

January 21, 2014

I. PRELIMINARY

Shepherd called the January 21, 2014, meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

JulieMarie A. Shepherd, president
Cathy Wildman, vice president
Dan Jorgensen, treasurer
Amber Drevon, director
Eric Nelson, director
Barbara J. Yamrick, director

The following member was absent:

Mary W. Lewis, secretary

Also meeting with the Board of Education were:

D. Rico Munn, superintendent of schools
William Stuart, deputy superintendent
Brandon Eyre, district legal counsel
Damon Smith, chief personnel officer
John Youngquist, chief academic officer
Georgia Durán, chief communication officer
Anthony Sturges, chief operating officer
Adrienne Bradshaw, chief financial officer
Tonia Norman, assistant to Board of Education

Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome to Visitors

Shepherd led the Board and audience in the pledge to the flag.

Approval of Agenda

The January 21, 2014, agenda was approved as written.

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At the January 14 planning session, the Board elected to include time on future agendas for short breaks. The Board will take a five-minute recess following action on the consent agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on January 7, 2014, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

Aurora Academy Charter School Assistant Principal Kerstin Rowe shared that staff is applying for a Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant in the amount of \$55,000 in order to implement a PA system, a video surveillance system, and replace some interior doors. She noted that staff is in the process of developing a master plan that outlines future goals and the overall vision for the next few years. She emphasized the importance of safety and security and having stronger security measures in place based on recommendations and input from APS resource officers and the "I Love U Guys" Foundation.

Shepherd moved and Yamrick seconded to amend the consent agenda and include the BEST grant application for Aurora Academy Charter School on the consent agenda for action.

Roll Call: Drevon, Jorgensen, Nelson, Shepherd, Wildman, Yamrick #8288

Approved on a vote of 6-0

Aurora Education Association (AEA) President Amy Nichols shared that January is School Board Recognition Month. She thanked the Board on behalf of AEA for volunteering their time and advocating for students and employees as they strive for success. She shared that the role of the Board involves setting the district's vision and goals; adopting policies that provide direction to set priorities to achieve goals; hiring and evaluation of the Superintendent; adopting and overseeing of the budget; and managing the collective bargaining process. She expressed that all of the roles are important, but emphasized that the most important role is to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed. She shared a brief story that highlighted the important work and impact that the Board has on students. She thanked the Board for their time and commitment to

district students and families.

II. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Board of Education Report

No Items

Superintendent's Report

Munn noted that the Board adopted legislative priorities at its January 7 meeting. This item will be included as a standing agenda item during the legislative session. The Board will also receive a written update each Friday.

Munn indicated that approximately 28 bills related to K-12 education were introduced and briefly provided an update on bills currently being monitored by district staff, including HB 14-1076, Early Childhood Quality Incentive Program; HB 14-1085, Adult Education and Literacy Programs; HB 14-1131, Cyber Bullying; HB 14-1139, Average Daily Membership for School Finance; and HB 14-1145, Summary Financial Expenditures Info K-12 Schools.

Munn shared that the School Finance Act is a current topic of discussion and debate, and staff is actively engaged in a variety of conversations around some of the proposals.

Munn provided the Board with an update regarding the impact of Amendment 64, legalization of marijuana, on district sites and classroom environments. He noted that the district would continue to enforce existing policies to support drug-free environments for students and staff. He pointed out that even under Amendment 64, possession, use or intoxication on school grounds is a violation of the law. He indicated that minor changes regarding legal citations might need to be updated under policy and presented to the Board for approval. A district-wide communication regarding Amendment 64 will be included in the HR newsletter and emailed to staff on January 28, 2014.

Yamrick asked how this would impact adults who elect to attend an athletic event or other site events. Eyre stressed that possession, use or intoxication on school grounds is still a violation of the law and individuals could be cited by the Aurora Police Department.

Leadership Team Report

RMC Research Report

Youngquist shared that a number of elementary schools received instructional audits from RMC Research, a national firm that conducts program evaluations for schools and districts. Dr. Shelley Billig, vice-president of RMC Research, explained that instructional audits are based on best practices from research literature to close achievement gaps and increase achievement for all students. She shared that RMC utilizes a set of rubrics to rate schools and interviews the entire school community, including the principal, assistant principal, instructional coaches, teachers, classified staff, counselors, and parents. She noted that every classroom is observed and surveys are administered to gather feedback.

Billig shared that site principals at five schools requested instructional audits last fall, including Crawford Elementary School, Iowa Elementary School, Paris Elementary School, Sable Elementary School, and Wheeling Elementary School. She highlighted key strengths across the five schools audited, including knowing and understanding of content; communicating content to students; administering and interpretation of assessment data; and horizontal collaboration of professional learning. She highlighted challenges across the five schools audited, including classroom management; culturally responsive instruction; differentiated instruction to meet learning needs of all students; academic expectations to promote individual student growth; application of student learning; vertical articulation of professional learning; and active promotion of college and career readiness.

Billig reviewed strengths related to instructional support, including administrative focus on school improvement and instruction; program effectiveness; coaching; and minimal interruption of instructional time. She also highlighted concerns related to family partnerships and challenges associated with refugee and immigrant families as well as variations of safety and security processes and procedures at school sites.

Billig explained that each site received a copy of the instructional audit that highlighted findings and recommendations. She shared that actions to address challenges have been implemented at school sites.

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Billig suggested recommendations for the district to consider, including reviewing the West Palm Beach “Single School Culture” initiative in which faculties adopt one set of rules, regulations and incentives to address school culture; provide more professional learning opportunities related to differentiated instructional strategies or culturally responsive instructional strategies for veteran teachers; provide more professional learning opportunities related to classroom management or other basic strategies for new teachers; and develop a more systemic approach across all schools related to college and career readiness. She noted that teachers across the district voiced concerns regarding the number of regulations and required assessments, but emphasized that successful schools and districts utilize assessment data often to pinpoint student learning. She suggested that the district consider utilizing shorter assessments to assess student learning when appropriate.

Drevon asked how sites were utilizing feedback. Youngquist noted that principals felt that findings were representative of their sites. He reemphasized that sites have implemented strategies to address challenges and highlighted the direct tie to UIPs and steps that have been implemented in action plans to address challenges.

Jorgensen asked if patterns were consistent with previous instructional audits. Billig shared that the majority of patterns were consistent, but postings of learning objectives and summaries have improved over time.

Shepherd thanked Billig and RMC Research staff who assisted with the report. She appreciates the level of details and findings in all of the reports.

Munn added that challenges addressed in the RMC Research report are mirrored responses in terms of changes and approaches that have been included in the restructuring framework and the district UIP action plan.

Yamrick asked about the monitoring process associated with UIPs. Youngquist replied that directors and principals complete quarterly improvement plan checks of UIPs. He added that UIPs are tracked closely and conversations are held throughout the year to review strengths and challenges.

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Lease Purchase Agreement for the New Community Campus P-8 School
Financed by Certificates of Participation Series 2014

The Lease Purchase Agreement for the New Community Campus P-8 School Financed by Certificates of Participation Series 2014 was presented to the Board as information. Bradshaw explained that the purchase agreement will enact the lease and engage in the trust agreement with U.S. Bank.

This item will be included on the February 4 consent agenda for action.

2014-15 District Calendar

The proposed 2014-15 district calendar was presented to the Board for review. Stuart shared that the calendar is a rollover of the current calendar with very few changes. Two elementary professional release dates that were scheduled in the first semester of the current calendar year were moved to January and April in the proposed calendar. The READ ACT day in which instructional staff is scheduled to meet with parents to discuss reading plans for students experiencing reading deficiencies is scheduled on April 6.

Wildman asked about the time line regarding preparation and planning associated with READ ACT Plans. Youngquist explained that January is the first time that teachers have had an opportunity to develop READ ACT Plans. He noted that instructional staff is communicating with teachers on a weekly basis and clarifying expectations related to implementation. He added that a required conference must be scheduled with parents of affected students during the final 45 days of the school year to review READ ACT Plans.

Drevon asked if the READ ACT day was a regular instructional day for students. Stuart replied yes.

Yamrick asked how the proposed calendar aligned with area school districts, holidays and religious observances. Stuart replied that scheduled breaks among area school districts are closely aligned, usually a week or so apart. He added that staff is sensitive and respectful of all holidays and religious observances when developing calendars.

Shepherd asked about construction calendars for next year. Sturges shared that Gateway is undergoing major renovations, but is not on a construction calendar.

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He shared that construction may affect the fifth block of instruction schedule at Gateway.

Stuart noted that for the past seven years the distinguishing feature of the district's calendar has been the fifth block of instruction. He shared that discussions are currently underway related to extended learning opportunities and its effect on future calendars. He indicated that staff is collecting data and reviewing various intervention delivery models and the Division of Accountability and Research is conducting research with 10 to 12 sites that have piloted various intervention models.

Stuart shared that the Board reviewed enrollment versus capacity challenges in December and approved the construction of a new P-8 school. He emphasized that the Board directed staff to start researching a year-round calendar construct, adding that a committee has been convened and has met with leadership in Cherry Creek and Douglas County to review year-round calendar models.

This item will be included on the February 4 consent agenda for action.

Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant – Aurora Central High School

Bradshaw shared that Aurora Central High School was recently awarded a BEST grant, and requested that the Board approve a supplemental budget increase of approximately \$1.2 million to the grant budget.

This item will be included on the February 4 consent agenda for action.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson moved and Yamrick seconded to approve the following items on the amended consent agenda as presented:

- Resolution Expressing the Intent to be Reimbursed for Construction Costs
- BEST Grant – Aurora Academy Charter School

Roll Call: Drevon, Nelson, Jorgensen, Shepherd, Wildman, Yamrick #8289

Approved on a vote of 6-0

IV. BOARD WORK

Ends Conversation and Open Dialogue

Policy Perception Checklist

Did the Board receive information at tonight's meeting that requires a policy change?

The Board did not receive information that requires a policy change.

Did the Board receive information at tonight's meeting that requires additional information or monitoring?

The Board did not receive information at tonight's meeting that requires additional monitoring.

Open Dialogue

Colorado Association of School Boards Policy Consultant Jim Weigel facilitated a discussion with the Board regarding its function, purpose and governance structure.

Board Self-Monitoring

Nelson indicated that this was a great meeting in which everyone equally participated. He shared a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as follows: "The Ultimate Measure of a Man is not where he stands in the moments of Comfort and Convenience, but where he stands at the times of Challenge and Controversy." This meeting ended with peace and harmony.

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Next meeting date

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 4, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Mrs. Patricia Lord Boardroom of Educational Services Center 4.

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Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

President

ATTEST _____
Secretary