

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the March 18, 2008, meeting to order at 6:32 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
Rod Weeks, chief financial officer
Kari 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.

Student Performance

Fifteen students from the Sign Language Club at Aurora Frontier K-8 performed a musical selection for the Board and audience. Cook thanked the students and teacher sponsors for the outstanding performance.

Approval of Agenda

The March 18, 2008, agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held March 4, 2008, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

Suzanne Morris-Sherer, principal of Side Creek Elementary, presented Carmany with a poster of her reading to students at Side Creek in honor of Read Across America Day. She thanked Carmany for being a supporter of Side Creek.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Reports from the Board of Education

Prince went on a two-hour hike to search for fossils as part of the learning activity at the National Expeditionary Learning Convention in Denver. She expressed that it was an enjoyable field trip. William Smith should be very excited about things to come as part of their expeditionary learning model.

Prince attended the PBS quarterly awards ceremony at Jewell. Teachers were involved and students were excited to receive recognition for positive behavior. It was the best managed chaos ever seen.

Barber expressed that there is hope in the world when second grade students at Virginia Court can sing about Martin Luther King, Jr., peace and hope. The kids were great and it was a wonderful performance.

Barber and Carmany attended the Bright Star graduation ceremony for parents attending English classes to help their children succeed in school. One parent from each school received a laptop. It was a wonderful ceremony.

Lewis attended the press conference in which the Rose Community Grant Foundation presented APS with a check for \$378,000. The foundation has a lot of faith in APS and we will make them proud.

Lewis had an opportunity to attend the Women Sculptors of the Community awards presentation on Saturday. Women from several local organizations are nominated for the award each year. Brief narratives of each nominee as well as their overall contribution to the community were shared at the presentation. Nominees then have an opportunity to speak about their experiences and three spoke very highly of APS. Connie Anderson taught in APS for several years and was an assistant principal. Terry Campbell Caron is a graduate of APS. She retired from CCA and lives in the Aurora community. Ruth Creel shared that her children and grandchildren have received excellent educations in APS. We are proud that APS played a part in their success.

Edberg attended a spaghetti dinner, provided by Mimi's Café, at Boston Elementary to honor students who had a significant improvement in attendance. She also attended a new teachers meeting at Arkansas, an accountability meeting at West, a staff meeting at Aurora Hills and an academic awards presentation at Gateway.

Edberg had a chance to speak to employees at the transition building. She commented that this is an important program for APS. It provides students between the ages of 18 to 21, who have not received a diploma, an opportunity to transition into the community. It was exciting to see the range of services and setups in place for these students.

Edberg toured the intercept building. She was impressed with the partnership between APS and the Aurora Mental Health Center and the range of services for students in the program.

Edberg visited with staff at the Early Childhood Education Center. She was excited about the enthusiasm and passion shown by Sheri Charles, director of ECE, and the entire staff.

Edberg commented that she learned so much visiting sites. She thanked staff members at schools and site visited. It has been a very good two weeks.

Carmany had an opportunity to visit Clyde Miller as a member of the Aurora Education Foundation. It was impressive to see what has occurred as a result of the full-day kindergarten program. Three kindergarten students read to the group and we saw evidence of voice print match, left-to-right directionality, and basic understanding of sight words. We are seeing results of what can occur if we give our students the gift of time.

Cook congratulated the Rangeview High School basketball team for a great season. Many staff members attended the game in support of the student athletes.

Cook reminded everyone that next week is spring break. A lot of students will be out and about enjoying the good weather. Have a safe and restful spring break.

Items of Current Interest

Barry thanked Rodney Faller, Scott Begert, Steve Johnson and Mike Rapone for going "above and beyond" to support instruction. When Pickens College had an unexpected HVAC teacher vacancy, Faller and Begert volunteered to teach the class until the teacher was replaced. Thanks also to the facilities department for allowing these employees to assist Pickens. We are grateful for your dedication to our students and we salute you for "trust and teamwork."

Cook asked Mark Davis and Steve Johnson to stand up and be recognized on behalf of Rodney Faller and Scott Begert.

Vassar Elementary teacher Julie Palma recently earned the "9Teacher Who Cares Award." Palma is known for encouraging students to do their best. We are honored to have her on our team and are grateful for the hard work she puts into teaching our students. 9Teachers Who Care, sponsored by 9News, College Invest and Metro State College, is a monthly award that recognizes teachers who exemplify excellence in education. Congratulations Julie!

Scott Habermehl, principal at Vassar Elementary, introduced and recognized Vassar Elementary School teacher Karin Rosedale for supporting her fifth-grade students in their quest to become published authors by helping them enter the Colorado Children's Family Story Project contest. Their stories were published in the *Relatively Speaking* book, which can be found at the Tattered Cover Book Store. This is the second publishing of the book.

Barry presented Palma and Rosedale with a coin.

Habermehl shared that both Palma and Rosedale are third year teachers. They switched teaching positions last year with some reluctance. Both were successful in their new position and rewarded for their work. We are grateful to have them on our team.

Vassar Elementary is under a big challenge after losing 23 third, fourth and fifth grade students to Aurora Quest Academy. We have a hard working staff and our goal is to get at least 10 of those students back by December 2008.

Habermehl also thanked the Board for listening to concerns from district staff in regard to policy GCCAA, staff sick leave.

Barry shared that APS received \$378,000 from the Rose Community Grant

Foundation to support programs for English language learners. He joked that the highlight of the press conference was discouraging students from attempting to cash the big check presented by the foundation.

Thanks to all of the family liaisons in APS for their work and efforts in support of student achievement. They meet the “C” in the community section of PACE (people, achievement, community and environment) by working with students and connecting to the community. It is a challenging, but incredibly rewarding job. We are grateful to have them on our team.

District liaisons wrote a letter to Barry in which they thanked him for supporting them and shared data on the successful African American forum. They also thanked Barbara Cooper and Erle Swanson for their commitment and leadership.

Barry shared that the letter will be framed and hung in his office. He requested that family liaisons present in the audience stand up and be recognized by the Board.

Cook commented about the importance of showcasing the incredible talents of our students and recognizing our outstanding staff. We are proud of our accomplishments and they should be celebrated.

Section B and Section G Policy Revisions

Cook invited Legal Counsel Brian Donovan to the staff table to present an overview of revisions to policies BEE, GCCAA, GCCAG, GCQD and GDQF.

Donovan shared that four Section G policies were presented as information previously. Policy BEE, process for a hearing before the Board in regard to employee termination matters, was presented as information on March 4.

- Policy GCCAA, staff sick leave – foster children, stepchildren and domestic partners have been added to the definition of immediate family
- Policy GCCAG, staff leave of absence without pay– no new changes or revisions since the previous Board meeting
- Policy GCDQ and GDQF, discipline of classified and administrative staff – policy language was revised to include that the Board will hear all employment appeals in termination matters

Barber requested clarification on policy BEE and questioned if an employee who is being recommended for termination could be represented by another employee at the termination appeal hearing. Donovan responded yes.

Carmany requested clarification on policy BEE and questioned if the Board appeal hearing would take place when the employee received notification of termination or after the employee was terminated. Donovan replied that the Board appeal hearing would take place when the employee received the recommendation for termination. The Board would make the final determination.

Barber requested clarification on policy BEE and asked if the employee recommended for termination could bring witnesses or other documented support to the Board appeal hearing. Donovan responded that the employee could have witnesses and present supporting documents at the Board appeal hearing.

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Carmany moved and Cukale seconded to move section G policies to action and return policy BEE for action on April 1.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7975

Approved on a vote of 7-0

Policy JF, Admission of Students

Legal Counsel Brian Donovan shared that the Board was presented with revisions to policy JF, Admission of Students, in September 2007.

Donovan invited Barbara Cooper, director of school services, and Sandy Dayton, department of student records, to the staff table to present an overview of the I-20 admission process for foreign students attending school on an F-1 or M-1 student visa.

Dayton shared that foreign students wishing to attend school in the United States apply for I-20 student visas through the department of student records. Foreign students requesting an I-20 to attend an elementary, middle or high school are considered F-1 status; students requesting an I-20 to attend T.H. Pickens College are considered M-1 status.

The admissions process to obtain an I-20 student visa is quite stringent. The applicant must be 18 years old or younger, speak fluent English and live with a guardian in the district. The applicant must provide academic records, submit an affidavit of support form and write a letter of admissions. The applicant is required to pay out of district tuition. Information is then forwarded to the school for final approval by the principal.

The Immigration and Naturalization Services requires that the designated school official responsible for the I-20 application admissions process track and monitor student progress while attending school. This is a new government requirement as a result of September 11. This year, we had one high school student on an F-1, I-20 student visa and one post-secondary student on an M-1, I-20 student visa.

We are proposing to suspend the I-20 student visa application process in the district. Foreign students wishing to attend school can apply for a J-1 student visa through a preapproved foreign student exchange program. The exchange program is responsible for screening, monitoring and tracking student progress while in school. Counselors and administrators at each high school work with pre-approved foreign student exchange programs.

Lewis asked if we were required to issue I-20 student visas. Dayton responded that the district was not required to process I-20 student visas. Other area districts process very few I-20 applications. School officials from Jefferson County and Douglas County shared that they process between four to eight I-20 student visa applications each year. School officials from the Cherry Creek School District plan to petition their board to suspend the I-20 application process as well.

Cook requested that this item be returned for action on April 1.

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

100-Acre Site

Sturges invited William Stuart, chief academic officer; Rich Patterson, student achievement director; and the support services planning team to the staff table to present an overview of the academic and conceptual master plan for the district owned 100-acre site located at Sixth Avenue and Harvest Road.

Stuart shared that the support services planning team provided information to the Board on the structural design of the 100-acre site on February 19. The Board will be presented with an update from the high school design task force in regard to the instructional design concept.

Patterson shared that a high school design task force was convened last year to develop an instructional design for the new high school. Twenty-four members comprised of community members, parents, teachers and administrators made up the high school design task force. We reviewed research, trends and patterns that aligned with 21st Century thinking, skills and global awareness to design a forward thinking instructional program. The group looked at area high school designs throughout the metropolitan area and recommendations include:

- build for a maximum student capacity of 2,000 to 2,250 students
- design for maximum flexibility to support multiple instructional delivery models
- design to support small learning communities for 400 to 500 students
- build to support four-to-five small learning communities
- design science classrooms in the hub of the school
- small learning communities surround science classrooms
- decentralize administrative offices throughout small learning communities – principal's office toward the main entrance, assistant principals and counseling offices throughout small learning communities
- collaborative spaces throughout small learning communities for professional development and student conferences
- offer elective themes including: bio and health sciences, information technology, and fine and performing arts
- other proposed elective themes include: international business/global finance, culinary/hospitality, education/teacher preparation, and international affairs
- locate elective classrooms not requiring special facilities in small learning communities
- relocate elective courses such as art, music and PE in other areas of

the school to minimize noise around instructional spaces

Carmany asked whether math and sciences would be included in course offerings. Patterson explained that science had already been encompassed in the curriculum. Stuart interjected that as a comprehensive high school we would have core academic courses as part of the district's graduation requirements.

Patterson shared that classrooms have been designed for flexibility and technology. Hard wiring and wireless technology will be in every classroom. Indoor athletic facilities have also been designed to create maximum spaces for multiple venues and uses.

Every effort will be made to create partnerships with the City of Aurora, developers, and other community organizations in regard to site development opportunities. Cook asked how community outreach would be facilitated and communicated. Jim Bittle, director of construction management and support, explained that space would be reserved on the site for development. We have met with various supervisors in the city of Aurora to discuss planning and development. We will leave the door open and reserve land for future development use. Cook expressed the importance of developing an aggressive communication outreach plan for the community.

Stuart reviewed recommendations for opening and populating the new high school. Best practices from neighboring metro high schools indicated that growing into a school was the best approach. The proposed timelines include:

2010-11

- P-8 school opens as a P-9 school to house ninth grade students during the first year

2011-12

- new high school opens with ninth and tenth grade students

2014

- first class graduates from the new high school

It is cost effective to gradually grow into a high school. Providing full staffing and funding to purchase curriculum and supplies would be expensive for all four grade levels. It is also important for a new school to develop its own distinct culture. A disadvantage would be that siblings might have to attend different high schools during the transition period.

Bittle introduced Pat Ziuchkovski, RTA Architects; Amy Spatz, manager of construction management; and Josh Hensley, planning coordinator, to present an overview of the 100-acre site development plan.

Bittle reviewed educational elements identified to planners to include on the 100-acre site. The P-8 school would have the capacity to house more than 1,000 students. The site would also house a full-day kindergarten and have space for an early childhood education program. The high school has been designed to house 2,250 students and have space for a swimming pool. In order to save funding in the next capital program, the new high school would initially open with space to house 1,350 students. Other proposed elements for development by the city of Aurora or another agency on the 100-acre site include two different community facilities, one possible community college and one possible library. We have no plans to include the community facilities in any of our capital programs.

There are also designs for a district stadium and a maintenance/bus facility. The construction of the high school would be included in the district's next capital program; the stadium and the bus/maintenance facility would be included in a future capital program. The estimated cost to build the new high school and P-8 school is \$87 million.

The housing market would affect projected student enrollments. Research indicates that the expected age group for new housing developments is kindergarten to eighth grade. Predicted enrollments for the new high school would increase at an expected growth rate of 175 students per year. These students are already in our system and growth is not dependent on additional housing.

Cook asked if high school attendance boundaries would be redrawn to maximize enrollments. Hensley shared that setting a boundary would be the best approach to reach enrollment capacity. We would have to convene a district committee to review high school attendance areas and determine boundaries. We can also offer targeted open enrollments throughout the district. We need this new comprehensive high school to provide room for growth and alleviate overcrowding in district high schools.

Bittle explained that if we delayed the proposed bond election for one year, construction costs would increase by an additional \$5 million. Murphy Creek and Aurora Frontier are already near capacity. Further delays would result in additional mobiles to ease overcrowding at a cost of \$600,000 per mobile, out of the capital reserve program.

Cook asked how much has been spent on the design. Bittle responded that the Board approved the budget for the high school and P-8 designs last fall. The actual budget approved by the Board was \$1.75 million.

Ziuchkovski shared that the two principal arterials surrounding the 100-acre site are located on the north and east side of the property. On the north side is East 6th Avenue; on the east side is Harvest Road. On the south side is a future extension of east First Avenue, which is a local residential collector street. We have residential developments on the west side and to the east of the property. The north side of the site is undeveloped land zoned for retail and commercial development. Gas and water easements bisect the site. The 100-acre site is located in Arapahoe county; the city of Aurora owns land adjacent to the site.

Three design plans were submitted to the Board for review on February 19. The design and planning teams agreed that the high school should be built on the northern portion of the site, spaced between the easement and property to the west on all three options. The high school would be the heaviest traffic area and access to Harvest Road and East 6th Avenue would be more accessible. The land reserved for a possible community college facility would also be built on the northern portion of the site to accommodate heavy traffic from East 6th Avenue.

Both the design and planning team agreed that the P-8 school should be built off of the local residential collector street. The proposed site is off East 1st Avenue on all three site design plans.

The northwest corner of the site provides adequate space for a high school to accommodate 2,250 students in a partial two-story structure. The student parking lot could also provide event parking as well as future parking for a possible stadium. Buffer space would be created between the high school and

residential developments. The design team recommends the Option C site design plan.

Cook asked about the process to build additional wings if the high school is initially built to house 1,350 students. Bittle responded that an additional wing would be built to accommodate 2,250 students. Core facilities such as the media center, administrative offices, and auditorium would be built to capacity. The cafeteria facility might be initially downsized since additions can be added with minimal ease. Lewis expounded that many area schools are adding building additions over a period of time to accommodate student growth. Bittle shared that the Douglas County School District uses this model often. The footprint used by Ziuchkovski is from a Douglas County high school and provides options for additional wings to accommodate student growth.

Cook asked if the land had been annexed to Aurora. Bittle explained that we begun the annexation process and it should be completed by the fall. If we determine to move forward with the bond election and it is successful, we would begin construction in December.

Barry commented that this is one of the best construction elements seen in regard to thoroughness and expertise. The recommendation is for the Option C site design plan. We need a sense from the Board so we can go forward with planning.

Cook noted that the instructional design concept was very impressive. We have an opportunity to do something unique in the district and the metro area. Lewis voiced excitement about both the instructional and physical building designs. The surrounding developments will be thrilled to have the new high school and P-8 school in their neighborhood.

The sense of the Board is to move forward with the Option C site design plan. Cook thanked the presenters for all their work and efforts.

Lowry Bombing Range

Sturges invited Josh Hensley, planning coordinator, to the staff table to present an overview of the Lowry range redevelopment property.

Hensley shared that the Lowry range redevelopment property is a 26,000-acre or 40-square-mile parcel located in the southeast portion of the district. The property is located in unincorporated Arapahoe County. The Cherry Creek School District and the Bennet School District owns some of the property.

The Colorado State Land Board, a division of the department of Natural Resources, owns the land. The responsibility of the state land board is to manage the state's 2.8 million acres of public trust land and provide reasonable and consistent income over a period of time to designated beneficiaries. Offering leases for agriculture, grazing, mineral, recreation and timbers as well as land sales generates income for the beneficiaries. The largest beneficiary of public trust is K-12 education. Ninety-three percent of the land held by the State Land Board is for educational trust.

Lowry is one of the largest, continuous undeveloped parcels in the Front Range. The state land board acquired the parcel from the Department of Defense in three separate transactions, which last occurred in 1991. Prior to the last transaction, the property was known as the Lowry Gunnery and Bombing Range

and used for military training during the Vietnam War. A large portion of the property needed environmental remediation to remove contaminants and explosive devices. The Army Corp of Engineers has begun the cleanup and most of the property has been cleared. The cleanup is ongoing and based on available funds and schedule of the Army Corp of Engineers.

In 2000, the state land board requested that the University of Colorado Real Estate Center complete an analysis of potential usages of the property. The analysis indicated that failure to devote adequate resources to the site would significantly decrease the value and limit future options.

In 2001, Governor Owens requested that the state land board assemble a Lowry range working group to facilitate the planning process for future use of the property. The work group met throughout 2003 to advise the state land board of construction opportunities for the site. School officials from the Cherry Creek School District represented districts on the work group. The findings concluded that districts should be a part of the planning and development of the site and there should be no negative fiscal impact on serving district attendance areas.

The proposed development site includes the six-mile area north of Quincy Avenue, which is owned by the Aurora Public Schools. This area was considered because it had previously been disturbed and portions had been developed. This area had also been cleaned of all ordinances and contaminants.

The state land board wanted the area to serve as a social, environmental and economical model for sustained ability for the region. They envisioned mixed-use villages that contained moderate to high density of growth developed to complement open spaces and built with conservation principals. It would also be a pedestrian friendly space.

A large portion of the development is a conservation area. On the western section of the development, the state land board envisioned additional lakes for water resources and recreation.

In 2006, the state land board offered a request for proposal of development agreement. The state land board did not want to sell the land to a developer. They were seeking a development partnership to maximize profits and selected the Australian development company, Lend Lease.

At the beginning of 2007, the state land board worked with Lend Lease to determine details of the development. Lend Lease is in the process of determining whether to begin development of the property. The rough estimate from Lend Lease is that more than 13,000 new houses will be built over a 20 to 25 year period. This would result in significant student growth and several new schools would need to be built. The capital cost from a 2007 financial analysis is \$217 million.

Barber asked whether the Army Corp of Engineers would be finished with the sweep in the proposed time line. Hensley shared that Lend Lease is at the end of the due diligence period and that might be one of the questions being discussed.

Cook thanked Hensley for updating the Board on the Lowry redevelopment property.

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

Non-Licensed Administrative and Professional/Technical Personnel

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

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

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7976

Approved on a vote of 7-0

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Section G Policy Revisions

Carmany moved and Cukale seconded to adopt the remaining Section G policies as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7977

Approved on a vote of 7-0

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Pickens Technical College Building Home Trades Sales

Weeks shared that the district received a full price offer of \$221,500 from Larry and Renae Hill for the purchase of the Pickens Technical College building trades home at 19025 E. 22nd Circle. The closing will be held within the next 30 days and it is tentatively set for March 25. The recommendation is that the Board approve the sale of the home as presented.

Edberg moved Cukale seconded to approve the sale of the Pickens Technical College building trades home.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7978

Approved on vote of 7-0

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Instructional Materials Adoption

Stuart shared that the Board heard information on the proposed instructional materials adoption on March 4. The recommendation is that the Board adopt the instructional materials as presented.

Barber moved and Lewis seconded to adopt the instructional materials as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7979

Approved on a vote of 7-0

Young Parenting Program

Stuart shared that the Board heard a proposal to transition the Young Parenting Program on March 4. The recommendation is to approve the proposal as presented.

Barber moved and Edberg seconded to approve the proposal to transition the Young Parenting Program.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7980

Approved on a vote of 7-0

Lewis voiced the importance of communicating services offered through the Young Parenting Program to parenting teens. We are only servicing 23 teens in the program and we must make sure all students are aware of it.

Edberg shared that a district committee comprised of counselors and school nurses has been working for the last year to determine how to provide more comprehensive services and guidelines to parenting teen who want to remain at their home high school. It has been a high priority for the committee since the decision was made to provide services at the home school.

Barry noted that a very aggressive outreach of services provided in the Young

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Parenting Program was communicated to students last year. He suggested that Lewis visit with teachers and staff in the Young Parenting Program.

Lewis also voiced concerns regarding possible conflicts between the Young Parenting Program and the pilot school program at William Smith. Barry shared that the building principal will no longer supervise the Young Parenting Program. Program supervision will be under the experts of the Early Childhood Education Program.

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Opportunity for Audience

Correspondence

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be held April 1, 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 8:45 p.m.

President

ATTEST _____

Secretary