

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING January 23, 2017 (Work Session Meeting)

A Work Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, January 23, 2017 in the Board Room, District Office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Deb Spenceley called the Work Session BOE Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Carol Hinds

Director Dee Lindsey

Director Chris Richardson

Director Richard Smith

Director Deb Spenceley

Also present: Superintendent Douglas Bissonette
Chief Finance Director Ron Patera
Communications Director Melissa Hoelting
Transportation Director Terry Wilson

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE

No Education Showcase

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

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

Motion moved by Director Richardson

Motion seconded by Director Lindsey

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

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6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2017 Elizabeth Schools Board of Education meeting.

Motion Moved by Director Smith

Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Fuel Storage Project Report

Transportation Director Terry Wilson shared an update on the district's fuel storage system project that was completed in October. The new fuel storage system replaces an aging 4,000 gallon fuel tank with a 12,000 gallon double-wall tank that has a 20- to 30-year life expectancy. The larger tank will reduce refueling trips in and out of the community by more than half. The new tank also has upgraded safety features to reduce the risk of an accidental environmental release and it is expected there will be long-term savings from purchasing fuel in bulk.

This was a large-scale project with a lot of pieces. The district had a licensed individual overseeing the project, but Wilson and his team did most of the work. Wilson's team stepped up to ensure bussing ran smoothly when the last leg of the project stretched into the school year. In the end, the project cost \$75,635 – at a savings of up to \$34,000 based on some quotes – due to Wilson's ability to minimize costs and complete a lot of the work internally.

7.2 2017-18 Budget Timeline and Goals

Chief Finance Director Ron Patera provided a draft 2017-18 budget timeline and budget goals to board members. The documents will be reviewed at the next board meeting and goals also will be refined if needed.

7.3 State and District Accreditation

Superintendent Douglas Bissonette reported that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has approved the requests for reconsideration of the preliminary accreditation ratings for the Elizabeth School District, Elizabeth High School and Running Creek Elementary.

The district's accreditation rating moved up one category to a final rating of "Accredited: Low Participation."

Elizabeth High School's plan type went up one level to "Performance Plan: Low Participation." The CDE recalculated the school's accountability participation rate using corrected participation data.

Running Creek Elementary also moved up one category to "Improvement Plan: Low Participation." By factoring in the positive growth data for kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students for the 2015-16 school year, the CDE approved a higher rating.

Elizabeth Schools also received a 100% accreditation rating on its CDE compliance review of special education services. The compliance review is used as a condition of accepting Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) resources.

7.4 School Finance Act Update

Superintendent Bissonette shared that some school district superintendents are looking at current School Finance Act and working with practitioners to see if agreement can be reached to modernized the act and have it more reflective of

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current policy so there can be greater confidence in how money is allocated to schools. This work is not for this legislative session, but for the future. Bissonette has been reminding superintendents to keep teacher salary equity at the forefront of discussions.

7.5 Review of Jan. 20 Lockout Timeline

Superintendent Bissonette shared a timeline, from his perspective, of the January 20 lockout to give an overview of the lessons learned.

School and district leadership first learned about rumors of potential school violence circulating via text message and Snapchat around 10 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19. Elizabeth High School Principal Bret McClendon and security staff member Mary Peavler were in contact with the Elizabeth Police Department between 10 and 11 p.m. Elizabeth Police Department was in contact with Elbert County Sheriff's Office. Late in the evening the Elizabeth Police Department believed the rumors were not credible, but indicated they would continue to investigate and work to identify the source. The law enforcement agencies said they would have at presence at the school in the morning as a precaution.

A draft communication to parents was prepared Thursday night. The communication was to be updated early in the morning if there was any new information from law enforcement, and then sent to parents before school, ideally before kids started getting on buses.

On Friday morning there was a breakdown in the coordination of team members monitoring the situation and sending out the parent message. The parent email message was sent as soon as the breakdown was discovered, at approximately 7:40 a.m., and followed up with a text and phone notification that all schools were on a precautionary lockout.

Around 11:30 a.m. law enforcement completed their investigation and the precautionary lockout was lifted. The Elizabeth Police Department praised the teamwork and balance in responding to the situation, with a good overall conclusion. The district expressed appreciation to the Elizabeth Police Department and the Elbert County Sheriff's Office for their support and very quick response.

The most important lesson from the incident was to ensure that parents are provided accurate and timely information about safety concerns. To accomplish this, each district team member must have a backup. The backups must be included in the communication loop from the very beginning of an incident in order to ensure decision making and communications can move forward independently, and without interruption. Steps are being taken to put this in place immediately.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 8.1-8.2.

Motion Moved by Director Richardson

Motion Seconded by Director Lindsey

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

8.1 Fund Balance Resolution

8.2 2016-17 Budget Revision

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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 February 13, 2017.


12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session


13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



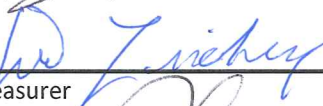
Deb Spenceley, President



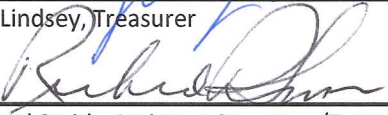
Carol Hinds, Vice President



Chris Richardson, Secretary



Dee Lindsey, Treasurer



Richard Smith, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Melissa Hoelting