

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
27J SCHOOLS**

**February 23, 2021
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Electronic Meeting**

**A livestream link was available at www.sd27j.org
A dial-in phone number was available:720-572-1628**

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Green, Director Kerber, Director Nickeson, Director Piotraschke, Director Thomas, Director Vigil, and Director Worth were present for this entire meeting.

3. COMMITMENT TO GOVERNING STYLE

Director Piotraschke read the following statement: The Board will govern lawfully, observing Policy Governance principles, with an emphasis on (a) outward vision rather than internal preoccupation, (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (d) clear distinction of Board and chief executive roles, (e) collective rather than individual decisions, (f) future rather than past or present, and (g) governing proactively rather than reactively.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Director Kerber, seconded by Director Vigil to approve the agenda dated February 23, 2021 as presented. Roll Call Vote: all ayes

5. STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP MONTHLY REPORT

Various members of the advisory group presented information regarding school activities. The group had a special guest, Alex Cimino, student-body president at Riverdale Ridge High School. Ms. Cimino along with Landry Longmore provided information about their student leadership team.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fiedler reported on activities throughout the District.

7. MATTERS OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Fiedler read the following statements that were submitted for public comment:

2.23.21 - Matters of Public Comment

Angela Magoon

6384 E 162nd Drive Brighton CO 80602

I would like to share my concerns with the school district about the mental health decline of our students as a direct result of the board's inability to put together a plan for moving our high schoolers and middle schoolers back into the classroom.

Colton Magoon

6384 E 162nd Drive Brighton CO 80602

My name is Colton Magoon, and I am a senior at Riverdale Ridge High School. I am wondering what you are doing about the mental health of your students during this tough time? I am wondering this because I have not seen any attempt at helping these kids. I am deeply saddened and ashamed of the "work" that this board is doing for the families and friends of 27j. In this year alone I have talked to at least a dozen students in this district about how they have no hope for the future and how they feel alone and abandoned by their schools. What are you doing to help these kids, because right now it looks like nothing is being done.

Anne Blakey

16060 Newark Lane

I am pleased with the emphasis that has been placed on getting the youngest students back to in person learning first. I am disappointed that there has been no indication that the middle and high school students will get the same opportunity this school year. Is there a plan to return these students to their full learning environment? How are the impacts to social emotional learning and development being addressed currently and how will extra emphasis be placed on these items when these kids get to be back in person. I believe that the longer the middle schoolers and high schoolers are withheld the opportunity to attend in person school 4 days a week the more difficult time these kids will have transitioning out to the 'real world'. Plus we are losing quality students weekly who are leaving to attend schools elsewhere that are holding in person schooling. Please do not lose sight of the youngest but don't completely forget about the middle schoolers and high schoolers either.

Patrick deHeld

11230 E. 163rd Ct. Brighton 80602

Moving to in person education

Nick Gargano Jr.

536 Hayloft Way, Brighton, CO 80601-4501

Greetings! My name is Nick, and I am a 10th Grader currently attending Brighton High School. Like many of my fellow students, I am disappointed with the district's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the learning models available.

As a 27J student, I am appalled over the lack of input requested by my school and the district. To my knowledge, my peers and I did not have the option to voice our opinions in these decisions that impact our day-to-day lives. I believe the school district massively overlooked this aspect of their planning, which is unacceptable.

The district has also overlooked input from most teachers, especially regarding the transition to the quarter system for the 2021-2022 school year. The quarter system puts an unnecessary burden on our teachers, and it appears the district has not even considered this.

In-person, full-time learning is the best possible way of educating students, yet it seems like that is the district's last priority at the moment. Like other districts and schools, why have we not added more in-person learning days? With adequate planning, the district's high schools are perfectly capable of expanding their in-person learning days for the remainder of the school year. Five months should have been plenty of time for the district to get their act together, but apparently not.

This year, I have been in person four hours each week and two days remotely. Many of my peers will agree that this entire school year has been essentially busywork and not effective at all. Students also face mental health issues from a lack of contact with fellow students, which has done far more damage than any virus could do.

I have two requests for the superintendent and board to consider when making decisions regarding learning models and plans:

- 1) Accept student and teacher input to guide policy decisions regarding COVID-19. For the past several months, student and teacher input was overlooked by the district. You, as the board, owe it to teachers and students to take their thoughts and opinions into consideration when making these important decisions.
- 2) Make every attempt possible to put your students back in school this year. Students need in-person learning now, more than ever, and it is the district's responsibility to make this happen.

Thank you for your time and attention.

8 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Worth to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Roll Call Vote: all ayes

- a. Approval of the Board of Education minutes dated January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting and February 9, 2021 Regular and Planning Meeting
- b. Approval of personnel items on memorandum dated February 17, 2021
- c. Approval of Resolution Number Seven 2020-2021 for requesting conveyance of the Southlawn property from the City of Commerce City

9. GOVERNANCE PROCESS THAT SUPPORTS OUR GLOBAL GOALS

- a. Ownership Linkage – Members: Director Kerber and Director Vigil: Director Kerber noted that there is no report since the Board has not been conducting linkage meetings.
- b. Board Education – Members: Director Kerber and Director Thomas: Director Thomas reported that the District’s curriculum frameworks were discussed during tonight’s study session. The topic for the March 9, 2021 study session will be the District’s high-school quarter system.
- c. Board Committees
 - i. Facility Planning Advisory Committee – Member: Director Nickeson: No meeting has occurred since the last Board of Education meeting.
 - ii. Capital Facility Fee Foundation – Members: Director Kerber, Director Vigil and Director Worth: Director Worth reported that the foundation approved the request for funds for Elementary School #14. Director Worth also stressed the continual growth and building that is occurring within the District boundaries. Facility needs are not going to stop.
 - iii. Rocky Mountain Risk – Members: Director Piotraschke and Director Kerber is an alternate.: Director Piotraschke reported that the pool is seeing a downward trend of claims and payouts due to the amount of staff working remotely. Some insurance providers are no longer offering coverage, therefor the pool is looking for secondary coverage, and reviewing that process. There are less and less companies offering coverage to larger school districts. The company offering coverage for vehicles, may not continue providing coverage, so the pool is reviewing their options. The pool is financially solvent, and the ratio of contributions to payouts is 5:1. The process of adding additional districts continues, having the same criteria as existing members, to avoid an increase in claims.
 - iv. Reaching Out/In – Members: Director Green and Director Thomas: Director Thomas stated that the next awards will be distributed at the April 27, 2021 meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet next week.
 - v. Commerce City and School District 27J Use Tax Committee – Members: Director Nickeson and Director Worth, Director Green is an alternate.: No meeting has occurred since the last Board of Education meeting.
 - vi. 2015 Bond Oversight Committee – Members: Director Piotraschke and Director Worth: Director Piotraschke reported that the committee has met for more than five years. All the main projects included in the 2015 bond are complete. With the remaining funds, plans are to construct the first phase of Elementary School #14. He also noted that the construction staff has been great stewards of the 2015 bond funds. The group is concentrating on possible building upgrades, maintenance lists, safety items, and proper ventilation systems. The committee is needing to fill a vacated position that represents the west-area of the District.
- d. Other Matters of Information for the Board: None

10. EXPECTATIONS OF THE BOARD

- a. Board acts to accept/reject the following reports due/submitted since last

April 13, 2021	6:00 p.m. Linkage Meeting or Planning Session Lois Lesser Board and Conference Room or Electronic Meeting
April 27, 2021	6:00 p.m. Study Session (Note later start time) 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Lois Lesser Board and Conference Room or Electronic Meeting

12. BOARD MEETING EVALUATION

The next quarterly-meeting evaluation will be presented at the March 9, 2021 meeting.

13. CLOSING COMMENTS: Director Piotraschke thanked everyone for their hard work.

14. ADJOURNMENT: 9:04 p.m.