

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the September 18, 2007, meeting to order at 6:30 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

The following members were absent:

Edward Lord, director

Also meeting with the Board of Education were:

John L. Barry, superintendent of schools
Anthony Van Gytenbeek, deputy superintendent
Lisa Escárcega, chief accountability and research officer
William Stuart, chief academic 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 September 18, 2007, agenda was modified to allow for the inclusion of Policy JLIB as an action item.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held September 4, 2007, were approved as written.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Items of Current Interest

Barry shared that the APS Equity and Diversity Education Department is sponsoring a series of forums to educate the diverse APS Community by providing an opportunity to share success stories.

A forum on increasing success with Hispanic students will be held Thursday, September 20, at Aurora Central High School at 5:30 p.m. The keynote speakers will be Dr. Bárbara Medina, English language acquisition director for

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the Colorado Department of Education and Rodolfo José Cárdenas, senior news anchor and producer for Univision. We encourage staff, students, parents and community members to attend.

Please join us for the Hinkley High School grand opening to celebrate the school's bond-funded remodel on Thursday, September 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. You will have the opportunity to tour the school, enjoy student entertainment and a gourmet dinner courtesy of Carrabba's Italian Grill.

Barry thanked Ryan Boatright of Echelon Partners for being a true example of "trust and teamwork." Boatright was installing a camera at Peoria Elementary when he witnessed the theft of a student's bike. The next day, he generously bought the student, fifth grader Marco Tafoya, a new bike with his own money. Marco was in awe and speechless.

Boatright reassured Marco that although there are people who do bad things, one should not be angry, as there are more people willing to do good things. This story epitomizes the aspect of community in Picking Up the PACE! This is a true tribute to you and the community. Barry presented Boatright with a coin.

Barry shared that APS launched a netcast that includes conversations about pilot schools between a study group that explored the possibility of pilot schools in APS. The study group includes the AEA president, the former CEC president, the deputy superintendent, teachers and principals throughout the district. This netcast links to a page on the Intranet that includes the group's response to its charge, an overview of pilot schools, and next steps. This is an attempt to follow on an initiative that began in Boston 25 years ago. It gives schools more autonomy and opportunities for choice.

We encourage you to participate in a live conversation with the study group at an upcoming pilot schools forum. The first forum will be held in the media center at Hinkley High School on Thursday, September 20, 2007, from 4 to 5 p.m. The second forum will be held in the media center at West Middle School Monday, September 24, 2007, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Barry thanked Gold Crown Foundation Director Coby Chaney for donating more than \$3,000 worth of sports equipment to Mrachek, Aurora Frontier K-8, and Murphy Creek K-8 students. The foundation provides opportunities to educate youth through sports enrichment programs. It is an honor to partner with Gold Crown. This is a great example of community involvement as outlined in PACE. Barry presented Chaney with a coin.

Barry announced that the APS Board of Education has been nominated for the Colorado All State School Board Award. This prestigious award recognizes one Board in the state of Colorado for outstanding boardmanship, which this APS Board has demonstrated continually in the past two years.

The Board has shown outstanding leadership in the district and the community for their ability to create reforms necessary to raise student achievement and close the gap among ethnic and economically diverse students. They have used both sound reasoning and ethics in making decisions to change organizational structures, increase technological supports, and revamp the concept of operations to ensure an expert instructional system. Throughout this process, they have reached out to staff, parents, and the community to develop partnerships to help fulfill our vision and mission. They have been resolute and courageous in the face of challenges and have willingly accepted the

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responsibility to help lead our district to higher expectations and higher accountability for all. They deserve this recognition for their willingness to lead a transformation of Aurora Public Schools.

This is a true testament to the APS Board and I cannot think of more deserving group of people.

A special thanks to Sue Clark, for all of her valuable assistance and suggestions, as well as Ginny Burgess, APS parent and chairperson of the Gateway High School Accountability Committee; Kevin Hougen, president and CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce; and Brenna Isaacs, AEA president, for writing letters of support for the Board.

Carmany shared highlights from an ELL meeting she attended at Kenton. She was most impressed with staff and shared that the presenter from Dartmouth was excellent.

Barber highlighted a PTO meeting that she attended at Fulton. The PTO provided hot dogs and it was a fun evening for all. She also had an opportunity to attend an informative meeting at Park Lane and listen to teachers discuss issues and concerns. It was very enlightening.

Cook attended a football game at Gateway and had an opportunity to flip the coin. He also shared that the fall musical season is approaching and encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy.

Pilot School Netcast

Van Gytenbeek presented a netcast featuring members of the pilot study group discussing the charge, purpose and process for possible implementation of pilot schools in APS. Staff and community can assess the netcast via the district Intranet site.

Brenna Issacs, AEA president, shared that teachers have been contacting her with questions and concerns regarding pilot schools. She expects more questions to arise as we move further toward implementation. An emergency meeting was held with association representatives to address questions and they gave the "thumbs up" to move forward. The next step will be a series of forums where teachers can dialog with members of the pilot school study group. Negotiations are scheduled to begin October 3 and a second day is planned October 10.

Van Gytenbeek and Issacs recognized and thanked Georgia Duran, Ivan Duran, Tom Fox, Rich Blegen, and the entire communication services department for their incredible work on the netcast.

Tabacheck requested that questions and responses be shared with the Board. Van Gytenbeek shared that questions and concerns will be transcribed and information will be shared with the Board. He voiced his appreciation of the Board for their forward thinking and willingness to move forward with pilot schools.

Section D Policies – Fiscal Management and Section K Policies – School, Community and Home Relations

Brian Donovan and Rosemarie Hebert provided a brief overview of policy revisions and changes to section D, fiscal management. Twenty-seven policies in the section are in the review process. Eight policies were not changed and are as follows:

- DBJ, Budget Transfer
- DD, Funding Proposals, Grants and Special Projects
- DFA/DFAA, Revenues from Investments/Use of Surplus Funds
- DI, Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
- DIEA, Internal Audits
- DKAA, Final Salary Computation – Separated Employees
- DKC, Expense Authorization/Reimbursement
- DN, School Properties Disposition

Donovan shared that policy KDDDB, Sports and Special Events Media Coverage, was incorporated into KDD in order to advertise more broadly. He shared examples of advertisements that the district will utilize including advertisement on school buses.

Tabacheck asked for clarification on policy KLG, relations with law enforcement authorities, and questioned if the policy pertained to district personnel only. She voiced concerns regarding law enforcement entering schools to review student records. Donovan shared that this policy does not deal with student records, only investigations or inquiries.

Carmany asked for clarification regarding where in the policy does it state the location of the district budget for the community to access. She also voiced concerns regarding the deletion of language referencing the parent resource center in policy KBA and the overall language in policy DA. Donovan and Hebert will review and provide further clarification.

Barber asked for clarification on policy KI, visitors to schools, and questioned if we still required visitors to sign in when visiting schools and buildings. Donovan shared that it is a requirement, but will review language. Carmany also voiced concerns regarding policies slated for revisions that were not included in the CD received in Board packets. Donovan and Hebert will review and provide further clarification.

Boundary Adjustment

Donovan explained that Community College of Aurora owns and operates 150 acres of land in Aurora. CCA plans to use 50 acres of the site and make the remaining land available for commercial redevelopment. Some of the current parcel is located within the APS boundaries. CCA is seeking a minor adjustment in the land in exchange for three acres. The land does not contain any residential agencies and it would not be a disadvantage to APS.

Donovan shared that the developers were present to answer questions or concerns from the Board.

Josh Hensley reviewed an aerial map of the site between Denver and Aurora counties and explained that the size of the district would remain the same. He introduced Bruce O'Donnell, CCA consultant, and Gwen Anderson, director of Lowry development.

Cook asked what APS schools were nearest to Lowry. Hensley replied that Boston, Fulton, and the New America School were the closest schools to Lowry.

Carmany asked whether the adjustment would affect any APS kids. Hensley replied that no APS students would be affected by the change.

Bruce O'Donnell, consultant from CCA, reviewed zoned open space. He shared that CCA will pursue rezoning. Development will not take place for a couple of years.

Tabacheck questioned if any federal or state conditions existed. O'Donnell shared that property was conveyed and CCA has been working with the federal government for about two years. The US Department of Education has also approved.

Tabacheck asked if they had encountered any environmental issues. O'Donnell replied that there was asbestos found at Lowry during redevelopment and there is a potential of asbestos still in the soil.

Cook shared that this will come back for action at the October 2 Board meeting.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

Graduation Rates

Escárcega presented an overview of how graduation rates are calculated by the Colorado Department of Education and how it reflects in APS. She shared that CDE defines the on-time graduation rate as follows, "The high school graduation rate is the percentage of students from which an end of year eighth grade cohort, adjusted for verified transfers in and out with adequate documentation, who leave schools as graduates as defined by the district in four years or less."

The state is now following eighth grade students for four years instead of eleventh grade students to determine graduate rates. Data has also been adjusted to verify student transfers in and out with adequate documentation. The state decided to close the loop and we must have adequate data of a transfer before a student is considered a graduate. This has reduced graduation rates across the state.

A graduate, as defined by the state, is a student who exits school successfully in four years or less. Students who obtain a GED are not included in the graduation rate. These students are included in the completer rate. The state legislation changed how districts count students who receive a GED in 2005.

Escárcega showed comparisons of graduation rates among school districts throughout the metropolitan area. APS had a 68.1 graduation rate. Prior to the new data, the graduation rate was in the high 70 percent range. The graduation data is more accurate and we have a good baseline to review.

Stuart shared that we must continue to work at getting adequate documentation of transferred students.

Tabacheck asked how home school students are calculated in the graduation rate. Escárcega replied that they are not considered in the process because they have transferred out. She explained that we must have evidence that they are enrolled in another school to consider whether they are a graduate or a dropout. If we can verify that they are in a high school program they are not considered a dropout.

Cook asked what the count time frame was for completers (students who obtain a GED). Escárcega believes it is four years.

Barber questioned why the state continues to find the need to change the process. Escárcega agreed that lots of changes have occurred, but believes it is valid in this case because graduation definitions were not complete. This should be the last change.

Cook asked what the identifier numbers were. Escárcega shared that it is a ten digit number that the state creates and it is not related to a social security number. Cook asked if numbers were used to tracked students. Escárcega replied yes.

DIVISION OF FINANCE

2007-08 Re-adopted Budget

Weeks invited Martha Baldwin to the table to present information on the 2007-08 adopted budget. He shared that the Board is aware that each year we have an option to review the budget and readopt it in October in order to get a better idea of beginning amounts and transferred funds.

Baldwin reviewed changes to the charter school budgets. Since June 2007, there has been an \$800,000 increase in the charter school budget. Aurora Academy includes a transfer of funds to their capital reserve fund. The charter school included information in their budget in June, but it was not included in the previous budget. This allocated \$200,000 more resources used mainly in purchased services. The Lotus budget increased by \$330,000 and will be used mainly for salaries, purchased services and supplies.

The capital reserve fund decrease difference was \$535,000. The estimate was based on completed projects in 2006-07 that were scheduled to be finished in 2007-08. This decreased the fund from \$1 million to \$500,000, which in turn decreased the beginning fund balance.

The Colorado preschool and kindergarten budget increased by \$940,000. APS was granted an additional 200 slots, which equals to \$685,000. The increase allows us to service 243 students at eight community sites. The additional funds have been placed in a contingency account for future use.

The grant fund increased about \$2 million. New grants include Read to Achieve at Altura, Crawford, and Vaughn, Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools, and School Based Health Planning.

Carmany asked if the Read to Achieve grants have been cut back across the state. Stuart replied that grants were reduced significantly across the state.

Baldwin shared that there was an increase in funding to current grants including

- Carl Perkins Secondary
- Comprehensive School Reform
- Title I
- Title IV

The internal services fund budget increased significantly. The increase was based on annual expenditures such as copier service. Print services purchased

equipment toward the end of the 2006-07 school year and that lowered their estimated beginning fund balance.

The nutrition services budget increased by \$500,000. Aurora Academy has contracted for nutritional services at no additional cost to the district. They will pay the district for services.

The risk related activity budget, related to workers' compensation and claims, was under budget by \$100,000. The beginning fund balance increased by \$175,000 and was budgeted into a contingency line item.

Weeks explained that there was a small change in the general fund page. He shared that every page of the budget was affected by a budget change, either in a T.E. or a salary account budget. Funds have also been set aside to allocate funds to purchase school supplies for each APS student in the spring as recommended by DAAC. Ten dollars will be allocated for each student.

Weeks shared that an enrollment reduction of .5 percent or 150 students is projected for the 2007-08 school year. He reminded the Board that last year APS was below projections by 364 students. The budget has been built and adopted to reflect the reduction of 150 students. The projections shown may be conservative and we may decline by an additional 300 students.

The School Finance Act allows districts with declining enrollments to receive funding based on averages of the last three years of declining enrollment. We will have a more accurate number after the student count in November. We have a good fund balance and can bear declining enrollments for at least three years. The target amount for reserves have been reached and exceeded. We have spent ownership tax to offset the cost in internal funds. We are required to retain a five percent balance.

One way to offset the funding gap is to increase the PERA allotment from wages. In January 2007, the increase to employers was .50 percent. In January 2008, the increase to employers will be .40 percent; the increase to employees will be .50 percent.

The total balanced budget for the district is \$246,000,000. Fund balances that have not changed cover areas that support VISTA 2010 including Mondo, fifth block, and interim assessments. These programs will be reviewed annually to determine overall effectiveness.

Weeks discussed a mill override and the possibility of putting it on the ballot for Aurora voters. The impact on an owner of a \$200,000 home would result in a \$9.15 annual increase.

Tabacheck asked if we were getting forms and funding from families living on military installations. She emphasized the need to have a good liaison with the military in order to collect forms. Baldwin shared that we are printing forms and getting them back at a better rate. We work with Colonel Headley at Buckley and we have formed a good relationship with him.

Barry shared that the colonel is on the VISTA 2010 Advisory Committee and he has done a major campaign to get families registered. We went over the 400 mark since Fitzsimmons closed.

Weeks explained that last year we sent forms to every student in the district and

to new students as well. We received more than half a million dollars due to the help of Colonel Headley.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Centralized Daycare

Allen introduced Barber Cooper, Damon Smith, and Brenda Gehrke to present an overview of centralized daycare in APS. Cooper shared that the district currently has two types of daycare programs. One is an external before and after school program that is run by contracted daycares and one is an internal before and after school daycare that is run by schools. The district has taken an in-depth look at what is occurring in daycares including staffing, compensation, and the level of curriculum alignment.

Cooper discussed the benefits of an internal centralized daycare that aligns with curriculum and creates more quality programs. Revenues generated from internal programs stay in the school and the district.

Brenda Gehrke, program coordinator at Vassar, presented an overview of the internal daycare at Vassar. She shared that the daycare has generated more than \$48,000 to spend as needed at Vassar. Funds generated have paid for white boards, promethean boards, cafeteria tables, and has paid for professional development for teachers and student field trips. Smith thanked and praised Gehrke for her work with students. She is providing a good level of care and learning that is aligned with curriculum.

Smith reviewed a summary of profits generated at external and internal daycares throughout the district. Carmany questioned if the \$26,264 profit at Century was correct? Smith replied that figures were correct.

Tabacheck commented that schools have generated a lot of money from before and after school daycare programs. She asked Weeks if there was any set profit limit. Weeks replied no and shared that prices were set so programs can be run and be competitive with outside daycares. Costs were set by district leadership.

Tabacheck asked if profits were aligned for all students. Gehrke shared that it is \$15 for the first student in a family and half the amount for additional siblings. She shared that we contacted daycares throughout the city to compare prices before setting. Tabacheck voiced concerns that families of latchkey students will not be able to afford the expense. Smith shared that we will look at demographics throughout the district and prices will vary based on demographics.

Barber asked if scholarship programs were available. Gehrke shared that scholarship were not offered at Vassar, but some sites did offer scholarships. Cooper shared that we will be reviewing best practices for all schools.

Cooper and Gehrke will be meeting with the principal at William Smith to discuss centralized daycare for families with infants.

Cook asked the presenters if we had looked at any established, existing programs. Cooper shared that we are currently looking at existing programs through the YMCA.

Carmany asked what were the qualifications for staff employed in the before and after school programs. Gehrke explained that staff must have a director's license and be sixteen years old. They have to log 500 hours in order to teach students. Carmany asked Gehrke is she was familiar with the before and after school network. Gehrke replied no. Carmany will e-mail available information to Gehrke to review. Barber also mentioned that there is a before and after school network through CUBE.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

III. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Allen shared that there were no personnel recognitions.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, and Tabacheck #7918

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Section E – Support Services Policy Revisions

Donovan shared that the Board was presented with Section E, Support Services, as information on September 4. He also asked that policy JLIB, Student Dismissal Precautions, be added to action. The language was changed to reflect that students can only be released to a parent or custodial guardian.

Carmany moved and Edberg seconded to approve Section E and the amended

motion to section JLIB as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, and Tabacheck #7919

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Opportunity for Audience

Mr. Scott Bell, 4842 Jericho Street, shared that his daughter has been attending the Aurora Quest Academy. She is in the first grade, but reads at a fourth grade level. She has a very high IQ, scoring above 150.

Bell shared that she will be five years old on September 8, and because of the cut off date, will not be allowed to stay at Aurora Quest Academy.

Bell emphasized that his daughter is gifted and talented and according to state law, a school board can grant latitude for gifted and talented students. He shared that Aurora Quest Academy is an excellent school and his daughter now feels she has a school to call home. He requested that the Board allow his daughter to stay at Aurora Quest Academy.

Bell mentioned that he was at the groundbreaking ceremony at Aurora Quest Academy and had an opportunity to meet Superintendent Barry. Cook asked Barry to review the policy and contact Bell with a decision.

Val Donaldson, 14936 East Mexico Drive, voiced frustrations with the Vanguard Classical School. She shared that her student was enrolled at Jewell Elementary, but opted to enroll at Vanguard because of smaller class sizes that would better address her student's needs.

Donaldson shared that her student is unable to learn and is distracted most of the day due to continuous, extremely loud singing from a fellow classmate. The charter school only seems interested in servicing students with extreme needs versus students with mild to moderate needs. She voiced frustrations with the Board and questioned why APS approved the charter. She expressed disappointment and requested that the Board visit Vanguard to see what is

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occurring at the school. Cook asked Barry, Stuart, and Escárcega to look into her concerns.

Lori Parker, 12558 E. Villanova Drive, voiced frustration with the Vanguard Classical School. She is the parent of a student with more extreme, specific needs. She shared that the school has provided no provision, adaptations, or modifications for her student's specific needs. The charter did not have a transition meeting and IEP services were not granted. In addition, the charter blocked off the handicap parking lot.

Parker is currently using advocacy to address concerns. She has met with the principal, but is still waiting for answers and modifications to be put in place. She voiced concerns regarding the lack of communication and open hostility from the staff. She asked to speak to the Board to raise awareness. Cook asked Barry to look into concerns.

Carmany shared that Board members received pinwheels that included stories of peace from students at Kenton Elementary. She thanked the students for the gift. The stories of peace and the earlier story regarding Ryan Boatright purchasing a bike for Marcos Tafoya were very inspiring and brought tears to her eyes.

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be on October 2, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Educational Services Center, Peoria Building, at 1085 Peoria Street.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

President

ATTEST

Secretary