

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the January 22, 2008, meeting to order at 7:09 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
Kathleen Hostetler, director, employee relations
William Stuart, chief academic officer
Anthony Sturges, chief operating officer
Tonia Norman, assistant to Board of Education

Café Conversation with Aurora Education Association Board

The APS Board, Aurora Education Association Board, and district leadership participated in a “cafe conversation” to discuss 21st Century learning and skills students will need to compete and be successful in the global world. Both boards and district leadership separated into five breakout groups to share thoughts on four, multiple part questions. Some of the responses from the questions include:

1. What is essential knowledge for 21st Century students?
 - core skills necessary
 - read/think critically – essential
 - evaluating sources
 - merging variety of sources
 - technology
 - using multiple modalities
 - merging subjects
 - technology savvy
 - using keyboarding
 - internet
 - software
 - collaborative skills
 - teamwork
 - leadership
 - provide opportunities for in-depth thinking
 - multi-tasking can be detrimental
 - teaching kids to “power down”
 - get centered
 - get focused

- expectation that all kids can and will graduate
- exit kids as learners
- problem solving
- reading, writing and math
- ability to engage and be part of community
- health knowledge and wellness
- financial understanding
- critical thinking
- learner outcomes
- lifelong learner
- collaborative worker
- community contributor
- virtual environment
 - communication
 - cultural competence
 - collaboration
 - information evaluation
 - media literacy
 - critical thinking
- human relations
 - history
 - history relations
 - ethics
- global international knowledge and geography
 - initiative
 - responsibility
 - ambition
- simulations
- problem solving

How are 21st Century skills different from the 3 R's?

- critical thinking and higher level thinking for all
- more to learn/earlier
- change happens faster
- volume of data – synthesize and think critically
- technology
- numerous careers
- different when we go global
- core skills important
- integrated, interdisciplinary when we get to middle school
- foreign language imperative in early grades
- take learning from job to another and apply it there
- independent learners necessary
- strong basis – where will it come from
- Will we need books?
 - resounding yes!
- info – read
 - ethical
 - accurate
 - Web
 - Wikipedia – create your own reality

2. What does it mean to be a successful school district/school/teacher in the 21st Century?

- lifelong learners
- successful contributors to society
- common background
 - knowledge and tradition
 - create common framework
- assume nothing
- national standards
- 12-month school year
 - recognize what kids bring to table
 - recognize the digital divide
 - budgeting
- options
 - career, vocational
 - opt-in and opt-out
- integrate
 - core subjects with relevant themes
 - community partnership
- wireless
- multiple access to computers
- class rooms handles/work together
- teachers
 - remote
 - promethean board
- tutorial type set up
- need contact at elementary
- expeditionary
- learning from home (high school)
- network
- knowledgeable
- competent in many areas
- able to access information
- collaborative with education community
- facilitator of learning
- creative
- self-directed learners
- easier to talk about seat time than actual learning
- hands on environment
- equality learning schools
- small learning community
- vision is 21st Century
 - parent, community, board, student, teacher collaboration and business
- parent component
 - new way of thinking, teaching, learning
 - home environments have to change
 - ability to fill in if need
 - different way to demonstrate learning
 - test out
 - high school graduation requirements
 - Why do businesses want 21st Century learners and why aren't they talking to legislators about that?
 - educate legislators

Does Vista 2010 incorporate 21st Century skills?

- parts of the plan support 21st Century skills
- need further technology support

- visual literacy
- equitable access
- libraries need to evolve
- built collaboratively fluid instrument
- creatively use gained knowledge
 - math critical
 - middle school, high school and beyond
 - How do we make sure kids are proficient?
 - different ways to learn

What more could go into the plan to incorporate 21st Century skills?

- much is incorporated into Vista 2010
- laptop program
- textbook cost vs. technology cost
- In many ways, goals are the same but context is today
- skills in learning are needed
- want students to leave school with sufficient skills along with happiness and optimism
- successful districts will require all support areas to stay ahead of the curve
- too dependent on school (tech programs)
- reading is still key
- visionary
- variety of real life situations with education

3. What are the critical tools that teachers will need and students use to realize the 21st Century skills?

- revamp education
- technology
- understanding of student abilities to learn
- classroom space –flexible for changing world
- classroom management skills
- student needs
 - readily available technology for all
 - responsible for “own learning”
 - basic skills
 - understand variety of options available
- teacher need content knowledge
 - better facilitators
 - interaction with kids – how to
 - reevaluating classes

What role does professional development play?

- relevant professional development – immediate and useful
 - class, subject area and grade level
 - collaborative
 - ongoing
 - adult education norms used
- 2010 metrics
 - able to measure
 - new metrics hard to measure
 - not enough life skills
 - personal learning skills embedded
 - quantify leadership – ok not to quantify
- different calendars

- address content now but also address 21st Century learning skills
- differentiate
- provide professional development/technology for those that want to know
- Webinars are a great way to learn
- teachers have to be trained on technology
- need to know what they are learning
- kids still need to have basic skills
- be able to discriminate
- being able to stay ahead of curve
- Where is the info coming from?
- teachers need to stay in front
- set expectations for use
- teachers comfortable with technology

What role does technology play?

- challenge from where kids access info
- software for plagiarism
- Rangeview checks for plagiarism electronically
- need to stay ahead of kids
- X-box and PlayStation 3 can be use to teach
- legislators dictate
- Where is funding coming from?
- parents want their kids to do well
- life skills – available resources
 - How do we teach life skills and leadership?
 - Where is the time?
 - can tie to teaching
 - parent want grades

4. What does engaged learning look like in a 21st Century classroom?

- small group, teamwork and teacher support
- high engagement for students
- technology
- tools to support levels of learning

How do we communicate about 21st Century learning with our community?

- business people communicate what they want and are not finding in employees
- community partnership
- classroom engagement
 - equitable access
- Communicate 21st Century learning with community
 - APS blog
 - What do people read/listen to?
 - interaction
 - joint use of facilities
 - parent/community classes
- loud not quiet
- engaged learning
- learning from each other
- experiential, hands on and simulation
- real opportunity
- authentic audience

- excitement
- loss of track of time
- kids can be flexible
- trust with teacher, peers and standards
- ask a lot of questions
- confidence
- compromise with inventiveness/standards
- ownership of learning
- insights – remembering basics not necessarily the details

Summation

- standards that do not stifle innovation
 - finding the balance
- standards need to be constant
 - evaluated and reviewed
 - created by community, kids and teachers
- innovators will be leaders
- all parties understand/value education
 - students
 - parents
 - staff
- all are engaged and focused on stated goal
 - manage time
 - parent support
 - community support
- content is relevant
- teacher is facilitator – scaffold
- multiple opportunities for students to engage in content and curriculum
- responsibility for learning is focused for student's benefit
 - focus is provided by national/local defined standards
 - student progress is measured against standard(s) and is constantly placed in front of him/her
 - personal accountability/integrity measured and visibly presented
 - behavioral standard clearly communicated in alike manner
- education is the priority of the community
 - k-12 education must engage all of society
 - no entity can excuse themselves from responsibility
- 12 month process/net nine months – eliminate
 - false start and end points that are based on grade levels and the farmer's calendar

Executive Session

Cook requested that the Board recess into executive session, under the authority of C.R.S. §24-6-(402)(b), for discussions related to personnel matters. The meeting reconvened at 7:19 p.m.

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 22, 2008, agenda was amended to include the addition of one

personnel item on the consent agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held January 8, 2008, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

Kristen Rodgers, 3811 S. Argonne Street, 303 952-4470. Rodgers shared that when she first heard of Global Village Academy, she thought it was an outstanding concept. It turned out to be not what she expected. She voiced that her student has been verbally bullied by another student and a teacher. She voiced concerns to the school administration but concerns were not addressed.

Rodgers shared that her student was physically attacked. She informed the teacher but was told not to tattle. Two weeks later her student was suspended for fighting back.

Rodgers felt that administrators and staff did nothing proactive to prevent the escalation. Their inactions were deplorable and inexcusable. Rodgers commented the academy needs to address hiring practices, sharing that the staff needs more training and guidance in dealing with bullying and student behavioral concerns.

Cook asked Barry to meet with the APS liaison to Global Village Academy to discuss concerns and provide feedback to Rodgers.

Brenna Issacs, 3480 S. Halifax St., 720 346-4461, thanked the Board for all they do for staff and students. Their efforts and commitment to APS students is evident and appreciated. In honor of School Board Recognition Month, the Aurora Education Association Board presented each Board member with treats in appreciation of all their work and efforts.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Reports from the Board of Education

Cukale had an opportunity to tour Gateway High School and visit schools in the Cherry Creek School District. He also had an opportunity to be a judge at a regional debate. He shared that it was nice to see future public speakers.

Cukale shared that he hosted the Martin Luther King Jr. Community forum along with Roy Smith, community liaison at Aurora Hills Middle School. The forum can be seen on Channel 8 throughout the week.

Carmany thanked staff at Kenton Elementary for allowing her to visit classes. She also thanked the APS Foundation for making changes that will continue to enhance the district.

Edberg shared highlights from a collaborative community learning forum at Frontier K-8.

Edberg recognized Joretta Black, former general education support clerk, for her years of service in APS. Black was one of the most outstanding colleagues that

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Edberg has worked with. She coordinated and managed the vision screening process for elementary students when she worked as a health paraeducator with Edberg years ago. Thanks to her efforts, every elementary student in the district was screened for vision. Black will be missed.

Prince participated in the Leaders are Readers Program and had an opportunity to read to students in five classrooms. She shared that the teachers were great, but the students were even better.

Barber and Carmany attended the choir concert at Aurora Central. Barber shared highlights and expressed that it was an outstanding concert.

Barber shared highlights of the holiday dinner sponsored by leadership students at Aurora Central. Many families throughout the community enjoyed the holiday dinner and a good time was had by all. Barber also shared highlights of a fundraiser event sponsored by the Nunez Foundation.

Lewis had an opportunity to attend the Rangeview vs. Gateway basketball game. She shared that it was exciting and Rangeview won the game.

Lewis joined Superintendent Barry in truancy home visits earlier today. She commented that some of our students are leading difficult lives and we need to help them in anyway possible.

Cook commented that Cukale did a wonderful job hosting the Martin Luther King forum. He also congratulated Brenna Issacs and the AEA Board for an outstanding workshop with the APS Board.

Items of Current Interest

Cook congratulated John Barry for being named the 2008 Tech-Savvy Superintendent of the Year. This honor is given to ten superintendents in the nation by eSchool News. Thanks to Ivan Durán and Dan Davis for submitting the nomination. Barry will be honored at an event in February.

Barry shared that the 2008 APS Community Update will be mailed to the community the week of Jan. 28. Each school will have copies of the update and it will be available online. The goal of the update is to keep the APS community informed about district milestones and meet legal reporting requirements. Thanks to the communication department for compiling the report.

All APS staff is invited to complete the 2008 confidential, online APS climate survey. The views of every staff member are important. In light of our theme "trust and teamwork," we are interested in learning staff's views on their work climate. We will use the feedback to make necessary changes. Survey results will be shared with all employees later this spring.

Pickens Technical College will hold a Bonfils blood drive on Monday, Jan. 28, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please support their efforts.

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

Director's Report

Stuart invited Dan Davis, chief information officer, and Ivan Durán, director of instructional technology, to the staff table to present an overview of the information technology and instructional technology departments. Davis also introduced Jason Braddy, manager of technical services.

Durán reviewed highlights of the Educational Technology and Information Literacy Plan. The plan was developed in 2006 and it drives the direction of both the information technology department and the instructional technology department. It prepares and ensures students understand information and communication technologies needed to perform in the global community. Programs have been designed and developed to teach students to access and use technology from preschool through high school.

The instructional technology training department is comprised of a director, assistant director, four technology literacy coaches, three technology trainers and a secretary. They provide training to students and staff including in building and after school training.

The library media program provides services to students and staff and ensures resources are available to support the educational process. The media staff is responsible for maintaining and updating books and resources throughout the district.

The instructional technology training department supports the Vista 2010 plan by developing and implementing technology that support educational goals. Every site has instructional technology goals embedded in their school improvement plan. The department works with sites to provide financial support for software and hardware to ensure students and staff are using and exposed to technologies that support student learning and development.

District based classes are provided after school for credit. Whole staff training is available at the direction of school site administrators. The department will customize and provide small group training based on specific needs at each site. Ongoing support is provided for current district programs.

Durán reviewed a model classroom for technology infusion including interactive whiteboards, LCD projectors, amplification system and wireless response system. Many classrooms have technologies in place to support student learning.

Prince asked if teachers were using wireless response clickers. Durán shared that promethean boards have response clickers and are compatible with

Microsoft.

Davis provided an overview of the information technology department. The department is under the Division of Support Services and provides support to the district's infrastructure. Thirty-two employees within five departments work in the information technology department, which includes the help desk, application services, technical services, telecommunications services and information technology direction. Responsibilities include telephones, voice mail, Internet performance and availability, and network infrastructure. The department has an annual budget of about \$4 million, and a third of it covers maintenance for software and hardware contracts.

The telecommunications department supports student achievement by enhancing communication and networking of the user community by managing district telecommunications and the wide-area network, servicing voice, video, data, telephone, fax and voice mail systems.

The technical services department supports student achievement by ensuring that district computers, printers, local area networks, servers, firewall, proxy, networking, operating and supporting applications are working properly. They are responsible for printers, computers, servers, filtering, firewall, and the Windows operating system. APS has more than 10,000 computers, most of which are five years old or less. When combining in-use storage of all district servers, 5,000 gigabytes, which translates to 5 trillion bits of information, is stored in APS.

Application services supports student achievement by enhancing the productivity of the APS user community by developing, implementing, supporting and maintaining district computer applications. The department is responsible for Infinite Campus, GroupWise, Oracle, Maximo, VersaTrans, project management, central admissions and standards-based grading. In addition, they produce more than 100 reports of students, staff and financial data required by the state of Colorado.

The help desk supports student achievement by enhancing the support technology knowledge base of the APS user community. They work directly with staff to provide level one support. They are responsible for maintaining the ServiceWare database that provides district instructional support to staff. The help desk closed more than 10,000 tickets during the 2007-08 school year.

Davis reviewed goals of the information technology department for the 2007-08 school year. Some of the goals include

- develop a technology strategic plan
- complete research to move the e-mail system from Novell/GroupWise to Microsoft Outlook
- establish IT as a service rather than information center
- research and develop a disaster recovery plan

Durán shared examples of usages for Discovery One Place, a Web-based service that connects eight databases from a single Web site. Students and teachers are able to access instructional resources and video clips to utilize in class.

Durán shared how NetTrekker and Atomic Learning, Web-based software programs, are assisting teachers by allowing them to do universal searches to

access resources. Videos often provide demonstrations with lesson plans that support student learning.

A technology fair will be held for staff on Thursday, April 17, at Hinkley High School.

Prince asked about the life span of promethean boards and visualizers. Durán replied the boards should last for five years. There is a two-year warranty on the visualizers.

Lewis commented that in the 21st Century, reading is important. She voiced concerns that district librarians were not certified teachers and suggested that this be reviewed at a future date.

Carmany commented that the help desk does a great job and appreciates the help and support they provide.

Cook asked how the district set up Internet filtering to block inappropriate web sites. Davis explained that we can block entire sites and videos deemed inappropriate. Braddy shared that we subscribe to a service that blocks inappropriate sites. We are looking into another service that will provide a better filtering service to block inappropriate Web sites.

Prince asked if there was a way for teachers to determine what sites students have visited throughout the day. Braddy explained that teachers can view sites that students have visited via the history tab.

Cook asked if instant messaging was available on district computers. Davis shared that their have been requests to turn instant messaging on. Sturges is in the process of reviewing the requests.

Lewis asked if time had been built into the day for high school students to access the Internet. Duran shared that high school students can access computers in the media centers.

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

Hostetler recognized Priscilla Anderson, paraeducator in transportation, and William Deemer, fleet mechanic in transportation. Each has more than 25 years of service.

Licensed Personnel

Hostetler requested that the resignation of Jon Rethinger, effective January 8, 2008, be added to the consent agenda.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

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

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7958

Approved on a vote of 7-0

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

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 provided information to the Board regarding the Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Portion of General Fund Beginning Fund Balance as Authorized by Colorado Statutes. He recommended that the Board adopt the resolution as presented.

Barber moved and Prince seconded to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Portion of General Fund Beginning Fund Balance as Authorized by Colorado Statutes as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7959

Approved on a vote of 7-0

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Employee Transition Program

Hostetler shared that the Board reviewed participation and budget data on January 8, 2008, as part of its annual consideration to offer an employee transition program. She requested the Board confirm its December 2006

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decision to offer the employee transition program in the 2008-09 school year. Hostetler recommended that the Board discontinue the employee transition program effective for the 2009-10 school year.

Lewis voiced concerns about discontinuing the employee transition program for the 2009-10 school year. She requested additional time to review the recommendation to discontinue the program.

Cook requested that the Board amend the vote to affirm the employee transition program for the 2008-09 school year and table the vote to discontinue the employee transition program for the 2009-10 school year.

Lewis moved and Cukale seconded to amend the motion to affirm the employee transition program for the 2008-09 school year and table the vote to discontinue the employee transition program for the 2009-10 school year.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7960

Approved on a vote of 6-1

Edberg voted no on the amended motion.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Stuart invited Josh Hensley to the staff table to answer additional questions on the proposed resolution presented as information to the Board on at the Jan. 8, 2008, Board of Education meeting.

Barber moved and Lewis seconded to adopt the Resolution Approving Change in Educational Use of Aurora Public Schools Community Campus to include Quest K-8 as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7961

Approved on a vote of 7-0

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.

The recommendation is that the Board approve the utility easement at Sable Elementary as presented.

Prince moved and Barber seconded to approve the utility easement at Sable Elementary as presented.

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Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7962

Approved on a vote of 7-0

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Opportunity for Audience

Correspondence

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.

Adjournment

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

President

ATTEST

Secretary