

BOARD Meeting Activity
February 22, 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: Superintendent's Contract, Interest-based Bargaining (IBB) with Colorado Springs Education Association (CSEA) regarding Master Agreement and employee benefits.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Six Doherty students were recognized for being selected as CoDEO State Conference Main Stage Dancers along with D11 Fine Arts Facilitator Laurilea McDaniel and Dance Teachers Emma Lepore and Lindsay Kellen, who also presented workshops and classes throughout the conference.

Alexandra Madsen, an educator at Odyssey Early College and Career Options, was recognized for having been recently selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). A role model to pupils, Alexandra was nominated by a student for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the profession.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT – ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED AND CREATIVE LEARNING

Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning Principal Nikki Myers shared a PowerPoint presentation that featured the school's specialized education model, program highlights, and achievements.

Academy ACL students highlighted their Geekthink Films project, competitive award-winning robotics program, and creative arts and sports programs. In addition, Danny, an AcademyACL fourth-grade student, and artist, also led the Board directors in a paint-pour activity.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gaal included the following in his report:

- AcademyACL students Lola Tobey, Taryn Werner, and Danny Henes gave shout-outs from the Superintendent's chair to their teachers: Mr. Szpak, Coach Prada, and Mr. Cline.
- Taylor Elementary School, the Kindergarten class of Carolyn Figueroa, Read Across America, and The Big Red Chair.
- Gina Solazzi, the Executive Director of the Children's Literacy Center, and the Center's work and district partnership at Keller and Columbia Elementary Schools expanding to McAuliffe, Trailblazer, and Adams Elementary Schools.
- "Getting Stuff Done" shout-outs to the following schools who have moved ten percent or more of their students out of significant reading deficiencies (SRD) from the beginning to mid-year data: West Elementary School, Edison Elementary School, Queen Palmer Elementary School, Wilson Elementary School, Rudy Elementary School, Henry Elementary School.
- The Jenkins Middle School English Language Arts (ELA) team started an Open Wall Writing Workshop for sixth and seventh-grade students.

- Every traditional District 11 school has a School Accountability Committee (SAC) Representative.
- A "Getting Stuff Done" shout-out to Kim, Bobbi, Alicia, and Sharon in the Payroll Department for their hard work in processing the Mitchell High School promise stipends.
- Shout-out to the Communications Department for the Teacher Tuesday campaign and to the featured teachers: Edison Elementary School Special Education Teacher Amanda Sansone and Doherty High School Choir Teacher Todd Dicamillo.

Board Members' Reports

The Board members reported on their various activities.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of February 8, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education approved the February 15, 2023, regular meeting minutes.

Approval of February 15, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education approved the February 15, 2023, special meeting minutes.

Personnel Recommendations - February 22, 2023

The Board of Education approved the Personnel Recommendations for February 22, 2023.

Policy GBEB (formerly Policy GBEB) Staff Dress, Accessories, and Grooming

The Board of Education repealed Policy GBEB and GBEB-R and adopted Policy GBEB as revised.

Approval of District-Wide Closure and Two-Hour Delay Due to Inclement Weather

The Board of Education approved the closure of District 11 schools and sites on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, and the Two-Hour Delay on Thursday, February 16, 2023, due to inclement weather.

ACTION ITEMS

Contract Awards

The Board of Education approved contract C2023-1037 to FieldTurf USA Inc., in the not-to-exceed amount of \$4,237,239, to start March 1, 2023, with a contract completion date of July 31, 2023.

Interim Chief Operations Officer Kris Odom introduced Project Manager Travis Whitley, Capital Program Director Jon Furda, Senior Contract Specialist Jocelyn Kupferman, and FieldTurf USA representatives Jed Easterbrook and Lisa Rosauer, who attended via video conference. Chief Odom provided background information and a description of the current track and field at each location, an overview of the contract, and the schedule for work to be completed.

Approval of Superintendent Contract

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's Contract.

The contract extension for Superintendent Michael Gaal is for three years.

President Melpakam discussed the contract extension consideration timeline and process used by the Board and the District to guide this action.

Mr. Gaal commented on the work of the District and acknowledged the support and collaboration of all staff and community members.

Budget Transfer, Appropriations, and FTE Approvals

The Board of Education approved the budget transfer totaling \$3,399,900.

This item was presented by Senior Executive Director of Financial Services Laura Hronik at the February 15, 2023, work session, at which time the Board reviewed and discussed the budget transfer.

To utilize resources effectively, the District identified budgeted but unspent funds, mainly from staff vacancies that could be reallocated for immediate, non-recurring needs. A list of proposals was generated, then reviewed and prioritized by Executive Cabinet and the DAC Budget Subcommittee based on demands in the system and the lead time needed to meet the intended impact.

After prioritization, the list was reduced to eighteen items totaling \$3,399,900, which are recommended for immediate funding by transferring funds from unspent salary budgets. The remainder of the proposals will be considered for funding in the FY23-24 budget process.

Of the items recommended for immediate funding, they are focused on District priorities as follows:

Enrollment \$1,289,000
Academic Achievement \$1,217,200
Facilities/Infrastructure \$ 788,000
Staff Support \$ 105,700

Total: \$3,399,900

Senior Executive Director of Financial Services Laura Hronik came before the Board to answer questions and address additional comments.

Proposed School Year Calendar 2023-2024

The Board of Education approved the proposed calendar for 2023-2024 as submitted by the administration.

This item was presented to the Board as a non-action item at the February 15, 2023, special meeting.

The proposed School Year Calendar for 2023-2024 includes the following highlights:

- First day of school for students – Wednesday, August 16, 2023
- Thanksgiving - Monday, November 20 - Friday, November 24, 2023
- Winter Break for students - December 21, 2023 - January 5, 2024
- Winter Break for teachers - December 21, 2023 - January 2, 2024
- Graduation Dates - May 21 and May 22, 2024
- Last day of school for students:
 - Elementary - May 21, 2024
 - Middle and High School - May 24, 2024

Each year the District's Calendar Committee develops a school year calendar. After review and approval of the Joint Council, the committee recommends the School Year Calendar to the Board of Education for final approval.

Chief of Personnel Support Services Phoebe Bailey presented this item to the Board, acknowledging the approval of the District Calendar Committee and noting the absence of a Joint Council recommendation.

Scott Elementary School—Learning Commons Naming

The Board of Education approved that the Scott Elementary library (learning commons) be named in honor of Dr. Lorence E. Howard, former Scott Elementary principal from 2003-2013.

Chief Communications Officer Devra Ashby presented this item to the Board as a non-action item at the February 8, 2023, regular meeting.

President Melpakam stated that this item is being brought before the Board as an action item per parliamentary procedure.

According to Board Policy FF-Naming Facilities, "The Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education (the Board) has the final approval authority in the naming of Colorado Springs School District 11 (the District) facilities, properties and assets, based on the recommendation of the Naming Committee. This includes any space or area within any facility or property. To aid in the recommendation process, the Board establishes a standing Naming Committee to accept and process written naming proposals each semester, if needed."

The naming committee recently convened to discuss two proposals to name entities within schools. The proposals, supporting documents, and outcomes of both committee meetings are submitted for the Board of Education's final decisions.

Scott Elementary School—Learning Commons Naming

A naming proposal to name the Scott Elementary School learning commons (library) after Dr. Lorence E. Howard has been submitted and supported by several current staff and family members of the Scott community. Dr. Howard served as principal of Scott Elementary School from 2002-2012, then as principal of Hunt Elementary school from 2012-2015, when he retired from Colorado Springs School District 11. The individuals who submitted the supporting documents for the proposal stated that as the school looks forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary next year, this would be an honor for the person who "encompassed all of the admirable qualities that an effective, compassionate, and dedicated leader should possess."

Jenkins Middle School—Gymnasium Naming

The Board of Education did not approve that the Jenkins Middle School gymnasium be named in honor of Joel Sjoerdsma.

Chief Communications Officer Devra Ashby presented this item to the Board as a non-action item at the February 8, 2023, regular meeting.

President Melpakam stated that this item is being brought before the Board as an action item to honor proper parliamentary procedure.

Jenkins Middle School—Gymnasium Naming

A naming proposal to name the Jenkins Middle School gymnasium after Joel Sjoerdsma has been submitted and supported by several current staff and family members of the Jenkins community. Mr. Sjoerdsma has been an employee at Jenkins since the school opened in 1999. He started as a science teacher and then, in 2003, moved to become a physical education teacher. Mr. Sjoerdsma will retire at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, and the individuals who submitted the proposal stated they felt naming the gymnasium for him would be an appropriate way to honor his legacy in education.

Resolution 2023-19, Read Across America

The Board of Education adopted Resolution 2023-19, endorsing "Read Across America."

"Read Across America" promotes reading and adult involvement in the education of our community's students.

Resolution 2023-20, Women's History Month

The Board of Education adopted Resolution 2023-20, recognizing March 2023 as Women's History Month in District 11.

History of National Women's History Month (By Molly Murphy MacGregor, Executive Director, and Cofounder National Women's History Project):

As recently as the 1970s, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or general public consciousness. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The week of March 8, International Women's Day was chosen as the focal point of the observance. The local Women's History Week activities met with an enthusiastic response, and dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week. Over one-hundred community women participated by doing special presentations in classrooms throughout the country, and an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries. The finale for the week was a celebratory parade and program held in the Center of downtown Santa Rosa, California.

By 1986, fourteen states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued annually, which honors American women's extraordinary achievements.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

Policy FF Naming of District Facilities, Properties, and Assets

President Melpakam presented this policy to the Board for consideration.

This policy was discussed during the February 8, 2023, regular meeting.

Director of Policy and Archival Resources Dr. Gregory B. Ecks and Chief Communications Officer Devra Ashby acknowledged the proposed revisions to Policy FF Naming of District Facilities, Properties, and Assets.

The Board agreed to send this policy back to the policy committee for revisions and consider it as a non-action item at the March 8, 2023, regular meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/TASKS

Request for New Agenda Items from Board Discussion/Tasks

Director Daniels requested information regarding Superintendent Gaal's meeting with the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) regarding their Pre-Collegiate Program. Superintendent Gaal stated he would provide an email update to Director Daniels.

Director Jorgenson requested teacher feedback regarding their workload. Superintendent Gaal stated that this information could be obtained during the instructional strategies' teacher forums being held this Spring. The Board requested that the information received be reported to the Board during May or June 2023.

CALENDAR REVIEW

President Melpakam reviewed the following dates:

Wed., March 1, 2023, Work Session, 4:00 p.m., boardroom

Wed., March 8, 2023, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., boardroom

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.