



Aurora
Public
Schools

Board of Education

Agenda

meeting of

January 22, 2008

Aurora Public Schools

1085 Peoria Street
Aurora, Colorado 80011

Jan. 8, 2008, Minutes

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the January 8, 2008, meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

Matt Cook, president
Jeanette Carmany, vice president
Jane Barber, secretary
Peter Cukale, treasurer
Judith Edberg, director
Mary W. Lewis, director
Amy Prince, 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
Rodney R. Weeks, chief financial officer
Kari J. Allen, chief personnel officer
William Stuart, chief academic officer
Anthony Sturges, chief operating 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 January 8, 2008, agenda was amended to include the addition of two personnel items on the consent agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held December 4, 2007, and the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held December 11, 2007, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

Sharon Jones, 3420 S. Ouray Way, 303-690-0812, voiced concerns regarding the new weighted graduation system. Prior to winter recess, students, teachers and parents became aware of some unintended consequences of the new weighted graduation system scheduled to go into effect this year. It caught everyone off guard and it did not represent what Aurora Public Schools is about. Aurora Public Schools has been about encouraging achievement and exploring avenues of learning. The new weighted system narrows that down.

Under the new system, the student who is valedictorian is the one that took the fewest classes. Even if students take the same number of weighted classes, a student that took additional classes such as art, music and foreign language would be penalized statistically for their choices. This does not seem right to the

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parents, staff and the students who have set goals early in their academic high school career and have done everything they could do to achieve them.

Sixteen parents and students were present to voice concerns regarding the new weighted graduation system.

Michael Funk, 17572 E. Eldorado Circle, 303 690-2087, shared that three of his siblings were valedictorians at Rangeview High School and it has always been his dream to be a valedictorian as well. He expressed that if he worked hard and got straight "As," he could obtain scholarships and attend the college of his choice. He enrolled in a high school Spanish course in eighth grade and decided at that point that he would get straight As throughout high school.

Funk is a junior and has achieved his goals so far. He is confident that he can make it the rest of the way. His siblings have been his motivation from the start and he would like to be recognized as they were.

Funk read notes from Zack Davis and another classmate. Both students have straight "As" and echoed concerns and sentiments in their notes that were expressed by Funk. Funk shared that all of the students are juniors. He asked the Board to reverse the change, expressing that all of the students would appreciate it.

Rebecca Jones, 3420 S. Ouray Way, 303 690-0812, shared that she is a senior this year. The news that a single valedictorian would be selected at Rangeview and the way the new system would determine that choice has caused concern among students.

Jones presented a proposal that she believes would be fair and recognize students who excel in all areas. She proposed setting up an application process to include academic rigor, class selection and extracurricular and community service involvement. Students who have an unweighted 4.0 GPA could apply and complete the application. This would recognize students who excel in all areas and the valedictorian would be selected based on set criteria.

We are proposing to implement this proposal effective for the class of 2010 in order to give students an opportunity to fulfill the criteria. The next two years, 2008 and 2009, students would graduate under the unweighted graduation system. The two years also gives current sophomores an opportunity to get involved in advanced placement and honors classes, as well as clubs such as the National Honor Society and other activities where they can excel and work toward becoming the valedictorian.

Under this new weighted system, the class rank is also affected. A student's class rank can be raised for taking nonweighted classes. Students who have taken heavier loads are penalized and it may affect scholarships and awards they are applying for. We would suggest still having a weighted system where you differentiate between AP and honor classes. AP classes would be weighted at a higher rate because they are more rigorous and demand more of a student's time.

Harold Jones, Sarah Al-Najar, Mohammed Al-Najar, Abeba Workneh, Tigest Gidege were not present at the meeting but support the above proposal.

Cook asked Barry to work with Stuart and Principal Turner and communicate findings to the Board. The Board will discuss and communicate information to the school.

Cook thanked the student presenter for bringing concerns to the Board. We are your elected officials and we want to be your voice.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Reports from the Board of Education

Prince had an opportunity to visit Rangeview High School and tour their new dance studio. She also had an opportunity to visit Tollgate Elementary and tour their science lab.

Prince attended the Jewell PBS quarterly award ceremony and choir performances at both Aurora Central and Gateway before the winter recess.

Edberg shared that she, along with Lewis, Barry, and Sturges attended the Legends basketball game at Aurora Central High School. It was a privilege to see Ken Krieger and Don Sessions, former student athletes, acknowledged for their many accomplishments. Edberg commented that Don Sessions was a classmate of hers and it was nice to see him recognized.

Items of Current Interest

On Friday, January 18, APS will once again welcome elected officials, city leaders and community members into our schools to read to our students for the "Readers are Leaders" program. Superintendent Barry issued this challenge on the first day of school and we will continue to do it. Please share the word with anyone who you think would be interested.

Congratulations to Rangeview High School social studies teacher Lexi Weintraub for being one of four teachers in the U.S. selected to participate in the International Civic Professional Exchange Program in Usti nad Labem and Prague in the Czech Republic from Jan. 23-29. She will participate in professional development activities focusing on the development of democracy and also visit schools. Barry presented Weintraub with a coin.

Weintraub expressed that she enjoys her work. She thanked the administrative staff at Rangeview for being so supportive of her work.

Barry shared that January is School Board Recognition Month. He read a proclamation to acknowledge the importance of Board members to the district and the community.

WHEREAS, school boards create a vision for what students should know and be able to do;

WHEREAS, school boards establish clear standards for student performance;

WHEREAS, school boards ensure that student assessments are tied to established standards;

WHEREAS, school boards are accountable to the community for operating schools that support student achievement;

WHEREAS, school boards align school district resources to ensure that students meet standards;

WHEREAS, school boards build collaborative relationships based on trust, teamwork and shared accountability; and

WHEREAS, school boards create a climate that supports the philosophy that all children can learn at high levels;

WHEREAS, school boards are committed to continuous education and training on issues related to student achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, staff and students of the Aurora Public School District, hereby declare our appreciation to **Matthew Cook, Jeanette Carmany, Jane Barber, Peter Cukale, Judy Edberg, Mary W. Lewis and Amy Prince** and proclaim January 2008 to be School Board Recognition Month.

We urge everyone to join us in recognizing the dedication and hard work of Board members in preparing today's students for future success. A special reception to honor Board members will be held on January 22 at 4:30 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Patricia Lord Boardroom at the Educational Services Center, Peoria Building.

VISTA 2010 Update

People

Allen presented information pertaining to Goal 1: Recruit, hire, induct, support and retain high performing staff. She shared that this objective and action speaks specifically to increasing diversity in our employee groups. Our goal is to increase diversity by 10 percent annually.

- Classified - Hispanic/Latino employee group increased from 303 to 340 employees, representing a 12 percent increase.
- Licensed - Hispanic/Latino employee group increased by eight percent
- Administrative/Professional Technical - Hispanic/Latino employee group remained even.
- Classified - African American employee group increased from 220 to 247 employees, representing a 12 percent increase.
- Licensed - African American employee group increased by 18 percent
- Administrative/Professional Technical - African American employee group increased by 10 percent
- Classified - Asian employee group increased from 47 to 53, representing a 13 percent increase
- Licensed - Asian employee group decreased 32 to 27, representing a decrease of 18 percent
- Administrative/Professional Technical - Asian employee group decreased by 20 percent

Overall hiring exceeded in all Hispanic/Latino employee groups by 11 percent. Hiring remained even in the Asian employee group and hiring increased by 14 percent in the African American employee group.

Achievement

Stuart presented information pertaining to Goal 2, Objective 3, Action 29, Outcome/Measurement: Train 100 percent of district administrators and teachers in data-driven decision making by June 2008.

Over the past two or three months, John Barry, Tony VanGytenbeek and I have visited with principals and teachers to discuss initiatives. The three questions that we always ask in our school visits is what is working, what is not working and what can we do to help.

One of the initiatives that we are always discussing is data driven decision making and the use of data teams in buildings. We have learned a tremendous amount from teachers and principals. We are hearing very positive results about the process in regard to what teachers are learning about their students and how it impacts instruction. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of having 100 percent of teachers and principals trained around the data driven decision making process. We will continue to support the process and ask what we can do to improve it. We are utilizing the Doug Reeves' model and we will continue to collaborate with him for support.

Community

Escárcega presented information pertaining to Goal 2: Expand and strengthen community involvement and partnerships to foster ownership and shared responsibility to our schools. This action speaks specifically to the VISTA Guidance Council, which was formed in August 2006.

Barry explained that the guidance council is an advisory council to the Superintendent and represents a cross section of the Aurora community. Some of the members include the president of CCA, city manager of Aurora, representatives from Faith-Based Demographic Parents, truancy and gang experts, the dean from Regis University and the president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

It is very valuable to have this kind of advisory committee to provide feedback on initiatives we are pursuing and to get community initiatives reviewed. We set a goal to have 11 meetings last year and we accomplished it. We have had five meetings so far this year and we have met our target goal to date. This has proven to be a valuable community group and it has been very helpful to APS.

Environment

Sturges presented information pertaining to Goal 1, Objective 2: Integrate technology into every classroom to provide students with access to computers when needed and ensure they are adept in using them. Through the efforts of Bill Stuart, Ivan Duran, and the instructional technology department, every school has tech goals embedded in their school improvement plan.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Portion of General Fund Beginning Fund Balance as Authorized by Colorado Statutes

Weeks shared that the Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Portion of General Fund Beginning Fund Balance is a statutory requirement in regard to the budget. Action is usually taken during the adoption and readoption of the budget. The general fund was not part of the October readoption budget by design. We are experiencing a decline in student enrollment and we had not finished the audit. It was excluded from the resolution in order to resubmit at this time and include, in the last section, a figure of an amount that the Board would authorize from the general fund balance to use for operations in the 2007-08 school year.

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 22-44-105, states that a budget, duly adopted pursuant to this article, shall not provide for expenditures, inter-fund transfers or reserves, in excess of available revenues and beginning fund balance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the use of this portion of the beginning fund balance for the purpose set forth above will not lead to an ongoing deficit.

Several years ago, the state treasurer included this feature to ensure that districts are paying close attention to their finances throughout the entire year.

Weeks recommended that this item be submitted for action on January 22 to ensure the Board is aware that there is a set amount limiting how much we spend from our savings account for the remainder of the year.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Employee Transition Program

Allen shared that each year, the Board determines whether to extend the Employee Transition Program. In December 2006, the Board agreed to offer the transition program for the 2007-08 school year.

The number of employees taking advantage of the Employee Transition Program has declined over the past few years. The decline may be due to changes in PERA requirements. We have always tried to keep the cost neutral to the district, so employee salaries have been reduced over the past few years to balance out the PERA contribution that the district was required to make.

Allen noted that having the transition program is not an added expense because the employee is continuing to work in their position. Weeks completed a cost analysis of savings to the district and concluded that based on new hire data, the district would save \$485,000 if the program was discontinued this year. The district would save \$511,000 if the program was discontinued next year.

We have offered the transition program for the past nine years. Any employee who qualifies for retirement can apply for transition and it is usually granted. Both the Littleton School District and the Cherry Creek School District offer a transition program. Jefferson County, Douglas County, and Denver do not offer a transition program.

Once the Board reaches a decision, information regarding the Employee Transition Program for school years 2008-09 and 2009-10, will be communicated to APS staff in the January HR newsletter.

Matt asked Allen to explain "transition" to the audience. Allen shared that transition is a way for a PERA (Public Employee Retirement Association) employee to retire early, but continue to work up to 110 days of the calendar year

of their retirement, followed by 110 days during the next year. Employees can begin collecting retirement benefits from PERA while working and receiving their salary from the school district.

Cook clarified if the Board would be determining whether to offer the transition program for the 2008-09 year. Allen replied that the current decision is to retain the transition program for the 2008-09 school year. There is language that allows the Board to revisit the decision. The Board is being asked to confirm the decision to offer the transition program for the 2008-09 school year and to determine whether to offer the transition program for the 2009-10 school year.

Lewis asked for an estimate of monies a teacher who has been teaching 30 years would receive. Allen explained that a teacher who has a master's degree and has been teaching 28 to 30 years could retire and receive 75 percent of their salary assuming all of their years are in PERA.

Allen requested that this item be submitted for action on January 22.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Resolution Approving Change in Educational Use of the Aurora Public Schools Community Campus to include Quest K-8

Sturges invited Josh Hensley, planning coordinator, to the table to review the Resolution Approving Change in Education Use of the APS Community Campus to include Quest K-8.

A portion of the APS community campus was deeded to the district through the Federal Real Property Assistance Program in 1982. The deed transferring the property to APS requires that the district receive written approval from the Federal Department of Education for any change in educational use of this property. The Department of Education has provided preliminary approval for Quest K-8, which allowed the district to award a contract for construction of the school. This resolution is part of the application process for formal approval.

Hensley shared that the APS community campus was deeded from the federal government in two allotments. In lieu of paying for the property, the district agreed to use the property for public benefit for a period of 30 years. The Department of Education that oversees the Federal Real Property Assistant Program must provide written approval for all new programs.

The original allotment of 112 acres was deeded to the district in 1969. The original intended purpose of the APS community campus was for a vocational school that would specialize in the aviation industry. In conjunction with Buckley, the district was going to maintain and operate an air strip.

In 1972, Pickens was completed, which was the first building on the parcel. Over the next 10 years site plans changed and it became the district's main support site and includes transportation, IT and business services. The district approached Buckley and the federal government about a land trade to square up the district site. In 1982, the district agreed to return the southern 19 acres to Buckley in exchange for 40 acres. Two parcels were declared surplus and deeded to the district under the Federal Real Assistance Program, which is the

current boundary of the APS community campus. The Intercept Transition building and Aurora Quest K-8 will be built on the site and both are scheduled to open this fall. A portion of the Quest K-8 building is on the site that was deeded in 1982. The Department of Education must approve the site for all educational uses. The department has provided preliminary usage, which allowed us to award the contract and to begin construction.

Cook shared that this item will be submitted for action on January 22.

Utility Easement at Sable Elementary

Stuart shared that the owner of the property north of Sable Elementary is proposing to develop 16 townhouses in four buildings on the parcel. The City of Aurora is requesting a small utility easement on the district's property for a storm water inlet.

Hensley shared that information was presented to the Board in October. Both the easement and the storm water inlet have been completed. The easement will extend 17 feet into the northern boundary of Sable Elementary. The storm inlet is required to handle the storm overflow from the district's property onto the proposed development. Amy Spatz, construction manager, and Tim Stafford, grounds manager, have reviewed the proposal and determined that there would be no negative impact to the site. The easement is oversized and will be a benefit to the district if we make improvements to the Sable Elementary site.

Cook shared that this item will be submitted for action on January 22.

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

Classified Personnel

Licensed Personnel

Allen requested that the resignations of Tim Devlin and Eugene Fuller be added to the licensed personnel item.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

Prince moved and Carmany seconded to approve the amended consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7955

Approved on a vote of 7-0

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Vanguard Charter Contract Amendment

Donovan shared that the Vanguard Charter contract amendment was brought before the Board on November 4. Traditionally APS provides special education services to all charter schools. We believe that a different approach is warranted at Vanguard Charter School.

APS usually retains \$590 per student in exchange for providing special education services. Under the proposed amendment, Vanguard will perform most of the services and APS would retain \$150 per student. APS will continue to provide some special education services and would remain legally responsible for special education services under federal law. We maintain control over the final decision of all special education services such as student eligibility, placement, and discipline. If we need to have a special education hearing, both Vanguard and APS would be responsible financially. The contract provides that we establish a special education due process fund of \$50,000 from the charter and \$50,000 from APS. Interest from the due process fund will remain in the fund.

The contract will be reviewed in April to determine if we will extend it to next year. At the November 4 meeting, the Board noted that the contract stated that APS would help in the hiring process for certain positions. We have revised the contract to include language to reflect that APS would not make a candidate available to the charter if the same position was open in the district.

Other changes to the contract include providing extended school year services for special education students who might regress during the summer. APS would determine if services are required. The district would also be responsible for providing services to expelled students and we would receive a proportional share of school funding from Vanguard.

Ralph Albertson, director of Exceptional Student Services, and Cindy Millikin, assistant director of Exceptional Student Services, were present to answer questions.

Barber asked who requested the Vanguard contract amendment. Albertson replied that Vanguard asked to renegotiate the original contract. Since the school serves a high number of special needs students, they looked at how to implement their program with a full inclusion model. This contract is a result of their initiative. We saw the sense in this and agreed to support it until April of this year.

Cook asked if the April deadline was enough time to evaluate the program. Albertson explained that it gives the district enough time to determine if it is

working and an opportunity to determine if their ownership promotes the educational framework and accountability that the district needs to see. Millikin explained that this would also provide enough time to determine if Vanguard is able to secure personnel needed to effectively run the program or if they need to contract personnel from APS. Barber asked how often we would observe the program. Millikin shared that we plan to keep the current service providers assigned to Vanguard. They will do some observations prior to IEP meetings to determine the overall effectiveness of the implementation and fidelity of the integration of services. We plan to keep a close watch.

Albertson shared that we have a coordinator and a consultant assigned to Vanguard. One of the initiatives that we started is to meet with representatives from all the charters to address issues and concerns and to promote open dialog and communication between APS, charter schools and the parents.

Barber asked whether APS staff would be present at IEP meetings. Albertson replied that staff would preside over IEP meetings.

Carmany asked if special education teachers at Vanguard were licensed and endorsed in the specific education areas that they are teaching. Albertson explained that all of the teachers at Vanguard have special education licenses and endorsements. Most special education teachers are required to have generalist endorsements to specialize in a wide range of services.

Carmany asked if district staff would have a say in what services to provide students during IEP meetings. Albertson shared that it would be a team decision as it is in district schools. Services would be determined based on data and individual student needs. Donovan shared that the contract notes that district staff would make final determinations.

Cukale moved and Edberg seconded to approve the Vanguard Charter contract amendment as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7956

Approved on a vote of 7-0

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Beginning Fund Balance Reconciliation

Weeks shared that C.R.S. (Colorado Revised Statutes) requires reconciliation between audited ending fund balances and budgeted beginning fund balances be included in the adopted budget, which is presented on page 20 of the current 2007-08 adopted budget. The statute also requires a revised reconciliation be approved and incorporated into the budget if any adjustments are necessary as a result of the prior year's audit.

The only time this item would not be brought before the Board this time of year is if there were zero adjustments.

The following funds did have adjustments: general; Colorado preschool and

kindergarten program; grants; pupil activity–special revenue; special programs; athletic; building; capital reserve; nutrition services; copier services; print services and pupil activity–agency. In addition, the Aurora Academy, New America School and Lotus School for Excellence fund balances have been adjusted. The recommendation is that the Board approve and incorporate the revised beginning fund balance reconciliation into the 2007-08 budget as presented:

Lewis moved and Prince seconded to approve and incorporate the revised beginning fund balance reconciliation into the 2007-08 budget as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7957

Approved on a vote of 7-0

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Opportunity for Audience

Jullian Birely, 2711 S. Pagosa Street, 303 693-5277, expressed concerns regarding the possibility of having one valedictorian at Rangeview as a result of the new weighted graduation system. Having one valedictorian would not be fair. My fellow classmates and I all participate in outside activities including varsity sports, National Honor Society, Destination Imagination, as well as church and community activities. I feel that everyone should be recognized for all their hard work, not just one person.

I am currently ranked third in my class. My classmate, who is ranked fourth overall, should be ranked higher than me because he has taken more AP classes and more classes in general. He has put in more work due to harder classes. Students who have more AP classes are also being penalized. I think this is something that needs to be changed as well.

Leslie Fox, 18770 E. Oregon Dr., 303 696-9327, is a literacy teacher leader at Rangeview. She also teaches advance placement courses.

Fox witnessed first-hand the impact when students found out how the weighted system affected the top ten students. It is important that we have an equitable system that recognizes students that take a variety of academic classes including honors and AP courses, as well as students who want to take art, foreign language and other classes that we provide. It is important to recognize students that challenge themselves and it is important that APS support that academic culture. I have spoken to staff about Rebecca Jones' proposal that was presented to the Board earlier in the evening, and they are supportive of it. There is a sense of urgency among students, especially those that are applying for scholarships. It is important that a decision be reached as soon as possible.

January 8, 2008

I think it is fair this year to have multiple valedictorians and rank them all as one. I was not aware as a teacher of the impact of the weighted grade on our top ten students and valedictorians. We need to have an application process that rewards our students who are life-long learners and want to serve the school and community in a wide variety of activities.

Randy Funk, 17572 E. Eldorado Circle, 303-690-2087, is the father of Michael Funk. Michael will be the sixth child in our family that has graduated from Rangeview High School. Three of his siblings have graduated as co-valedictorians, the other two were close. Our three children who were co-valedictorians received four-year scholarships and it was a great help to them and to our family. My other two children did not receive scholarships but they pursued higher education.

The APS education has been good to our family and we are appreciative of it. As you heard from Michael, Rebecca, and the other young people, their desire is to continue to be able to take broad classes that are available to them and be recognized for their excellence in those classes. If you have multiple young people that excel in every class and achieve a 4.0 unweighted GPA average, they should be recognized as co-valedictorians. It is important to encourage excellence by recognizing it.

Rebecca Jones' proposal is very appropriate. I would hope that the Board works with students and parents to develop a proposal that would resolve this very simple issue that impacts our young people.

Cook shared the Board would review the proposal and respond back to the group.

Brenna Issacs, 3480 S. Halifax St., 720 346-4461, thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss the Employee Transition Program that was presented as information to the Board earlier in the evening.

Issacs was not present during the presentation but voiced support for the program. Teachers understand that the employee transition program is not part of the negotiated agreement and it is not a permanent program. We have been able to work collaboratively with the district and the Board to make the information available yearly so teachers can make plans on whether transition is an option and if it would be offered as they got close to retirement. Teachers value this program and we receive a lot of questions from teachers about the program during this time of year. This is beneficial to the district because it gives new teachers an opportunity to work with experienced veteran teachers for one year.

In considering whether to continue the transition program, she urged the Board to think positively and favorably of the program. If you determine that you want to curtail the program or discontinue it, I would ask that you give staff ample time so they can make a decision and determine other options.

Cook asked Allen to forward the slide that was presented as information to Issacs and the AEA Association Board.

Correspondence

Next meeting date

January 8, 2008

The Aurora Public Schools Board of Education and the Aurora Education Association Board will hold a "cafe conversation" on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Conference C of the Educational Services Center, Peoria Building at 1085 Peoria Street. Key topics of discussion will include 21st Century learning, House Bill 118 and Dwight Jones' "Forward Thinking Plan." The business meeting of the Board of Education will follow at 7:00 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Patricia Lord boardroom.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

President

ATTEST _____

Secretary

AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1085 Peoria St.
Aurora, CO 80011

A G E N D A
BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 22, 2008
7:00 p.m.

I – PRELIMINARY

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. WELCOME TO VISITORS

The regular meeting of the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education will convene in the boardroom of the Educational Services Center, Peoria Building. Individuals wishing to address the Board of Education on a specific agenda item are requested to sign up at the table on the south side of the boardroom prior to discussion of the Information and Action Items. Individuals wishing to address the Board of Education on a non-agenda item are requested to sign up and will be provided an opportunity, limited to two minutes, at the beginning of the meeting and, limited to three minutes, at the end of the meeting during Opportunity for Audience.

Please contact the Aurora Public Schools at 303-344-8060, ext. 28988 if, because of a disability, you require special assistance (such as sign language or oral interpreting services) in order to participate in a meeting of the Board of Education. Persons with such needs are requested to make contact at least one week prior to the Board of Education meeting, if possible, in order to allow staff to coordinate arrangements.

D. CAFE CONVERSATION WITH AEA BOARD

The APS Board and the Aurora Education Association Board will hold a “cafe conversation” at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room C of the Educational Service Center, Peoria Building to discuss 21st Century learning, House Bill 118 and Dwight Jones’ “Forward Thinking Plan.” The business meeting will follow at 7 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Patricia Lord Boardroom.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The January 22, 2008, agenda is presented for approval.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on January 8, 2008, are presented for approval.

G. Opportunity for Audience

Information Items

II - INFORMATION ITEMS

A. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. Reports from the Board of Education

Staff Responsible – Board

2. Items of Current Interest

Staff Responsible – Barry

B. DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

C. DIVISION OF FINANCE

No Items

D. DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

E. DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

F. DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Director's Report

Staff Responsible – Sturges

Dan Davis and Ivan Duran will provide the Board with an overview of the Information Technology and Instructional Technology Departments.

Consent Agenda – Action Items

III - CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

A. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

B. DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

C. DIVISION OF FINANCE

No Items

D. DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Classified Personnel

Staff Responsible – Allen

a. Resignation

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----------|--|
| 1) | Lisa Armitage | 12-20-07 | Assistant, Nutrition Services, ESC 3 |
| 2) | Barbara Bickerton | 01-18-08 | Assistant to the Chief Communications Officer, ESC 1 |
| 3) | Joretta Black | 01-18-08 | Clerk, General Ed Support, ESC 3 |
| 4) | Shannon Boutwell | 01-07-08 | Paraeducator, Classroom, Aurora Hills |
| 5) | Cynthia Dominguez | 01-18-08 | Paraeducator, Cross Categorical, Aurora Frontier K-8 |
| 6) | David Elbot | 01-11-08 | Paraeducator, Classroom, Peoria |
| 7) | Delano Glenn | 01-08-08 | Bus Driver, Transportation |
| 8) | Danny Lomeli | 01-04-08 | Paraeducator, Before & After Assistant, Arkansas |
| 9) | Eugenia Lyons | 01-18-08 | Assistant, Nutrition Services, Paris |
| 10) | Sheryl McDonald | 01-11-08 | Paraeducator, Transportation |
| 11) | Janis Najjar | 12-20-07 | Assistant, Nutrition Services, Aurora Hills |
| 12) | Elizabeth Saldana-Spiegle | 01-18-08 | Family Liaison, Sable |
| 13) | Valerie Trujillo | 01-07-08 | Custodian, Head Elementary, Child Development Center |
| 14) | Channing Williams | 12-20-07 | Paraeducator, Classroom, Clyde Miller |

b. Appointment

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----------|--|
| 1) | Deborah Blessing | 01-07-08 | Educational Assistant, Media Technician, Rangeview |
| 2) | Daniel Chenoweth | 12-18-07 | Technician, Warehouse Worker I/Fixed Assets, Warehouse |
| 3) | Charlamar Eisom | 12-10-07 | Campus Monitor, Rangeview |

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|------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| 4) | Steven Hobbs | 01-14-08 | Custodian, Maintenance, Aurora Central |
| 5) | Jarah Keefe | 12-17-07 | Paraeducator, Media Assistant, Sixth Avenue |
| 6) | Steve King | 01-07-08 | Educational Assistant, Technology, Aurora Central |
| 7) | Jeffrey Lassen | 12-17-07 | Journeyman, Carpenter, Facilities |
| 8) | Rachel Mondragon | 12-17-07 | Paraeducator, Classroom, Crawford |
| 9) | Nelly Montano | 01-14-08 | Clerk, General Ed Support, Child Development Center |
| 10) | Arthur Shanklin | 12-17-07 | Paraeducator, Classroom, Peoria |
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| c. | Extension of Leave of Absence | | |
| 1) | Akidawakuna
Norman-Loyd | 12-19-07 | Medical
Paraeducator, Severe Needs/Life Skills, Laredo Annex |
| 2) | Lori Stamus | 12-19-07 | Health
Clerk, General Ed Support, Hinkley |
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| d. | Leave of Absence | | |
| | Suzanne Adams | 01-08-08 | Maternity
Clerk, Department, Transportation |
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| e. | Return from Leave of Absence | | |
| 1) | Yadira Pimienta | 12-12-07 | Family Liaison, Special Populations, Wheeling |
| 2) | Lori Stamus | 01-09-08 | Clerk, General Ed Support, Hinkley |
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| f. | Transfer | | |
| 1) | Sandra Fermo | 01-07-08 | Facilitator, Preschool, Altura to Child Development Center |
| 2) | Norma Hernandez | 01-07-08 | Clerk, General Ed Support to Family Liaison, Special Populations, Child Development Center |
| 3) | Joan Johnson | 01-07-08 | Paraeducator, Preschool to Facilitator, Preschool, Altura |
| 4) | Priscilla Pham | 01-14-08 | Manager, Cook I, Altura to Manager, Cook II, East |
| 5) | Cynthia Robson | 01-14-07 | Assistant, Nutrition Services to Manager, Cook I, Altura |
| 6) | Lori Stamus | 01-14-08 | Clerk, General Ed Support to Clerk, Department, Hinkley |
| 7) | Elisa Varela | 01-04-07 | Clerk, General Ed Support to Clerk, Department, ESC 1 |
| 8) | Kristin Wehri | 01-07-08 | Clerk, Department, ESC 1 to Secretary, Department, ESC 2 |

g. Retirement

- 1) Priscilla Anderson 01-07-08 Paraeducator, Transportation
- 2) William Deemer 01-31-08 Mechanic, Fleet, Transportation

2. **Licensed Personnel**

Staff Responsible – Allen

a. Resignation

- 1) Meredith Adkins 01-08-08 Speech Language Pathologist, Arkansas/Dalton
- 2) Markus Gibson 12-21-07 Teacher, Tollgate
- 3) Jennifer Imel 02-15-08 ELA Teacher, Tollgate
- 4) Erle Swanson 01-15-08 Coordinator, Equity, Diversity & Family/Community Engagement, ESC – Peoria
- 5) Lauren Whitney 12-21-07 Teacher, Crawford

b. Appointment

- 1) Madison Acklam 01-07-08 Teacher, Tollgate
- 2) Kate Carwile 01-07-08 Teacher, Aurora Central
- 3) Andrew Diver 01-07-08 Teacher, Mrachek
- 4) Anne Gilliland 01-07-08 Teacher, Gateway
- 5) Crystal Miyamoto 01-07-08 Teacher, Dartmouth
- 6) Pamela Mueller 01-07-08 Teacher, Park Lane
- 7) Michael Smith 01-08-08 Teacher, North

c. Extension of Leave of Absence

- Hillary Ghrist 12-20-07 Maternity
Teacher, Montview

d. Leave of Absence

- 1) Michelle Baughman 01-09-08 Maternity
Teacher, Aurora Central
- 2) Jenna Hess 01-14-08 Maternity
Teacher, Laredo Annex
- 3) Shawna Lyons 12-20-07 Maternity
Principal, Boston
- 4) Susan Prakop 01-10-08 Maternity
Teacher, East
- 5) Patti Roberts 01-08-08 Medical
Assistant Principal, North
- 6) M. Michael Sears 11-16-07 Medical
Teacher, Gateway

e. Return from Leave of Absence

- 1) Rachael Browning 01-14-08 Teacher, Hinkley
- 2) Stephanie Gianneschi 01-07-08 Teacher, ESC 2
- 3) Alexis Madrid 01-07-08 Nurse, ESC 3
- 4) Megan Reed 12-17-07 Teacher, East

f. Reassignment

Ruth Zessin 01-07-08 Teacher, Dalton/ESC 1 to ESC 1

3. **Non-Licensed Administrative and Professional/Technical Personnel**

Staff Responsible – Allen

a. Appointment

- 1) Tammye Pirie 01-07-08 Coordinator, Grant Development, ESC 1
- 2) Matthew Wollbrinck 01-07-08 Coordinator, Custodial Operations, Facilities

b. Leave of Absence

Paula Hans 01-09-08 Maternity Specialist, Media Relations, ESC 1

RECOMMENDATION: The Board approve the personnel actions as presented.

E. DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

F. DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

Action Items

IV - ACTION ITEMS

A. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

B. DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

C. DIVISION OF FINANCE

1. **Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Portion of General Fund Beginning Fund Balance as Authorized by Colorado Statutes** **Staff Responsible – Weeks**

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 22-44-105 states that a budget, duly adopted pursuant to this article, shall not provide for expenditures, interfund transfers, or reserves, in excess of available revenues and beginning fund balance;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education may authorize the use of a portion of the beginning fund balance in the budget, stating the amount to be used, the purpose for which the expenditure is needed, and the district's plan to ensure that the use of the beginning fund balance will not lead to an ongoing deficit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined the beginning fund balance in the General Fund are sufficient to allow for the one-time expenditures;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with C.R.S. 22-44-105, the Board of Education authorizes the use of a portion of the FY2007-08 Beginning Fund Balance in the General Fund in the amount of \$11 million for the purpose of funding one-time expenditures that support the VISTA 2010 strategic plan, offset reduced revenues, and to fund reserves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the use of this portion of the beginning fund balance for the purpose set forth above will not lead to an ongoing deficit.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board adopt the resolution as presented.

D. DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **Employee Transition Program** **Staff Responsible – Allen**

The Board reviewed participation and budget data on January 8, 2008, as part of its annual consideration to offer an Employee Transition program.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board confirm its December 2006 decision to offer the Employee Transition Program in the 2008-09 school year. The Board discontinue the Employee Transition Program effective for the 2009-10 school year.

E. DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

F. DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

1. **Resolution Approving Change in Educational Use of Aurora Public Schools Community Campus to include Quest K-8** **Staff Responsible – Sturges**

(Attachment IV-F-1)

A portion of the APS Community Campus was deeded to the district through the Federal Real Property Assistance Program in 1982. The deed transferring the property to APS requires that the district receive written approval from the Federal Department of Education for any change in educational use of this property. The Department of Education has provided preliminary approval for the Quest K-8, which allowed the district to award a contract for construction of the school. This resolution is part of the application process for formal approval.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board approve the educational use of Aurora Public Schools Community Campus to include Quest K-8 as presented.

2. **Utility Easement at Sable Elementary** **Staff Responsible – Sturges**

The owner of the property north of Sable Elementary is proposing to develop 16 townhouses in four buildings on the parcel. The City of Aurora is requesting a small utility easement on the district's property for a storm water inlet.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board approve the utility easement at Sable Elementary as presented.

Concluding Items

V - CONCLUDING ITEMS

A. OPPORTUNITY FOR AUDIENCE

B. CORRESPONDENCE

C. NEXT MEETING DATE

Colorado will hold presidential caucuses on Tuesday, February 5, 2008. The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Patricia Lord Boardroom of the Educational Services Center, Peoria Building.

D. ADJOURNMENT