

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the August 7, 2007, meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

Matt Cook, president
Jeanette Carmany, vice president
Susan Tabacheck, secretary
Judy Edberg, treasurer
Jane Barber, director
Debbie Barton, director
Edward Lord, director

The following members were absent:

Also meeting with the Board of Education were:

John L. Barry, superintendent of schools
Anthony Van Gytenbeek, deputy superintendent
William Stuart, chief operating officer
Anthony W. Sturges, chief operating officer
Rodney R. Weeks, chief financial officer
Kari J. Allen, chief personnel officer
Tonia Norman, assistant to Board of Education

Pledge of Allegiance

Cook led the Board and audience in the pledge to the flag. He then welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The August 7, 2007, agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held June 19, 2007, were approved as written.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Items of Current Interest

Over the past 10 years, APS employees have generously donated more than \$75,000 to charities funded through Community Shares of Colorado, Partnership for Choice campaign. In appreciation, Community Shares of Colorado has awarded APS with the 2007 "Campaign of the Year" award in recognition of outstanding support and dedication. Barry thanked the Aurora Education Foundation staff for their hard work and efforts in organizing the campaign.

Barry congratulated Jake Trotter, retired transportation department employee, for earning the Colorado State Pupil Transportation Association's "Driver of the

Year" award. He was selected from more than 100 nominees in the state of Colorado.

Trotter has worked in the district for more than 26 years, and has graciously agreed to serve an additional five years transporting students to and from athletic events and field trips. We are honored to have him on our team. Trotter was recognized by the Board and presented with a coin.

Barry thanked Jan Giesking, retired APS teacher, for her incredible support and dedication to APS summer school programs. Giesking has spent the last three years making the programs a success. She has visited schools and talked to countless parents to ensure that coordinators, teachers and students have meaningful experiences. Her commitment to APS is worthy of praise. Giesking was recognized and presented with a coin.

Barry shared that the 2007-08 school year is off to a great start. APS staff welcomed more than 30,000 students back from summer vacation today. We would also like to extend a special welcome to the more than 250 new teachers who joined APS this year and the veteran teachers as well.

To get a glimpse of first day of school experiences, Dianne Lewis in communication services presented a slide show of first day activities throughout the district to the Board. Barry stated that it was a great day and thanked Lewis and the communication department for the presentation.

VISTA 2010 Update

Allen shared that at each monthly business meeting of the Board, each of the chief operating officers responsible for a letter in PACE will provide an update to the Board on how we are progressing with the implementation of the VISTA strategic plan.

Cook clarified that VISTA 2010 is our strategic plan. We have action items for each of the elements in the plan and these slides represent the actual information items. Barry shared that the public can go to the Web site to review the strategic plan and review the 13 goals, 34 objectives, and 93 actions, all of which have metrics. Slide presentations of four of the 93 actions will be reviewed tonight.

People

Allen explained that there are three goals in the "people" section of the strategic plan. She focused on Goal 2 - to ensure that all employees are highly qualified and skilled for their positions and Objective 1 - ensure all teachers and instructional support staff are highly qualified as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Allen shared that this goal and objective was selected because we have just completed our highly qualified data for licensed staff. Data is submitted to the Colorado Department of Education every year on December 1. In the 2005-06 school year, 97.72 percent of teachers were highly qualified. We increased our highly qualified teacher rate during the 2006-07 school year by 98.74 percent. APS ranks third out of the 15 largest school districts in the metropolitan area for hiring highly qualified teachers.

Allen explained that classified data is gathered, measured, and configured in the district. We have a district-designed, but state-approved program for training classified staff to meet NCLB requirements. Data collected by December 1, 2005, showed that 95.79 percent of classified employees met NCLB requirements; data collected by December 1, 2006, showed an increase of 98.4 percent.

Carmany questioned if we were still having trouble finding highly qualified teachers in certain areas.

Allen shared that it is still hard to find highly qualified teachers in special education, science, and math. The teacher in residence program is recognized as a highly qualified authorization and we can place teachers that meet the entry requirements in the program to become highly qualified.

Allen shared that the Colorado Department of Education, based on an audit from the federal government, refined how elementary teachers are certified as highly qualified. Elementary teachers, who were highly qualified a year ago, were not highly qualified this year because the state changed the requirements and teachers had to take a content proficiency test to become highly qualified. The state devised a plan, an elementary house provision, which is a portfolio type of review of experience and credits. Some teachers were certified highly qualified again, but some had to take the test. We paid the testing fee for all teachers who took the test out of Title I funds. Allen concluded that the state is starting to shift from a highly qualified teacher based on credentials to a high quality teacher based on results.

Carmany questioned whether the state plans to change the terminology from highly qualified to highly effective teacher. Allen explained that highly qualified based on licensure and credentials is still the term used, but it may change in the future.

Achievement

Stuart shared that "Goal 1 – accelerate learning and raise expectations for every student" was chosen from the achievement section of the strategic plan in honor of the first day of school.

Stuart shared that literacy and math pacing guides for grades 3–10 have been completed. The pacing guides and their role in the initiatives around instruction have been a topic of discussion throughout the district. Our role is to support, help, and instruct teachers and principals on the use of the guides and make sure they are fully accessible. We need to learn from day one to refine the guides if necessary and make sure they are as aligned as possible. Stuart requested that the Board ask principals and teachers about the guides when visiting schools to make sure they are being implemented, and to determine what kind of support they are receiving and what we can do better to support them.

Tabacheck asked whether tutoring programs were available in-district to meet goals. Stuart replied that we are working with the grants office to compile a list of supplemental services and tutoring options that are available to students in order to construct a comprehensive Web site for parents and the school community to access. He concluded that one of the main purposes of having pacing guides and interim assessments is so buildings can build safety nets and help students who need intervention as early as possible.

Community

Escárcega updated the Board on the community section of the strategic plan: Goal 1 – strengthen collaboration with parents to enhance student learning for their children and for all children.

Escárcega shared that the objective is to increase parental involvement. A parent survey was given in April through Title I and 80 percent of parents agreed or strongly agreed that workshops held were valuable. She reiterated that survey results were only from the elementary level and that is why the percentage is so high. The return rate district wide was about 33 percent. The goal set for next year is to increase the return rate to 84 percent.

Tabacheck asked if the goal set was only for elementary or will it include the entire district in order to get a more concise picture. Escárcega replied that in the school improvement plan, there is a goal around parental involvement. We will be looking at middle and high schools to ensure they are increasing their return rate. Barry also reiterated that the survey was sent to every parent, but most of the responses came from elementary parents.

Environment

Sturges updated the Board on environment, Goal 1 – Provide environments that optimize learning and teaching and are safe, secure, and well-maintained.

Sturges focused on Action 87 – complete all current bond projects on time and within budget by June 2008. All bond projects are on time and within budget. As of August 1, 2007, 71 percent of bond projects have been completed. We are slated to have 23 new bond projects during the 2007-08 school year. Some projects include additions to Rangeview High School, and construction will begin on the new K-8 school and special education building.

Barry explained that the format for the Vista 2010 presentations will always be the same: Repeat of the goal and the objective that the action is under. The outcome and measurement is what the metric on the right reflects. Tasks on the side are colored coded. Red means that the action has not been completed or may not have started, yellow means the action is intermittent, and green means the action is complete. Barry explained that this is the format used to keep the strategic plan alive and our leadership team reviews a letter from PACE monthly. We are excited, and want to ensure that this viable plan has cognitive and measurable objectives that we can review continually.

Section I – Instruction and Section J – Student Policy Revision

Dea Kreisman shared that in June, Board members were presented with a CD containing the remaining J policies and the revised I policies for review. She introduced Rosemarie Hebert and thanked her for her support with the project.

Kreisman reviewed the following revisions that were made to the I policies:

- In Section I, Instruction, 33 policies are in the revision process
- 14 are recommended for deletion for reasons such as:
 - No year-round schools
 - No continuing education department
 - No drivers' education program
 - Obsolete/no longer current practice
 - Policies combined with other policies

Kriesman shared that the following policies have changed since they were presented to the Board on June 19, 2007:

- IKC/IKD/IKAF, Class Rankings/Grade Point Averages/Weighted Grade – language was added to include “rigorous course of instruction”
- IJJ/IJK, Textbook Selection and Supplementary Materials and Adoption – a couple of items were deleted at the end so approval for adopted materials would only come through the Division of Instruction in the formal adoption process.

Tabacheck questioned if, under policy IHBA.1, we adhere to the IDEA Act, which requires that an advisory committee, which is now called the Parent Partnership Group, is in place and if there is a liaison that reports outcomes to the Board.

Kriesman shared it was her understanding that the Parent Partnership Group is under the Division of Instruction, Exceptional Student Services, and they work with the group.

Ralph Albertson, director of Student Achievement for Exceptional Student Services, was in the audience and responded that they work closely with Diana Bieber, family liaison. He hopes to make the Parent Partnership Group very active this year.

Kriesman shared that according to Board policy in the “B” section, the Special Education Advisory Committee, which is now called the Parent Partnership Group, is one of the standing committees that is very formalized by the Board of Education. Throughout the years the Special Education Advisory Committee was taken over by the Parent Partnership Group and the group is self-monitoring.

Tabacheck emphasized that according to the IDEA Act we are required to have an advisory committee in place.

Albertson explained that APS is in compliance with the IDEA Act. We wanted to have a lot of flexibility and get good feedback, good interaction, and establish a good connection to our parents. Rather than having a formalized structure with just the administrative team, we wanted to have a flowing document and a living connection with our parents because I believe that is the spirit of the IDEA Act. Parents are a key ingredient when we develop our IEPs and educational plans. We wanted to have lots of flexibility in our communication with them in order to make realistic improvements.

Tabacheck shared that parent involvement in the Parent Partnership Group has diminished somewhat and the IDEA Act does require parent involvement and reiterated that is a federal requirement by law to have the committee in place.

Albertson shared that this group, which is chaired by Diana Bieber, does a wonderful job with parents. We are planning professional development in-services for parents and team meetings. We hope to enlarge the committee and give them a larger voice in our program planning and the direction that we take in the next few years. He reiterated that we are in compliance and we have a good operational base.

Tabacheck expressed concerns that we have only been in compliance on paper in the past and was pleased with steps being taken to strengthen the Parent Partnership Group.

Tabacheck asked Kriesman for clarification on whether the IJJ/IJK policies were approved by instruction or the Board. Kriesman responded that the Board approves all policies as part of the adoption process. Tabacheck asked if it was specially stated in writing that all policies were approved by the Board. Kriesman responded yes. Stuart also clarified that it represents the curriculum adoption process, which implies the Board. Tabacheck questioned if the language was stated specifically rather than implied. Hebert checked the policy and it stated specifically that the Board of Education shall authorize instructional materials and supplemental materials.

Kriesman reviewed the J policies that were not presented to the Board in June. The remaining 34 student policies were presented to the Board for review. Policy JLCE.1, CPR Directives, is on hold pending further discussions and will be presented to the Board at a future meeting. Listed below are nine of the 34 policies scheduled for deletion:

- Six were merged into one student admissions' policy
- JEDB and JED were combined with JE – which refers to the student absence policy. The attendance will be consistent for all grade levels across the district.
- JLCG refers to a handbook that contains all relevant data – this information is available in a less formal format in the Health Services Handbook. This policy also refers to the Health Service Advisory Taskforce, which is no longer in existence. Kriesman shared that Mary Beth Rensberger has requested that the task force be implemented again if needed.

Tabacheck asked for clarification regarding policy JKF and specific requirements for the structure and use of timeout rooms. Kriesman explained that the policy previously read that there were only specific requirements for construction rather than the overall purpose of timeout rooms. The language was changed to clarify when it is appropriate to use timeout rooms.

Tabacheck questioned if it states in the policy who determines or what medical assistant/associates determines the building structure of the room.

Albertson shared that the Department of Education has strict guidelines on the use of the rooms. You cannot leave a child in a timeout room without supervision and if you have a doorway that locks someone must hold it and release it. Albertson gathered research from other districts and shared that if policies are needed to construct a room, we can do it administratively without having to write Board policy. The regulations from CDE about the use of a timeout room are very strict and they are not used often.

Tabacheck pointed out that a timeout room was built at Murphy Creek K-8 and most states have eliminated or limited the use of timeout rooms. Albertson shared that the general direction of the district is to use more positive behavioral supports in lieu of timeout rooms and added that Diane Bieber provides a lot of restraint training for staff.

Tabacheck thanked Albertson for taking the time to explain the information.

Kriesman reviewed changes to the following J policies:

- JF: Student Admissions to/Withdrawals from School, now includes “if residence has been established”

- JJA: Student Organizations, now includes a correct cross reference
- JLIB: Student Dismissal Precautions, now includes that a student may be released to another person designated by the parent.

Carmany voiced concerns regarding releasing students via a phone call. She suggested that valid photo identification be provided and possible security questions be answered before releasing a student.

Kriesman will research and provide more information at the August 21 Board meeting. She also requested that policies I and J be presented for action at the next meeting.

Barry shared that 484 policies have been submitted. He thanked Kreisman and Hebert for their work and efforts.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Instructional Materials Adoption

The list of proposed instructional materials for adoption was presented to the Board of Education as information

Stuart reviewed the purposed intent of the Daily Language Instruction materials for third, fourth, and fifth grades that were presented for adoption.

Lord moved and Barton seconded to adopt the list of basic and proposed instructional materials as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabachek #7903

This item did not pass on a vote of 4 to 3.

Barber, Barton, Carmany, and Tabacheck voted against adopting the list of proposed instructional materials as presented.

Cook, Edberg, and Lord voted for adopting the list of proposed instructional materials for adoption as presented.

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Name Changes – Administration Building, Highline A and B, and Centretech

Sturges recommended changing the names of the following administrative building in order to better align services and functions. The recommendations are as follows:

- Business Services to Information Technology Center
- Administration Building to Educational Services Center, Peoria Building
- Highline A to Educational Services Center, Building 1
- Highline B to Educational Services Center, Building 2
- Centretech to Educational Services Center, Building 3

Barry clarified that the proposed name for Highline B is Educational Services Center, Building 1; the proposed name for Highline A is Educational Services, Building 2. The proposed name for Centretech will remain Educational Services Center, Building 3.

Tabacheck expressed concerns in naming all three building Educational Services. It would be too confusing to staff, parent, and community patrons.

Lord questioned the cost of renaming all of the buildings. Barry shared that the cost would be minimal.

Tabacheck questioned if Board approval was required to change administrative buildings as is the case in renaming school building. Barry replied that renaming administrative buildings did not require Board approval.

The general consensus from the Board was to table the naming of the administrative buildings. This item will be presented as an information item at a future Board meeting.

Vassar Encroachment Agreement

Sturges invited Josh Hensley to the table to present information to the Board regarding the Vassar Encroachment Agreement. Hensley explained that Conoco Phillips owns and operates a 6-inch and 8-inch pipeline in the right-of-way adjacent to Vassar Elementary. APS has requested permission to encroach upon the easement to construct a parking lot that includes a turning lane. Upon completion of the project, the pipeline will be 18 feet from the parking lot.

Lord moved and Tabacheck seconded to move the Vassar Encroachment Agreement to action.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck #7904

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No items

III. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Allen shared that Human Resources has processed 7,000 applications since the Board convened in mid June. She shared highlights from the classified job fair, which more than 300 people attended. Human Resources has hired 350 employees. Most of the hires have been teachers, but 90 classified staff have been hired. Allen explained that principals usually hire teachers, and then support staff. She expects classified hiring to increase. She concluded that Human Resources has rehired 130 employees and has processed 160 transfers.

Barry shared that he attended funeral services for two district employees, Terri Bradshaw, counselor at Hinkley High School, and Juan Gonzales, paraeducator

at Murphy Creek. A moment of silence for deceased APS staff was held at the first day of school event at Hinkley.

Classified Personnel

Allen recognized Leah Cordova, who is retiring after many years in APS.

Licensed Personnel

Allen recognized Patricia Oda, who is retiring after many years in APS.

Non-Licensed Administrative and Professional/Technical Personnel

It was moved by Edberg and seconded by Barton to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck #7905

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No Items

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Expenditures Summary and Financial Report June 30, 2007

The Expenditure Summary and Financial Report as of June 30, 2007, was submitted to the Board of Education for approval.

Tabacheck moved and Barton seconded to approve the Expenditure Summary

and Financial Report as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck #7906

Tabacheck asked Weeks to comment on the award received by the Finance Department.

Weeks shared that the Accounting Department was awarded the 23rd Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from GFOA. The accounting department has received this award many times throughout the years. This is the highest acknowledgement of government reporting and it is a testament of the hard work and efforts of Adrienne Bradshaw and the entire accounting team.

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Edberg shared highlights from the back-to-school barbeque at Lansing Elementary. She expressed that it was a great example of the "C" (community) section of VISTA 2010. Lots of families and government officials attended the barbeque and it was enjoyed by all.

Barber complimented Dianne Lewis on the first day of school presentation. The communication department always does a great job showcasing APS students. Cook shared that it was his daughter's first day of school as a sixth grade student. He also shared that three board seats are open and interested candidates can pick up packets in the APS Legal Office at 1085 Peoria Street.

Opportunity for Audience

Thomas Botte, 1157 Kingston Street, delivered correspondence to the Board. Correspondence was given to Norman for distribution.

Brenna Isaacs, 3884 S. Halifax Street, shared highlights from the first day of school event at Hinkley High School. She was most impressed with a high school student from Africa, the Bronx, and now a resident of Aurora. She shared that he gave an outstanding speech and it was a great way to kick off the school year.

Isaacs referenced the minutes from the June 19 Board of Education meeting stating that she was pleased to read that the superintendent's theme for this year is "trust and teamwork." She expounded that it takes all of us to ensure this theme becomes a reality. Addressing the building climate survey is a good start, but it must be addressed continually. Many teachers in schools visited today had not seen survey results. We must see the good and the bad, and address issues as a team. Issacs concluded that the AEF board is looking forward to working with the superintendent and the Board this year.

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be on August 21, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Administration Building at 1085 Peoria Street.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

August 7, 2007

President

ATTEST

Secretary