

I. **PRELIMINARY**

Cook called the June 17, 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
Judith Edberg, director
Mary W. Lewis, director
Amy Prince, director

The following member was absent:

Peter Cukale, treasurer

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.

Approval of Agenda

The June 17, 2008, agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held June 3, 2008, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

Ginny Burgess, 14696 E. Hawaii Place, Aurora, 80012, apologized for not being prepared when she addressed the Board on June 3. She signed up to speak to the Board as a parent and was unprepared to discuss DAAC recommendations.

Burgess shared that wording in the memo sent to the Board was incorrect. The initial intent of Fund 23 money based on the DACC recommendation in 2006-07 was to subsidize the overwhelming costs of the performing arts departments at the high school level. Funds were not allocated for drama departments or intended for yearbook activities. Last year, DAAC recommended allocating funds through K-12.

The cost of fine arts at the elementary level cannot compare to the cost of performing arts at the middle and high school levels. Burgess has had kids in both fine arts and performing arts at the elementary, middle and high school levels over the past 16 years. She shared that there may be a need to increase funding for fine arts departments at all levels but there is a specific need to increase funding at the high school level. Our performing arts departments highlight our district. We need this funding to remain competitive in the Continental League and in competitions throughout the state. We must remain at an equal level with our competitors and be able to teach our students in a manner that reflects our district's goals and abilities. Our diversity makes us strong and our schools have a unique sound that reflects it. There are approximately 30 classes offered under the fine arts category at the high school level in addition to performing arts classes.

Burgess is proud of the support for our district performing arts departments. She requested that the Board not revise wording to include all arts.

Edward Samaniego, 15070 E. Florida Ave., Aurora, 80012, 303-306-9331, addressed the Board as both a DAAC member and parent. Samaniego expressed concerns regarding student to campus monitor ratios at the high school level. He concurred with comments made by Burgess in the June 3 Board minutes in that the ratio of campus monitors to students is incorrect and needs to be higher.

Samaniego also mentioned to William Stuart, chief academic officer, the need to have enough staff in place so administrative staff would not have to patrol the school community. During a visit to Gateway, he noticed that cars had been vandalized and notified the assistant principal. He heard the radio communication to disperse campus monitors to the parking lot and the subsequent response that only two monitors were in the building, both were watching the doors, and the school resource officer was unavailable. The principal and assistant principal had to go outside to perform duties that should have been assigned to campus monitors or the school resource officer. Administrative time could have been served better elsewhere.

Samaniego supports closed campus. As a community member, it is good that kids are not walking around campus or in surrounding neighborhoods during school hours. We need to support school staff with closed campus so they can do their jobs with backups in place to cover each other and provide safety and security to our students and school community.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Reports from the Board of Education

Cook acknowledged district leadership staff seated at the Board table. It has been an incredibly difficult and challenging year and they have been asked to work extremely hard. APS is on the lips of people throughout the state for all of the initiatives and innovations we have in place. On behalf of the Board, we appreciate all of your work and efforts this year. Lewis concurred and thanked district staff seated in the audience as well.

Items of Current Interest

We are proud to announce that APS has received a grant through the Colorado School of Mines to provide financial assistance to two graduate students. These students will support seven Fletcher Elementary School teachers with their science classes during the 2008-09 school year. Staff members from The Children's Hospital will work to improve schools for Aurora students.

On Friday, June 27, district staff will help with a landscaping project at North Middle School and a painting project at Vaughn Elementary School. This is the second year in a row that staff members from The Children's Hospital have volunteered at our schools. We are very thankful for all of their support. At least 30 volunteers participated in the landscaping project last year.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Abrogation Agreement for 5.52 Acres of the APS Community Campus

Weeks invited Josh Hensley, planning coordinator, to the staff table to review the abrogation agreement for 5.52 acres of the APS community campus.

Hensley explained that 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 property be used for an educational purpose for a period of 30 years. The deed requires the district to pay market value to abrogate the portion of the property not used for an educational purpose. The Federal Department of Education that oversees the Federal Real Property Assistance Program is requiring the district to abrogate 5.52 acres of the APS community campus. The abrogation payment calculates to \$609,399.45. This money will be paid out of the land purchase account in the capital reserve fund currently budgeted at \$715,000.

Hensley reviewed a map of the 5.52 acres of land on the APS community campus. Most of the land is vacant except for a portion of the parking lot and the road to access the transportation department. The Department of Education routinely audits to determine how the land is being used, and in a recent audit, we were informed that this portion of the property was not in substantial educational use. We either had to immediately put it to substantial educational use or abrogate the property. To abrogate the property, we will release the deed restriction giving APS full ownership of the property to develop as needed. This is an important piece of district property. It provides access to our transportation department and we need it to expand current district facilities.

Weeks shared that we currently have a \$715,000 line item in the capital reserve budget that has been set aside to purchase land as needed. This is more than enough to cover the purchase price.

Prince asked if audits had been completed on all district properties. Hensley explained that this was not a formal audit. Every two years, we provide a report, which is called the Federal Utilization Report, explaining how we use the land. Both the 5.52 acres of land and the land that Aurora Quest Academy was built on were audited. The portion of land that Aurora Quest Academy was built on meets deed restrictions. We are only required to abrogate 5.52 acres of land, not the entire portion that was deeded in 1982.

Barber asked how much the land would cost. Weeks replied that the total cost is \$609,000.

This item will return for action in August.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Homework Task Force

Stuart invited Amy Weed, director of student achievement, and members of the Homework Task Force to the staff table to present an overview of district homework guidelines. Weed introduced Karen Zollars, teacher leader at Altura; Mary Ann Maddy, principal of Altura; Jean Dawn, literacy instructional coordinator; and Linda Damon, director of professional learning.

Weed shared that when Superintendent Barry was first hired, he requested that the Division of Instruction review three topics: retention, student ability grouping, and consistency of homework across the district. Homework policy IKB and regulation IKB-R were adopted in 1981 and had not been revised since 1984. Barry requested that we incorporate current research into the policy and regulation, and develop consistent expectations for homework across the district. A task force comprised of district principals and teachers, ELA consultants, instructional coordinator of literacy and Linda Damon met monthly to develop homework guidelines.

We reviewed homework guidelines from Boston Public Schools, Chicago Public Schools, and schools throughout the metropolitan area. We reviewed technology supports for parents, and surveyed principals and teachers to determine homework guidelines and expectations at district schools. We presented findings to the instructional advisory group, cabinet, leadership, ELA caucus and district principals. We also participated in a teleconference with Tom Payzant in May 2007, and gathered good ideas and feedback regarding homework guidelines.

Zollars shared that teachers were surveyed throughout the district to determine core beliefs about homework, amounts and types of homework given, student accountability and how teachers utilized homework after it was submitted. Survey results indicated inconsistencies throughout the district. Our next goal was to establish guidelines in order to provide consistency throughout the district. We determined that the value of homework was a function of the appropriateness of the assignment, quality, and relevance to classroom instruction. The main idea of providing homework was instructional reinforcement, practice, application, and enrichment of things that had already been taught in a standards-based classroom. Other purposes of homework included independent study habits, extended learning activities beyond the school day, efficient use of student time, and a closer home/school connection with ongoing parent involvement.

Maddy explained that the task force determined that schools, students and parents were the three parties responsible for homework. Student responsibilities include:

- organize and track homework
- maintain a notebook or some type of organizational tool to keep track of

homework

- complete homework within allotted time frame
- make corrections to homework assignments after teachers review
- make an attempt to do every homework assignment
- complete independent homework assignments on their own
- request help if needed
- determine appropriate places to ask for help

Parent responsibilities include:

- provide space and quiet time
- provide a set time for homework
- review homework assignment with their student
- assist in finding appropriate places to ask for help
- monitor student progress and include feedback from teacher
- consult with the teacher if an assignment is too complex or if they feel their student needs additional help

Teacher responsibilities include:

- review homework assignments
- provide appropriate feedback to move students forward
- return homework assignments to students
- help students develop appropriate study skills and learning attitudes
- consider families and individual student needs when assigning homework
- plan homework assignments that tailor, challenge and provide enrichment to individual student needs

Damon reviewed recommendations to support and develop homework consistency throughout the district. We are working to develop online programs that parents can access that will coordinate with pacing guides. We have a number of existing resources in the district such as Core Plus that have suggested homework assignments and parent information that we plan to better utilize in the future.

The grading rubric for the standards-based report card will contain a section regarding homework effort and quality. We are working with the grading task force to determine how we can integrate the work of both task forces. Homework is important and should be completed by the student. When teachers do not have formal homework assignments, suggestions on where to access online homework assignments will be provided in the homework brochure. Brochures will be mailed to parents once they are approved.

Barber asked whether parents and students were invited to participate on the homework task force. Damon shared that we presented information to the ELA caucus, which is our parent group. We will request parent involvement once we develop the parent piece.

Lewis commented that some parents might think this is not enough homework. Damon explained that parents could take advantage of online homework assignments. Lewis asked if information would be added to the brochure before it is mailed in the fall. Damon replied yes.

Prince noted that at the elementary level there is a program called C-Perk, Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center, that provides homework

classes for parents. She questioned if this resource could be used. Damon replied yes. Parents in the ELA caucus requested professional learning to help their children with homework assignments. Prince asked how guidelines would be enforced. Damon shared that we are working to develop the accountability piece.

Lewis asked if teachers would have a chance to review the homework brochure before it is mailed to parents. Damon shared that professional learning will be provided for principals before the brochure is given to teachers. Homework guidelines will be a topic of discussion during the first few days of school. Information will be reviewed with staff before it is mailed to parents.

Carmany commented that a survey was completed indicating that a large percentage of parents do not have access to a computer. It is important to keep this in mind as we move forward with some of these suggestions. Damon shared that a number of parents attending the ELA caucus asked about the telephone homework hotline because they were more comfortable with it. We plan to utilize the phone system as a technology tool. Weed added that Mrachek opened their library on certain evenings so parents could access computers. We are brainstorming creative ways for parents to access computers. Damon commented that in West Virginia, computer terminals were placed in grocery stores so parents could access student grades and schedules. Barry has requested that Anthony Sturges, chief operating officer, work on an agreement with area grocery stores to set up computer terminals so parents can access student grades via Infinite Campus.

Stuart shared the importance of bringing homework to the forefront. It is critical to student achievement and learning. Homework must be appropriate to student learning and involve all three groups. Stuart thanked the task force for all their hard work. We will continue to refine homework guidelines in the next few weeks and roll it out in the fall.

Barry commended the homework task force for all their efforts in working with various groups and dealing with complexities to provide consistent homework guidelines throughout the district.

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Annexation Agreement for Sixth Avenue and Harvest Road Site

Sturges invited Jim Bittle, director of construction management and support, and Amy Spatz, manager of construction management, to the staff table to answer questions regarding the annexation agreement for Sixth Avenue and Harvest Road, the district owned 100-acre site located southwest of the corner of Sixth Avenue and Harvest Road. Planning is underway for a high school, P-8 school and related site improvements to be built on the site. In order to access city of Aurora services such as water and sewer, and to receive uniformity of services from the police, fire and building departments; it is necessary for the district to have an annexation agreement with the city. Following the review of the draft agreement by the city of Aurora, approval and signatures from the Board will be required to move the process forward.

Bittle asked that approval of the annexation agreement be moved to action tonight.

Cook commented that most of the land in that area is being developed under the

metropolitan district and asked whether the metropolitan district was overlaying this as well. Spatz replied that we are not considered part of the metropolitan district.

Lewis asked if there was any indication that neighbors would protest annexation into the city. Spatz shared that neighborhoods to the east and west were already annexed into the city. Thunderbird Estates is to the south of the site in unincorporated Arapahoe County. We have notified all of the neighborhoods and the city has requested that we hold a neighborhood meeting that we will be coordinating shortly. Some neighbors in Thunderbird Estates have expressed surprise that a high school was being considered to the north of their development.

Lewis moved and Barber seconded to move the annexation agreement for the Sixth Avenue and Harvest Road site to action.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8006

Approved on a vote of 6-0

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

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

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8007

Approved on a vote of 6-0

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

NCLB Consolidated Grant Application

Weeks shared that the NCLB Consolidated Grant Application received from the Colorado Department of Education must be submitted to CDE by June 30, 2008. The consolidated application is for the amount of \$12,083,595 for the following Title grants:

- Title I - \$9,183,717; (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged);
- Title II Part A, \$1,592,610 (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting);
- Title II-D - \$86,404 (Enhancing Education Through Technology);
- Title III - \$1,069,849 (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students);
- Title IV - \$151,015 (Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities)

The recommendation is that the Board accept the contents of the FY 2008-09 NCLB Consolidated Programs application and approve the submission of the application to the Colorado Department of Education.

Acceptance of Migrant Education Program Funds and Assurances

Each year in June, the district submits a Migrant Education Program application to the Migrant Education Regional Office for its Title I, Part C, Migrant Education grant. The Colorado Department of Education requires a signed acceptance and assurance form, the appointment of an authorized representative and the submission of the Migrant Education Program application by June 30.

The recommendation is that the Board accept the administration and accountability of the Migrant Education Program funds and appoint Rod Weeks as the authorized representative for the application.

Youth Football Field/Stadium Grant

The Department of Grants Management personnel along with the Department of Athletics and Activities have submitted the Youth Football Field/Stadium grant through the National Football League's Youth Football Fund in the amount of \$250,000.

The recommendation is that the Board authorize the expenditure of the Youth Football Field/Stadium grant in the amount of \$250,000 and appoint Rod Weeks as the authorized representative, Paul Coleman as the budget authority, and Tony Antolini as the contact person.

Edberg moved and Barber seconded to approve the following grant applications

as presented: NCLB Consolidated Grant; Acceptance of the Migrant Education Program Funds and Assurances; and the Youth Football Field/Stadium grant.

Lewis asked if the \$250,000 Youth Football Field/Stadium grant was written specifically for the Rangeview High School football field. Weeks replied yes.

Lewis asked how many students in the Migrant Education Program were registered for summer school classes at Paris. Stuart will provide information to Lewis tomorrow afternoon.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8008

Approved on a vote of 6-0

2007-08 Supplemental Budget Appropriations

Weeks requested that the Board suspend the rule requiring a 7-0 vote to adopt a resolution before recommendations are heard for the four resolutions presented on the June 17 Board agenda. Cook called for a motion to suspend the Board's rule requiring a 7-0 vote to adopt resolutions.

Barber moved and Carmany seconded to suspend the Board rule requiring a 7-0 vote to adopt resolutions.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8009

Approved on a vote of 6-0

Weeks shared that four funds require a supplemental budget appropriation for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education of Joint District No. 28-J of the counties of Adams and Arapahoe adopt the following budget amounts and appropriate additional funds in the amounts of \$563,613 in the 2007-08 charter school fund, \$12,000,000 in the 2007-08 building fund, and \$37,500 in the 2007-08 copier services fund.

The recommendation is that the Board of Education adopt the 2007-08 Supplemental Budget Appropriations resolution as presented.

Resolution Authorizing the District's Participation in the State Treasurer's Interest-Free Loan Program for Colorado School Districts

Weeks shared that the Board has been provided information regarding the district's cash flow and the state treasurer's interest-free loan program for Colorado school districts. This resolution authorizes the district to borrow up to \$40 million from the state during fiscal year 2008-09 to be repaid by June 25, 2009.

The recommendation is that the Board of Education adopt the resolution authorizing the district's participation in the state treasurer's interest-free loan program for Colorado school districts as presented.

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

Weeks shared that as part of the budget adoption for a fiscal year, any portion of a beginning fund balance that is used as an available resource for that year's operations requires approval by the Board of Education. The Board of Education must authorize use, state 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. Ten district funds will use a portion of their beginning fund balances including General, Athletic, Building, Capital Reserve, Colorado Preschool Program, Grants, Print Services, Nutrition Services, Risk-Related Activity, and Special Programs.

The recommendation is that the Board of Education adopt the resolution authorizing a use of a portion of the beginning fund balance as authorized by Colorado statutes as presented.

Adoption of the 2008-09 Budget and Appropriation Resolution

Weeks shared that each year the Board is required to approve and adopt a budget for operations by the end of the fiscal year, June 30. Fourteen funds, including six charter schools beginning in the 2008-09 school year, have been listed in balance form for a total amount of \$365 million.

The recommendation is that the Board adopt the resolution and the 2008-09 budget appropriations for the general operating fund as presented.

Edberg moved and Prince seconded to adopt the four resolutions as presented: 2007-08 Supplemental Budget Appropriations; Resolution Authorizing the District's Participation in the State Treasurer's Interest-Free Loan Program for Colorado School Districts; Use of a Portion of the Beginning Fund Balance as Authorized by Colorado Statutes; and Adoption of the 2008-09 Budget and Appropriation Resolution.

Cook noted that the Board would have the opportunity to approve the readoption of the budget. He asked if readoption would occur in August to give the Board time to review DAAC recommendations in regard to art funding. Weeks reminded Board members that legislators changed time lines for schools to readopt budgets to January 2009. The Board has six months to consider recommendations from DAAC. Information gathered could be incorporated into the budget in January 2009.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince

#8010

Approved on a vote of 6-0

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

New America School Calendar

Stuart shared that the Board was presented with a proposal from New America School to continue with the four-day school work calendar for the 2008-09 school year.

The recommendation is that the Board approve the proposal from New America

School to continue with the four-day school work calendar for the 2008-09 school year.

Edberg moved and Carmany to approve the proposal from New America School to continue with the four-day school work calendar for the 2008-09 school year.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8011

Approved on a vote of 6-0

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Potential Bond

Sturges shared that over the last three years, the Long Range Facilities Advisory Committee has considered information about facility needs throughout the district and presented this information to the Board of Education. Board members are asked to give direction concerning a bond election this fall.

It is recommended that the Board of Education direct staff to proceed in developing a proposal for requesting voter approval on the 2008 election to issue bonds that will finance capital improvements to meet student educational needs, to make improvements to existing facilities and to develop a resolution asking the Board of Education to authorize placing a facilities bond measure on the November 2008 ballot at the August 5, 2008, Board of Education meeting.

Cook moved and Lewis seconded to direct staff to proceed in developing a proposal for requesting voter approval on the 2008 election to issue bonds and develop a resolution asking the Board of Education to authorize placing a facilities bond measure on the November 2008 ballot at the August 5, 2008, Board of Education meeting.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8012

Approved on a vote of 6-0

Potential Mill Levy Override

Sturges shared that for most of the 2007-08 school year, the Board has carefully reviewed the budget and the financial needs of the district. In order to continue to provide the quality education our community expects and fulfill the vision of the district's strategic plan, Board members are asked to give direction concerning a mill levy override this fall. This would be the first request for a mill levy override since the successful election in 1990.

The recommendation is that the Board of Education direct staff to proceed in developing a proposal for requesting voter approval on the November 2008 election for a mill levy override to provide general fund dollars in order to maintain educational programs, provide full-day kindergarten, update technology, and recruit and retain high quality teaching and support staff. The resolution on August 5, 2008, calling for the election for a Board vote, should include specifics on how the money will be spent, connection to learning goals, associated costs and the property tax increase on residential properties.

June 17, 2008

Prince moved and Lewis seconded to direct staff to proceed in developing a proposal for requesting voter approval on the November 2008 election for a mill levy override.

Barber commented on the importance of making the community aware of how funds will be spent. Lewis requested that we seek public input on what the mill should cover.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8013

Approved on a vote of 6-0

Annexation Agreement for Sixth Avenue and Harvest Road Site

Sturges shared that it is recommended that the Board of Education allow staff to continue working with the city of Aurora to secure an annexation agreement for the 100-acre site located at Sixth Avenue and Harvest Road.

Carmany moved and Edberg seconded to allow staff to work on securing an annexation agreement with the city of Aurora for the 100-acre site located at Sixth Avenue and Harvest Road.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8014

Approved on a vote of 6-0

Barry commended the Board for their courage and dedication in making this an incredible and rewarding school year. Last year was planning, this year was implementation, and next year is refinement. We are well on our way to making this the best school district in the state of Colorado.

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Opportunity for Audience

Correspondence

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be held August 5, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Patricia Lord Boardroom.

Adjournment

Cook motioned for the Board to recess into executive session, under the authority of C.R.S. §24-6-402(b), to discuss the Superintendent's performance evaluation. Prince moved and Carmany seconded to recess into executive session.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 7:37p.m.

President

ATTEST

Secretary