

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1 - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1

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BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING FINAL January 12, 2015 (Business Session Meeting)

An Executive Session for Personnel Matters under C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4) (f) was called to order at 6:35pm.

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Carol Hinds

Director Dee Lindsey

Director Chris Richardson

Director Deb Spenceley

Director Chip Swan

Also present for Executive Session was Superintendent, Douglas Bissonette.

The Executive Session adjourned at 7:01pm

A Business Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, January 12, 2015, in the Board Room, District Office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Deb Spenceley called the Business Session BOE Meeting to order at 7:07pm.

2.0 ROLL CALL

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Carol Hinds

Director Dee Lindsey

Director Chris Richardson

Director Deb Spenceley

Director Chip Swan

Also present: Superintendent, Douglas Bissonette
Executive Administrative Assistant/Communication Director, Michele McCarron
Chief Finance Director, Ron Patera
Technology Director, Marty Silva
Human Resources Director, Kin Shuman

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE

Elizabeth Middle School

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1 - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Jodi Elkins, Principal at EMS and Pam Eschief, Dean of Students/Athletic Director provided an update to the board on the happenings at Elizabeth Middle School.

- New at EMS included the Pearson math textbooks for 6th and 7th grade, which aligns with the textbooks used in 8th and at EHS; advisory time changed from all study halls to intervention and exploratory time; 7th grade is piloting a homework accountability program called WIN.
- Community Service is encouraged at EMS and some of their activities included helping the Women's Shelter and a Canned Food Drive for Elizabeth Food Bank.
- Many EMS students participate in popular Band, Choir, Orchestra, Art, and Drama electives; a range of sports are offered at EMS including football, basketball, volleyball, cross country and wrestling.
- EMS offers a variety of clubs including Knowledge Bowl, Photography, Cooking, and Crafts.
- Upcoming events include:
 - Geography Bee – Jan 27th
 - Honor Roll Recognition Assemblies
 - Spring Musical, Band, Choir, Orchestra Performances
 - Open House (Learn about the school) – Jan 21st at 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00
 - 5th Grade Parent Night & Elective Showcase for incoming 5th grade students

5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/BLANKET MOTION

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

Motion moved by Director Richardson

Motion seconded by Director Swan

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 5-0

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Motion to approve the minutes from 12/8/14 as written.

Motion Moved by Director Hinds

Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 5-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Elizabeth Education Foundation

The Elizabeth Education Foundation received more grant requests this year than in any previous year and awarded almost \$12,000 in grants to teachers. The funds for the grants are raised through the Safeway and Kings Sooper Grocery Cards, the Nuggets and Avalanche Community Nights, and through the Amazon Smile program. The S.T.A.R.S. banquet is scheduled for April 4, where students are recognized for taking accountability and responsibility seriously.

7.2 HR Update

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1 - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Kin Shuman, Director of Human Resources, provided an update on the search for the Elizabeth High School principal. Mr. Shuman recently met with a group of parents to solicit their feedback on the attributes they are looking for in a new EHS Principal, as well as the current strengths and future challenges of EHS. Similar discussions were held with EHS staff members and EHS students. The position is posting nationally. Interviews are targeted for the February/March timeframe. Mr. Shuman also reported that due to a one-time grant we are able to hire a part-time gifted and talented coordinator for the rest of the school year.

7.3 Technology Update

Marty Silva, Director of Technology, had several items to report to the board:

- Network upgrades occurred over the holiday break making the network more efficient, improving connections and throughput at the school sites and throughout the district.
- Chrome book lab installation is complete at Running Creek Elementary.
- Map testing started which included a new implementation of computer based testing.
- Tech team is preparing for PARCC and CMAS testing which includes training for teachers on implementation of the testing, and training for our students on how to take the new computer based tests.

7.4 Chief Financial Officer

At the December 8, 2014 board meeting the Board of Education asked Ron Patera, Chief Financial Officer, to look into the feasibility of taking some of the unplanned one-time revenue from FY 2013/14 to address some of the district's most urgent needs. Mr. Patera presented his recommendations which included:

- Heating unit EMS auditorium
- New heating unit in SHE kitchen
- Replace nonworking and obsolete radios for buses and SHE
- Technology purchase that was not completed before 13-14 year end
- Start the district wide communication upgrade system including phones in all classrooms

District policy DKC-R states that the district will reimburse employees based on the current IRS standard mileage rate. The standard rate from last year to this year went from 56 cents to 57.5 cents per mile. Mr. Patera requested an exemption from that policy and to leave the rate as is at this time until the price of oil stabilizes. Board members granted this exemption.

Mr. Patera is working with the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce to use unused classroom space at Frontier High School to offer training for new and existing local business owners and as an incubator space for start-up businesses. To foster an atmosphere of cooperation with the local Chamber and to showcase the facility for possible future paid events, Mr. Patera requested an exemption from district policy KF-R-3 to waive the fee for the January 31, 2015 Chamber retreat. Board members granted this exemption.

Beginning with the January payroll, the district's match for PERA has increased from 17.45% to 18.35%. As a percentage of the budget expended, employee benefits will start to inch higher as a percentage of the expended budget beginning with the January statement.

7.5 Superintendent Report

Mr. Bissonette, Superintendent, after break had the opportunity to visit all the schools and the 2nd semester is off to a smooth start. He indicated how he is often inspired by the staff working together doing what's best for kids. Other topics briefly discussed:

- Data reporting being imposed on school districts by the state.
- Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) and Colorado Alternate Assessment (CoALT): Science and Social Studies
- State task force on testing
- CDE's Colorado Accommodation Manual – Selecting and Using Accommodations for Instruction and Assessment.
- Colorado General Assembly Joint Budget Committee

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1 - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

7.6 Board of Education

Director Deb Spenceley recognized the work of the board at the CASB convention held in December. Board members are getting ready for the General Assembly Session and will be participating in the Day at the Capital program hosted by CASB. Director Carol Hinds recognized Senator Jerry Sonnenberg, newly elected State Senator, who co-sponsored a bill for education titled General Fund Surplus Transfers for Education. This bill requires the state treasurer to transfer the General Fund surplus as follows: 70% to the State Ed Fund, 30% to the Higher Ed Fund, beginning this fiscal year and not stop until the Negative Factor no longer applies to the financing of public schools. It was introduced in the House, assigned to Finance, Education & Appropriations. Director Chris Richardson recently attended a Joint Budget Committee session. Several members of the board of education will be attending the CASB Winter Legislative Conference.

7.7 Public Participation

Andi Hei and Heather Booth, members of the RCE PTCO, signed in to provide comments during public participation. They expressed their interest that the replacement of the Alarm System at Running Creek be included on the list of items to be addressed with the unplanned one time revenue.

8.1 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 8.1 through 8.4 as presented

Motion Moved by Director Richardson

Motion Seconded by Director Swan

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 5-0

8.1 Terminations/Resignations/Non-Renewals

Virginia Diaz, Custodian, EHS

Kristina Ward, SPED Para, SHE/PS

Andrea Mulcay, Psychologist, SHE

Victoria Vossler, Para Professional, RCE/PS

Michael Woods, Teacher, EMS

Steve Nelson, Warehouse Transporter, Food

Drenda Herrick, Teacher, EMS

8.2 New Hires

Patricia Richardson, Health Aide, EMS

Emily Schaffer, Teacher, EHS

Elizabeth Schneider, Speech Lang Pathologist, District Wide

Deborah King, Sped Para, SHE/PS

8.3 Transfers/Changes

Renae Ramos, Bus Driver, Trans

Amy Clark, Secretary, EMS

Drenda Herrick, Sped Para, EMS

Vicki Neer, Driver Trainer, Trans

Chiquita Sanders, Speech Lang Path, District Wide

Kimberly Johnston, Teacher, EMS

Rodney Blunck, Acting Principal, EHS

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1 - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

8.4 Substitutes

8.5 2014-2015 Extra Duty Assignments

A motion was made to approve 8.5 with the amendment of removing Michael Woods from the Extra Duty Assignments.

Motion Moved by Director Swan

Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 5-0

9.0 Action Items

A motion was made to amend the agenda to move Resolution from 10.2 Legislative Priorities discussion to Action item 9.1 Approve (with the recommended edits) Board Resolution Regarding Priorities for Action.

Motion Moved by Director Swan

Motion Seconded by Dee Lindsey

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 5-0

10.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1 Draft Budget Goals 2015-2016

The primary goal of the 2015-2016 budget for the Elizabeth School District is to put students at the heart of everything we do and prudently expending district resources. This will be accomplished using the following guidelines:

- Preserving or enhancing curricular and extra-curricular offerings to maintain or improve the quality of education for all students
- Prudently increasing salary and benefit levels in order to retain, reward and attract the highest quality educators and support staff
- Continuing to adjust staffing levels in order to reflect changes in enrollment and take advantage of voluntary departures (retirements and resignations) as much as possible
- Aligning resources for continued improvement in student success and improvements in organizational effectiveness
- Providing adequate resources to ensure safe and well maintained school facilities
- Prudently using existing financial reserves to address critical and urgent capital needs
- Seek additional revenue through grants, donations, and partnerships.

10.2 Legislative Priorities

The Elizabeth Schools Board of Education has been a strong voice in advocating for our schools with the state legislature. The Colorado General Assembly has passed multiple pieces of legislation in years past that have directly, and/or indirectly through the actions of the Colorado Department of Education, limited the ability of our board to exercise control of education in a manner that fully meets the needs of our community. The Board of Education has expressed their concern on state mandates such as:

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1 - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

- State implementation of graduation guidelines that interfere with our board's authority to establish local graduation standards.
- The overly burdensome standardized testing of students that reduce instructional time and increase district resource requirements.
- The increase in the amount and the frequency of data collection and reporting requirements.
- The cumulative state funding shortfall for our district that will approach \$13 million dollars.
- The unpredictability of the current system for state reimbursement of district expenditures for high needs students.

10.3 Town Hall Meeting

The Elizabeth Schools Financial Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20 starting at 6:30pm at EHS. Members of the district leadership will provide an introduction to the district's financial situation, including the annual operating and long-term capital needs of the district. Much of the Town Hall will be to hear fiscal ideas and suggestions from the community. This event is designed for the public.

10.4 ESD101

There are approximately 12 people registered to participation in the next series of ESD101. The first session will be held on January 28 with the topic of HR/Technology.

11.0 BOARD PLANNING

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2015

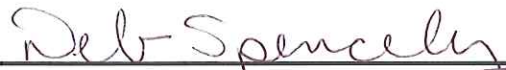
12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 9:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



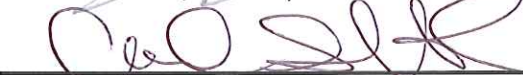
Deb Spenceley, President



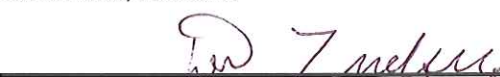
Chip Swan, Vice President



Chris Richardson, Secretary



Carol Hinds, Treasurer



Dee Lindsey, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Michele McCarron