

**BOARD Meeting Activity  
Regular Board Meeting  
Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

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**AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**Helen Keller Elementary and Helen Keller PTA Recognized Nationally as a School of Excellence for Strong Family-School Partnership**

National PTA has recognized Helen Keller and Helen Keller PTA as a 2022-2024 School of Excellence for building a strong, effective family-school partnership that enriches all students' educational experience and overall well-being. Helen Keller and Helen Keller PTA are among a select group of PTAs and schools nationwide to be recognized with the designation. Only eight schools in CO received this designation for 2023-2024, and they are the only D11 school recognized.

National PTA's School of Excellence program is a year-long commitment to strengthening family-school partnerships. Throughout the year, PTAs and schools collect feedback from their school communities to create and implement plans of action to improve family engagement and make a difference for every child. PTAs and families become key partners in decision-making and school improvement efforts through the School of Excellence program. The program opens the lines of communication and critical thinking within school communities to make data-driven decisions that yield positive, long-term results.

**National Education Equity Lab Honor Society Honorees**

The National Education Equity Lab is forging a new relationship between our nation's colleges and high schools rooted in our belief that while talent is evenly distributed, opportunity is not.

They empower colleges to take a more active role in developing and inspiring the next generation of leaders at scale, at no cost to students. In partnership with many pioneering universities, they deliver and support online college credit-bearing courses nationwide in teacher-led high school classrooms.

By enabling high school students from historically underserved communities to take actual college courses from college professors, students can build the skills — and confidence — needed to apply to and thrive in college. Participating students earn widely transferable college credits and can access mentorship and hands-on support.

Several Odyssey ECCO students have been recognized through this program. Three students have received honors from the University of Pennsylvania Grit Lab: The Psychology of Passion & Perseverance, with one receiving the highest honor, and two students received awards from Stanford University for Introduction to Bioengineering. Their accomplishments reinforce the exceptional educational environment and unwavering pursuit of excellence that define Odyssey ECCO.

Amber Elliott, Darin Heim, Raina Jordan, Jason Semez, and Vincent Vandegrift were honored during the meeting.

## **SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT – RUSSELL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Russell Middle School Principal David Dubois introduced Sarah Chandler, who spoke regarding performing arts opportunities and funding at Russell Middle School. Students Calliann, Kabrea, Clive, Blake, and Noah led several board members through the first script reading from a scene in a musical performed at Russell and then finished the presentation by reading through the script themselves, demonstrating the progress they accomplished through rehearsals.

Principal Dubois presented a PowerPoint slide show which included information about:

- The benefits of performing arts education.
- Russell Middle School academic data and standardized testing results.
- Family support and partnership at Russell.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

### Superintendent's Report

Two Russell Middle School students gave shout-outs from the Superintendent's chair to their teachers. Clive recognized his teacher, Mr. John Orsborn and Kabrea recognized her choir teacher, Ms. Sarah Chandler, and her math teacher, Mr. Mark Sweet.

Howbert Elementary School student authors Dane and Savannah were invited to the Superintendent's chair and recognized for their published books. Dane recognized his teachers, Ms. Katie Starkey and Mrs. Martinez. Ms. Starkey and Ms. Martinez thanked Dane and acknowledged his hard work academically. Savannah gave a shout-out to her teachers, Ms. Molly Royal and Ms. Katie Starkey.

Superintendent Gaal presented information on the following:

- Dyslexia programs in D11.
- The Summer Food Service Program and staff members Julie Gatton, John Lucas, Kathy Kohne, Terri Spenser, and Jason Mathis.
- The Rotary Club of Colorado Springs Flight 2023 Season of Wings Gala & Auction and a financial donation to the District from the club. Rotary club members Samantha Chapman, Kay Rendleman, Tina Dewey, and D11 Fine Arts and Music Facilitator Laurilea McDaniel were recognized.
- Human Resource Manager Sashi Ward and her work on staffing initiatives through alternative licensure programs.
- The expansion of The Mitchell Promise to The Promise which will provide college funding for D11 graduates in all schools through the support of the Bruni Foundation, the Dakota Foundation, the Legacy Institute, and Pikes Peak State College.
- An email received from the CDE Education Commissioner Susanna Cordova.

### Board Members' Reports

The Board members reported on their various activities.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### Approval of August 23, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education approved the August 23, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Personnel Recommendations - September 13, 2023

The Board of Education approved the Personnel Recommendations for September 13, 2023.

Resolution 2024-03, FY23-24 Legislation Liaisons

The Board of Education approved Resolution 2024-03, Authorization of Legislation Liaisons.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Contract Modification - Modification to Existing Children's Literacy Center Contract C2022-0096 to Increase the Contract Spend Limit

The Board of Education approved Modification 02 to the Children's Literacy Center Contract C2022-0096, increasing the contract's current ceiling limit from \$314,601 to \$1,500,000 for the remainder of the multi-year contract term. If fully executed, the contract will end June 30, 2027.

Executive Director Procurement and Contracting Rosa Garcia, Chief Academic Officer Tamara Acevedo, and Personalized Learning Systems Coordinator Jennifer Chappell provided information regarding this contract.

Background: In January 2022, the District entered into a contract with The Children's Literacy Center due to student learning loss from the pandemic. The District is committed to the success of all students and urgently needs to continue providing high-impact literacy tutoring for five sites (Columbia, Keller, Adams, McAuliffe, and Trailblazer).

The Children's Literacy Center has demonstrated success with programming both in terms of growing student confidence in reading and with growth in reading proficiency. Children's Literacy Center was a willing partner when we began to pilot high impact tutoring in District 11 with our first Colorado Department of Education High Impact Tutoring Grant. The Children's Literacy Center has an award-winning Peak Reader curriculum with a 1:1 tutoring model. It has met the grant requirements of The Colorado Department of Education for high-impact tutoring. Since the partnership began, 72% of students have demonstrated growth in literacy.

Chief Academic Officer Tamara Acevedo wants to continue this contract arrangement based on these growth outcomes.

Contract purchase limit modification: If approved, this contract will start its' second year, ending June 30, 2024. The contract's total contract value is \$314,601, and the estimated cost for Year 2 is \$295,500 for the five identified sites. This contract has three (3) contract term extensions for the school years 2024/2025 through 2026/2027. Each is estimated at \$295,500 per year and can be renewed and scoped annually as needed to best serve students. If fully executed, this contract will end on June 30, 2027.

The District has identified ESSER III - \$200,000 and MLO - \$95,500 for the 2023/2024 school year.

Contract Modification - Modification to Existing Air Tutors Contract C2023-0055 to Increase the Contract Spend Limit

The Board of Education approved modification 01 to the Air Tutors contract C2023-0055, increasing the contract's current ceiling limit from \$231,253 to \$2,990,500 for the remainder of the multi-year contract term. If fully executed, the contract will end June 30, 2027.

Executive Director of Procurement and Contracting Rosa Garcia, Chief Academic Officer Tamara Acevedo, and Personalized Learning Systems Coordinator Jennifer Chappell provided comprehensive information regarding this contract and the results achieved through its use to date.

Background: In February 2023, the District implemented a pilot for high dosage tutoring in mathematics to ensure gains in math proficiency and was funded in the amount of \$231,253. The high-dosage tutoring was needed on an urgent basis due to learning loss from the pandemic. In the initial term (Spring 2023), the student growth data indicated that 178 out of 185 students met the determined outcomes.

In addition, the pilot introduced a new payment model, Outcomes Based Contracting (OBC). OBC requires that a significant portion of the contractor payment be contingent upon student growth and directly links the expenditure of school district resources to improving student outcomes. The OBC model addresses pervasive equity gaps and supports collaborative partnerships between districts and vendors to better meet student needs and achieve better results.

Based on these growth outcomes during the pilot period, Chief Academic Officer Acevedo is requesting the contract to continue for the full term.

Contract purchase limit modification: If approved, this contract will enter its second year ending June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$689,220. There are three (3) contract term extensions for school years 2024/2025 through 2026/2027. Each is estimated at \$689,220 and can be renewed annually if needed. If fully executed, this contract will end on June 30, 2027.

The District has identified ESSER III - \$574,132 and a Colorado High Impact Tutoring Program grant of \$115,088 for the 2023/2024 school year.

## **NON-ACTION ITEMS**

### 6:00 p.m.: PUBLIC HEARING - Thomas MacLaren School Application

There were two public comments pertaining to the New Charter School Application for Thomas MacLaren School.

1. Ryan Hewitt, parent of a Thomas MacLaren Charter School student.
2. Purvi Sittner, parent of a Thomas MacLaren Charter School student.

### District Review New Charter School Application – Thomas MacLaren School

Prepared and presented by Dr. Scott Mendelsberg, Area Superintendent for Opportunity & Charter Schools; Mary Faith Hall, Executive Director for Thomas MacLaren School; Tom Weston, Charter School Liaison; Dr. Brandan Comfort, Chief Resource Officer; and Velvet Stepanek, Chair, District Accountability Committee (DAC) Charter School Review Subcommittee.

DAC (District Accountability Committee) Charter School Sub-Committee Chairperson Velvet Stepanek shared information from the comprehensive DAC review of the Thomas MacLaren Charter School application.

Dr. Mendelsberg introduced the Executive Director for Thomas MacLaren School, Mary Faith Hall, who provided additional information in response to questions raised by members of the Board last week during the Work Session and by the DAC Charter School Sub-Committee.

The Thomas MacLaren School transfer charter application was submitted as an initial five-year application to begin with the 2024-25 academic school year. In the fall of 2008, the founders took the application to District 11 but were asked to submit the application to the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI). Thomas MacLaren School thus opened in the fall of 2009 as a CSI school within the boundaries of Colorado Springs District 11.

By the fall of 2013, MacLaren had graduated its first class and was accredited by CSI as a School of Distinction. They have since been granted two consecutive five-year charters, have purchased their permanent campus, and have expanded to a thriving K-12 school serving over 900 students.

MacLaren has shown outstanding academic, operational, and programmatic success from the earliest years. Accolades and achievements include the following:

- School of Distinction, Colorado Charter School Institute
- SAT scores that are consistently in the top ten in the state and top two of the Pikes Peak region
- Fourth best high school in the state according to schooldigger.com, 2022
- Top-three finalist for the inaugural Colorado Succeeds award for transformational impact on high school education in Colorado, 2017
- Runner up for Best Workplace in Colorado Springs, 2018
- School leader Mary Faith Hall named Charter School Leader of the Year in 2019 by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

**BACKGROUND:** The Charter School Act is intended to encourage innovation in education. C.R.S. 22-30.5-104 identifies the requirements and authority of a charter school. C.R.S. 22-30.5-106 lists the contents that the application must minimally address.

The Board agreed to bring this agenda item to the September 27, 2023, regular meeting as an action item.

#### Operating Procedures Manual

President Melpakam noted revisions made per the will of the Board from the last review of this manual. Questions, comments, and additional suggested revisions by the Board followed.

The Board agreed to bring additional revisions to the September 20, 2023, work session.

#### Resolution 2024-06, Board Member Compensation

President Melpakam provided background information for this agenda item and discussed the presentation of this resolution after the ratification of House Bill 21-1055, now codified at C.R.S. §22-32-104, which allows for Board Member compensation.

Discussion, questions, and comments by the Board followed. President Melpakam agreed to follow up with Chief of Personnel Support Services Phoebe Bailey and District 11 Counsel Deborah Menkins for additional information. Board members decided via thumbs-up recognition to make changes to the number of days per month a member of the Board can seek compensation for and the description of the Board duties performed that are eligible for compensation.

#### Policy IMG - Animals in Buildings

Policy IMG is being revised to update language to current practice, to ensure safe environments for students and staff, and to align policy to national coding standards. It is recommended that the board repeal policy EJ and adopt policy IMG, Animals in Buildings.

The Board agreed to place this item in the Section E series of district policy and to bring it to consent at the September 27, 2023, regular board meeting.

#### Policy Series JR - Student Records and Student Data Privacy

Policy series JR is being introduced to align with state and federal law and CASB-recommended coding standards and to provide updated guidance for student information. Policy JRA/JRC and the supporting regulation and exhibit address student records and parent/guardian rights related to student records information.

Policy JRCA details the sharing of information with state agencies, and policy JRCB and supporting regulations address the protection of confidential student information.

The Board agreed to bring this item to consent at the September 27, 2023, regular board meeting.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/TASKS**

#### Request for New Agenda Items from Board Discussion/Tasks

Director Daniels requested information on customer satisfaction rates with the Kaiser Permanente insurance plan.

Director Nelson offered to review and revise the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) Goals that the Board agreed upon after the Board Retreat on August 30, 2023. Discussion, questions, and comments about the revisions followed. The Board agreed via thumbs-up recognition to consider revisions to the SMART Goals previously established and for Director Nelson to work on those with Superintendent Gaal this week.

Director Loma requested that the District discuss additional security measures for every school. A security protocol discussion is scheduled for the next Executive Session.

Director Ott requested that the 2022-2023 Board of Education SharePoint Policy and CORA Requests folders be updated.

### **CALENDAR REVIEW**

President Melpakam reviewed the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 20th, 4 pm, Work Session
- Wednesday, September 27th, Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, October 4th, Work Session

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.