

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING February 27, 2017 (Work Session Meeting)

A Work Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, February 27, 2017 in the Board Room, District Office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Deb Spenceley called the Work Session BOE Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Chris Richardson

Director Richard Smith

Director Deb Spenceley

Directors Carol Hinds and Dee Lindsey were not present

Also present: Superintendent Douglas Bissonette
Communications Director Melissa Hoelting
Running Creek Elementary Principal Tammy Krueger

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Deb Spenceley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE

Running Creek Elementary Education Showcase

Running Creek Elementary Principal Tammy Kreuger shared the school's motto: "One Team, Collaborating Together for All Students." This year the focus has been on teamwork and collaboration in an effort to support students wherever they are in their academic journey.

Teachers and staff have been improving the Response to Intervention (RtI) process. RtI is a process that provides targeted teaching—called interventions—to help struggling students catch up. A big part of the RtI process involves closely monitoring student progress. That way the school can see which students need more academic support. The process has been simplified and small teams are meeting to brainstorm interventions. An example of an intervention is a first-grade student who is struggling will visit or "guest" in a kindergarten class for 30 minutes to work on phonic skills. The interventions have been successful and teachers are seeing students who had very low assessment scores at the beginning of the year progress to proficient scores already.

Running Creek received funding through the Colorado Department of Education's Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) project. The project gives schools access to an early literacy assessment tool that teachers can use to obtain real-time

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information on the reading skill levels of students in kindergarten through third grade. ELAT provides immediate results on reading levels, stores and analyzes those results, and recommends activities based on the results. Teachers are excited about the information that this assessment is giving them, especially in the area of monitoring students' academic progress.

The school's participation in the ELAT project caught the eye of the Office of Special Education Programs who was looking for two final schools to participate in their State Identified Measurable Result (SiMR) project. As part of the project, kindergarten through third-grade teachers, along with special education and Title teachers, receive training for a 30-minute phonics routine that is explicit and systematic. This year, kindergarten, first-grade, special education and Title teachers attended training and are implementing the routine. The teachers also receive professional development training and a coach two days a week through the program. Teachers believe the phonics routine is already making a difference for students.

The Everyday Math Curriculum has been updated this year and teachers feel they are able to teach content in more depth than before. Teacher Lynette Metherd is providing Depth and Complexity training to all staff. The preschool received a grant that enabled participation in the Music for Learning program, which includes learning sessions using music twice a week.

Running Creek continues to incorporate a variety of activities each school year, including those that have become traditions and new events too. Here are just a few of many events that take place throughout the year:

- Math Night
- Bike/Walk-to-School Day
- Homecoming Week
- Halloween Parade and Candy Buy-Back
- NED Assembly
- Veteran's Day Assembly/Breakfast
- 5th Grade Food Drive
- ROAR Dance Party
- Assemblies
- PTCO Bingo Night
- Mammoth Lacrosse Visit
- Spelling Bee
- Farm Day
- Montgolfier Day

Kreuger shared that each school day starts with students entering the building as early as 7:30 a.m., putting their backpacks by the classrooms and then heading to the gym. PE teacher Rebecca Rasbeck has videos that kids can exercise to. Students can make their own exercise video if save up enough ROAR tickets. When the bell rings staff and students listen to announcements together, recognize any Watch D.O.G. volunteers for the day, celebrate birthdays and do ROAR reminders. After the announcements everyone says the Pledge of Allegiance together before being dismissed to classrooms.

5.0 APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/BLANKET MOTION

A motion was made to approve the amended agenda.

Motion moved by Director Richardson

Motion seconded by Director Smith

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ROLL CALL:

Director Chris Richardson – aye
Director Richard Smith – aye
Director Deb Spenceley – aye
The motion carried 3-0

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2017 Elizabeth Schools Board of Education meeting.

Motion Moved by Director Richardson
Motion Seconded by Director Smith

ROLL CALL:

Director Chris Richardson – aye
Director Richard Smith – aye
Director Deb Spenceley – aye
The motion carried 3-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Modernized School Funding Formula

Superintendent Douglas Bissonette and Director Deb Spenceley updated the board on statewide efforts to create a new school funding formula. The current funding formula used by the state legislature was created in 1994 and there is broad consensus among education leaders that the formula needs to be updated to reflect legislative requirements enacted over the last decade.

Creators of the proposed school district funding formula looked at experience from other states to build the model. The model takes a base funding amount that would be given to all school districts and multiplies that by the number of students and other factors, including size of the school district, special education students, gifted students, poverty, English language learners, full-day kindergarten, preschool, and cost of living to come to the proposed total funding for a school district. Currently, the proposed model has a limited number of inputs and is lacking full explanation of how the factors are calculated. The proposed model is based on a \$3.1 billion – or 48% – increase in funding from current school district funding without a guarantee or plan for securing the additional funding.

Superintendent Bissonette and board members expressed concern about supporting the proposed school funding model without knowing how the model calculates the outputs and using such a high increase as the basis for evaluating the new model. They also commented that it's difficult to support the new formula until it can be made certain that teacher salary equity in the state is improved with the new model.

Director Spenceley provided a few takeaways from the Colorado Association of School Boards' (CASB) Legislative Conference February 23-24.

- The negative factor, a provision in state law that reduces the amount of total program funding and state aid provided to K-12 school districts, is now recognized in state statutes.
- The Gallagher Amendment, Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) and Amendment 23 have come together to create the perfect storm for funding challenges for schools, and for the entire state.
- The current school funding system is 20 years old and what is decided regarding a new school funding system could affect school districts for many years to come.

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- Goals of this year's legislative session in regard to education are: early childhood support, bringing back 9th grade assessments and funding.

Superintendent Bissonette, Chief Finance Director Ron Patera and HR Director Kin Shuman spoke to Running Creek Elementary staff about funding. The gap in public's knowledge about funding challenges for schools is large. People are seeing taxes go up through assessed valuations and still think school districts are getting a pot of money.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 8.1-8.5.

Motion Moved by Director Richardson

Motion Seconded by Director Smith

ROLL CALL:

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 3-0

8.1 Substitutes

Robert Kortbawi

Tanner Oliver

8.2 New Hire

Kevin Dickerson, Custodian, RCE

8.3 Changes

Kelly Riggle, Teacher, FHS

Mark Zoller, Bus Driver, Transportation

Amanda Kerchner, Health Tech, SHE

8.4 Resignations

Lisa Stanfield, Playground Para, RCE

Sandra Tombre, Teacher, SHE

8.5 2016-17 DAC Updated Membership

9.0 Action Items

No Action Items

10.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

No Discussion Items

11.0 BOARD PLANNING

The next regular board meeting will be March 13, 2017.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

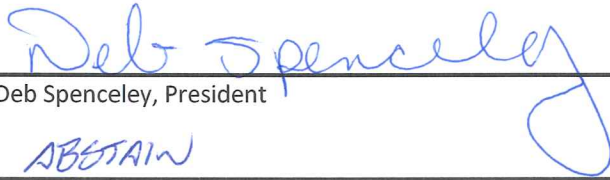
No Executive Session

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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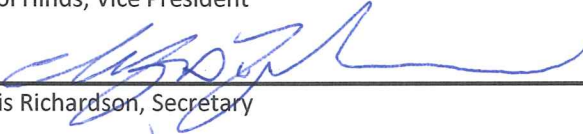
Respectfully Submitted,



Deb Spenceley, President



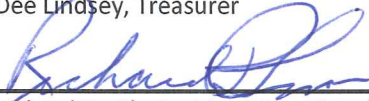
Carol Hinds, Vice President



Chris Richardson, Secretary



Dee Lindsey, Treasurer



Richard Smith, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Melissa Hoelting