia Elementary PE Teacher Hannah Jameson, and Russell Middle School 8th grade Social Studies Teacher Brian Leatham
- Human Resources Updates
- Governor's Bright Spot Awards

Velvet Stepanek, a member of the Family, School, and Community Partnerships (FSCP) Celebrations Committee, highlighted initiatives and events that have taken place in March. FSCP highlighted Stratton Elementary and Adult and Family Education.

Board Members' Reports

The Board members reported on their various activities.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Certified copies of the Board of Education's official minutes may be obtained from the Records Management Center. The cost of copying will be borne by the requester, per Board Policy BEDG. The Board of Education approved the minutes of February 22, 2023, regular board meeting. All minutes are available in BoardDocs through the Board of Education District website, after approval by the Board of Education.

Personnel Recommendations – March 8, 2023

The Board of Education approved the Personnel Recommendations for March 8, 2023.

ACTION ITEMS

Contract Awards

There were no Contract Awards.

Budget Transfer, Appropriations, and FTE Approvals

There were no Budget Transfers, Appropriations, or FTE Approvals.

Resolution 2023-21, Diversity in Education Month - April

Education is a fundamental human right that should nurture fair treatment and respect towards all others regardless of disability, race, creed, color, language, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry, or socio-economic status; prevent attitudes of fear and intolerance; and enhance inclusion for all into citizenship, work, democratic political processes, and other areas of social and cultural participation. The Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education recognizes the value of diversity for enriching and strengthening the educational environment and preparing students to become good citizens and workers in an increasingly pluralistic and global society and encourages the District to continue efforts to build healthy and diverse teaching and learning environments.

The Board of Education adopted Resolution 2023-21, Diversity in Education Month.

Resolution 2023-22, Month of the Military Child

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military child is a time to applaud military families and their children for their daily sacrifices and the challenges they overcome. Colorado Springs School District 11 joins communities and districts nationwide to commemorate and celebrate military families.

US Space Force School Liaison Program Manager Victoria Henderson thanked the Board of Education and Superintendent Gaal for their support and spoke regarding the Purple Star Designation of schools.

The Board of Education adopted Resolution 2023-22, Month of the Military Child.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

FY 2023-24 Benefits Insurance Committee Plan Design and Premium Recommendations

Director of Risk Related Activities Jessica Reijgers presented an overview of the District's Benefits Insurance Committee (BIC) request for approval of its recommended FY2023-24 Health Plan Vendor, premium recommendations, and continuation with current ancillary plan providers.

At the request of the Board of Education, in November 2022, the BIC, administration, and USI Insurance Services considered various health plan vendors through a robust Request For Proposal (RFP) process focused on affordability, enhanced plan designs, and long-term plan viability for Colorado Springs School District 11 and its employees.

District 11 faces several challenges, including rising healthcare costs, increased utilization, managing budget, aging employee population, healthcare reform mandates, and encouraging members to actively participate in managing their health. This year's recommendation continues to encourage employees to manage their health, gives them the choice of a health plan and premium, and offers many value-added benefits, including increased behavioral health benefits.

The BIC recommended moving to a new Health Plan vendor, Kaiser, along with significant plan enhancements.

The Board agreed by a show of thumbs up to move forward with option 3.

This item will come as action at the March 22 regular board meeting.

Policy LC - Research Projects, Studies, and Experiments

This policy was presented to the Board as a non-action item at the February 8, 2023, regular meeting.

Director of Policy Dr. Gregory B. Ecks presented the Board with the requested language changes from the February 8 regular meeting.

Policy LC is being revised to update research procedures, protocols, and parent/guardian consent. Additional revisions include changes to District departments responsible for policy implementation.

The Board agreed to have this item come as action on the March 22 regular board meeting with additional revised language.

Policy FF - Naming of District Facilities, Properties, and Assets

This item was postponed to the March 22, regular meeting.

Policy GBC - Whistleblower Protections

This item was postponed to the March 22, regular meeting.

Policy GCFA - Hiring of Instructional Staff/Portability of Nonprobationary Status

Director of Policy and Records Dr. Gregory B. Ecks presented information on the new Policy GCFA - Hiring of Instructional Staff/Portability of Nonprobationary Status which addresses the portability of the non-probationary status of new hires to the District. The policy was recommended by the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) and aligns with emerging state law. Policy GCFA provides clear guidance to teacher applicants for the process of notifying the district that they are choosing and meet the requirements to exercise their right under state law for the portability of their non-probationary employment status.

The Board agreed to move this item to consent at the March 22, regular meeting.

CALENDAR REVIEW

President Melpakam reviewed the following dates:

Wed., March 15, 2023, Work Session, 4:00 p.m., boardroom

Wed., March 22, 2023, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., boardroom

Spring Break: March 27-31

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.