

I. **PRELIMINARY**

Cook called the January 20, 2009, meeting to order at 6:30 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
Tony Van Gytenbeek, deputy superintendent
Rod Weeks, chief financial officer
Kari Allen, chief personnel 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 20, 2009, agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held December 11, 2008, and minutes of the Board of Education workshop held January 6, 2009, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

Gwynn Moore, 2044 S. Salida Street, Aurora, 80013, 303-745-8941, and Shannon Wentworth, 5291 S. Picadilly Way, Aurora, 80015, 720-870-7820, invited the Board of Education, Superintendent Barry, leadership team and the community to the second annual technology learning fair. The fair will be held Saturday, April 18, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Paris Elementary, the district's first fully technology integrated school.

Gwynn Moore shared that January is Board of Education appreciation month. She thanked Board members on behalf of the Aurora Education Association for their service and work with students, teachers, staff and the community. She presented each Board member with a card of appreciation signed by all of the association representatives in the district. Cook thanked the Aurora Education Association for all of their work and efforts as well.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Reports from the Board of Education

Edberg had an opportunity to distribute diplomas at the exit graduation ceremony for students in the transition program. It was an honor to attend the ceremony and the kids were very appreciative. Edberg thanked staff and encouraged everyone to visit the transition program.

Carmany attended the first graduation ceremony for students in the Rebound Program run by Ombudsman. Many of the graduates were potential dropouts with no hope of graduating from high school. Carmany encouraged everyone to attend the next Rebound graduation ceremony and thanked staff members for their efforts and support of APS kids.

Barber read a quote from Barack Obama delivered in a speech in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the King National Memorial groundbreaking ceremony on November 13, 2006.

“The man we honor today did what God required. In the end, that is what I will tell my daughters. I will tell them that this man gave his life serving others. I will tell them that this man tried to love somebody. I will tell them that because he did these things, they live today with the freedom God intended, their citizenship unquestioned, their dreams unbounded.

And I will tell them that they too can love. That they too can serve. And that each generation is beckoned anew, to fight for what is right, and strive for what is just, and to find within itself the spirit, the sense of purpose, that can remake a nation and transform a world.”

Barber commented that this conveys what the last two days have been about, and our kids are capable of becoming great leaders just like Dr. King and President Obama.

Lewis also attended the graduation ceremony for students in the Rebound program. The student stories were moving and amazing. This is a wonderful community partnership and it should be celebrated.

Lewis attended the state of the base luncheon. It is amazing to see how much Buckley Air Force Base has grown. The purpose and mission of the base keeps our entire nation safe, and they do a wonderful job making sure the community understands the mission. We are lucky to have the base in our community.

Lewis commented on the excitement of the presidential inaugural ceremony that she watched with Edna and John Mosley. John Mosley is a retired Lt. Colonel and former Tuskegee Airmen. Edna Mosley was the first African American woman elected to the Aurora City Council. It was a very moving and wonderful morning.

Prince attended an assembly at Tollgate in which Alborada, a South America group performed. The kids had a wonderful time dancing to the music. Prince

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thanked Tollgate staff for giving her an opportunity to see the entertaining performance.

Cook and Barry attended the mid-year graduation ceremony for 14 Aurora Central students. This was the first generation graduation for four of the students and it was a very moving to watch.

Cook attended the Aurora Central legends game in which two former athletes were inducted into the Aurora Central Legends Club.

Cook shared comments in regard to the presidential inaugural ceremony. It was a great example and celebration of how effective the changeover of leadership and process works in America.

Items of Current Interest

Barry recognized the district's ambassador group for their hard work and dedication. This group consists of about 65 employees from nearly every district site who volunteer their time to assist the Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation with events and the Building Better Resources campaign.

The core ambassador group consists of Angela Hutton-Thompson, Roy Smith, Kathy Gobin, Patti Oda and Kathy Zinter along with two sponsors, Trion Productions, represented by Janet Kiyota, and Wells Fargo, represented by Wanda Cooley.

We commend each of you for your efforts, support and leadership and thank our sponsors for their continued generosity. You all play a key role in helping APS become the best school district in the state.

Zinter requested that school ambassadors stand up and be recognized for all their hard work and contributions. She also thanked Angelic White for all her work, efforts and organization as secretary of the APS Education Foundation. Barry presented core ambassadors and site ambassadors with a Superintendent recognition coin.

Barry thanked the Aurora voters who have demonstrated their confidence in APS by passing the mill levy override last November. The new funding will allow us to continue our momentum as we close the gap and increase achievement for all students. One element for the new funding included a retroactive salary increase for all contracted employees. Tonight, we would like to recognize the individuals who were key in processing the retroactive pay adjustments in December and the contract salary increases effective this month. This was no easy feat. These individuals worked like a dream team in writing computer programs, developing reports, checking and double checking figures for approximately 4,000 employees, processing a new December payroll that included the retroactive pay, performing a salary "roll-up" for the new January salary schedules and graciously answering countless questions from employees.

Beyond their expertise and extraordinary efforts, we would also like to recognize how well this group from three different divisions worked so well together. They are an example of trust and teamwork.

At this time, please join me in recognizing and thanking: Adrienne Bradshaw, Nan Johnston, Joni Boyle, Lennie Dolan, Susan Jensen, Theresa Larson, Dan Davis, Katherine Pope-Hooper, David Blosser, Carisa Hull, Mary Caulfield, Cathy

Weeks, Carl Walker, Barb Huber, Diane Simmons, Cynthia Hubbard, Domenica Ortega, Debbie DeVries, and Natalie Riepe. Barry presented staff present with a Superintendent recognition coin.

Family Engagement and Community Outreach

Barbara Cooper, director of school services, equity and family engagement, invited Roy Smith, special population liaison, and Cookie Hansen, special population liaison, to the staff table to provide an update on family engagement and community outreach efforts.

Cooper commented that President Obama spent many hours as a community organizer and was very involved in community outreach efforts in Chicago. We are in good company as we move forward in our family engagement and community outreach efforts. We have done a lot of work but recognize that more needs to be accomplished.

Our mission statement supports the district's mission in that we strive to empower APS family liaisons, special population liaisons and school personnel with a variety of tools and resources to increase family outreach through effective methods, tactical strategies, targeted groups, communication venues, community stakeholders, and other groups who are invested in similar goals and outreach efforts.

Our work is tied to VISTA 2010 and includes both community and environment goals under the plan. We are committed to strengthening our collaboration with APS families and expanding community involvement efforts through parenting classes, workshops and coffees. We continue to increase dialog and cooperation with key local, state, and national groups and organizations. We have been working with the commissioner of education, Aurora mayor, and are part of the key community response team.

It is important that we provide more welcoming and nurturing environments at school sites to increase family participation and engagement. We have increased diversity trainings and are having conversations with school personnel to determine what can be done to ensure sites are more welcoming and understand and recognize diversity.

Smith shared that pamphlets and flyers have been developed containing information about the program, resources, and ways to get involved. We have a family resource guide and have implemented best practices for family engagement. Some family outreach tactical strategies include PTA/PTO, PBS for parents, college bound information, news media, annual parent surveys, focus groups, and family literacy. We work with DAAC, Aurora Mental Health and a PTO manager, who is responsible for tracking and managing 20 hours of volunteer time that we asked each household to complete at each Title I school annually. Family outreach targeted groups include new/current students, new/current underserved parents, guardians, news channels and newspapers. We were awarded two grants to help migrant students and parents at Paris and Kenton better understand school cultures, operations and empower them with information needed to be successful in APS.

Communication resources include flyers, newsletters, telephone calls, Connect Ed, district surveys, APS Web site, television media, newspapers, personal contacts and school marquees. We have a total of 89 community partners and some work directly with APS. One of our community partners is the University of

Phoenix, which plans to award two \$10,000 scholarships grants to APS teachers.

Some perceived gaps and barriers for parent involvement based on surveys, evaluations, and one-on-one parent comments include:

- more welcoming school personnel/environments
- consistent volunteer protocol
- childcare
- sensitivity toward various cultures
- encourage speech in native language
- better communication between English and ESL groups
- parent work schedule
- positive customer service
- minimizing school phobia
- embrace cultural beliefs

Strengths include:

- family resource book, adopted by the Board of Education
- new family resource book, slated for completion at the end of the year
- variety of forums embracing diversity
- parent events/coffees and outreach tactics
- individual and group conferences
- a total of 18,866 PTO manager hours logged to include Title I schools and a couple of non-Title I schools
- Parent leaders at school sites help PTO managers log parent volunteer hours

Lewis asked if all district schools had PTO managers. Cooper replied that only Title I schools had PTO managers.

Barber asked if parent involvement was required at Title I schools. Cooper shared that parental involvement is strongly encouraged at Title I schools and there are many activities for parents to get involved in. Smith shared that awards are given to parents as an added incentive to complete 20 hours of annual service. Hansen added that many Title I schools have provided visuals so parents can better track logged hours.

Lewis asked if family resource guides were provided to all families. Smith shared that parents will receive a new resource guide this year and it is also available online.

Hansen shared that APS families and the community appreciated the open communication in regard to funding and resources during the bond campaign.

We have personal communications with families daily to increase parental involvement. Parents have also suggested that we send information directly through the US mail when possible and include staff and community stakeholders in all communications. The new family community engagement guide will include information from the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan and school sites.

Hansen reviewed slides from the Hispanic scholarship forum, back-to-school kickoff, quarterly award ceremony, trash-to-trees at West Middle School, and parent volunteer field day at Paris.

Cooper shared that next steps for family engagement and community outreach efforts include:

- continue family and community outreach efforts and trainings
- extend outreach efforts with MOP
- identify school representatives in non-Title I schools and ensure sites are included in communication outreach efforts
- an upcoming meeting will be held with representatives from PTA/PTO, DAAC and Superintendent Barry to share strategies that support family engagement and communication efforts as a district
- create an action team to support the family engagement guide
- two \$10,000 scholarships will be awarded at the upcoming Rainbow of Children conference, March 7, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Aurora Central

Cooper shared that Jane Barber and LeeAnn Gott presented information received at a recent National Education Association training in regard to family engagement and community outreach efforts in December 2008. Smith presented a quilt created by family liaisons as an example of a collaborative project sponsored by the teacher's association, designed to bring families together and increase engagement at school sites. The quilt will become part of the permanent display in the boardroom.

A home visit outreach will be held on February 3, 2009, to encourage truant students to return to school.

Cooper shared that Radical Possibilities by Jane Anyon, based on community engagement and outreach efforts, was reviewed with district liaisons. The book also discusses public policy, urban education, and how to unite for a new social movement, which is what we are trying to achieve in APS.

Prince thanked the presenters and commended them for all their efforts. She asked what steps had been taken to increase customer service and make sites more welcoming in order to eliminate phobias experienced by many parents. Cooper shared that Allen is having conversations with classified staff members in regard to upcoming trainings with diversity trainers. We have also met with principals to discuss customer service and trainings to better support school employees. Barry shared that school employees are often the first point of contact for parents and community stakeholders. We want to also observe all of the things they are doing right to enhance customer service as a way to celebrate and build on successes.

Barber commented that more signs and directions are needed at schools sites to indicate where to find the front office. Lewis also commented about the need for more visible signs and directions for entering sites with outside security codes as well as updating marquees more frequently for community stakeholders.

Lewis suggested inviting police officers to more positive events and activities to better acquaint them with students and the school community.

Cukale thanked Hansen and Smith for all their hard work and efforts over the years. They have bridged the gap between school liaisons and parents, and have significantly improved parent involvement. Each has done a tremendous job!

Cook asked who individuals or groups should contact with resource information. Cooper replied that individuals can connect school services. Smith also shared that individuals or groups can contact him directly.

Barry thanked and complimented Cooper and the entire team on their organization and leadership.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

2009-10 Preliminary Budget Projections

Weeks provided a very preliminary update on 2009-10 budget projections. The Board approved the 2008-09 re-adopted budget in December. Budget concerns at the state level will affect school districts at some level. Some funds will experience changes going into 2009-10 including:

- the charter school budget will increase
- student enrollment at charter schools is expected to increase in various grades
- no new charter schools are slated to open in the 2009-10 school year
- the bond fund budget will increase slightly due to scheduled payments as a result of issuance of new bonds
- the building fund budget will increase to accommodate new projects on the 100-acre site
- the nutrition services budget will experience additional costs associated with food purchases and inflation

Conservative projections for next year indicate a flat student enrollment based on projections from the planning department. Student enrollments are not expected to generate any additional revenues in the general fund in the 2009-10 school year. School finance is estimated to increase by three percent inflation plus 1% from Amendment 23. The per pupil amount will generate an estimated \$8.2 million of new revenues.

The fund balance as of June 30, 2008, is 4.6 percent of revenues. We are required to have a five percent fund balance, and are estimated/on track to have a six percent fund balance at the end of the year, June 30, 2009.

The staffing teacher equivalency (TE) at school sites decreased by 55 last year as a result of student projection estimates of 600 less students. We experienced an increase of 1,000 students, and TE allocations will increase by 57 in 2009-10. Also, TE allocations will be adjusted to accommodate full-day kindergarten and the ELA focus.

Salary steps for all licensed staff and those classified employees scheduled to move on the salary schedule is estimated to cost \$2.5 million. Health insurances premiums are estimated to increase by more than \$2 million. Carmany asked if APS accepted bids from health insurance companies. Allen replied yes. We have a broker that we work with for our insurance coverage and are currently negotiating prices.

Weeks shared that we currently allocate 73 cents toward the delivery of instruction at school sites. The remaining 27 cents goes toward support divisions and TABOR reserves.

We are targeting a 93 percent spending rate in the general fund this year. We are increasing our contingency amount from \$1million to \$2 million to address possible reductions of state revenue and increase emergency TABOR reserves by \$100,000. The very early estimate for next year is \$252 million in revenue available for spending. A finite and limited amount of funds will be available to address state budget reductions, general salary increases and district initiatives.

We plan to have several budget communication meetings with several committees and key groups including AEA, SEA, CEC and the DAAC budget subcommittee. The budget will be reviewed again at the second Board meeting in February.

Cook asked whether any anticipated changes would occur with PERA this year. Weeks replied that no changes or significant impacts to districts would occur this year and no significant changes were anticipated for the 2009-10 school year. PERA is scheduled to do some analysis and plan to make long-term changes in the future.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

III. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No Items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Classified Personnel

Licensed Personnel

Non-Licensed Administrative and Professional/Technical Personnel

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

Lewis moved and Carmany seconded to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8058

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

No Items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Opportunity for Audience

Edward Samaniego, 15070 E. Florida Avenue, Aurora, 80012, 303-306-9331, addressed the Board in regard to the district's decision to remain open in early December when the temperature dropped below zero.

Samaniego shared that weather reports predicted below zero temperatures in early December. Snow days have been built into the schedule to accommodate weather related concerns. District officials need to think about kids, parents and staff when it is bitter cold and close schools even if other metro school districts elect to remain open.

Correspondence

January 20, 2009

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be held February 3, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Mrs. Patricia Lord Boardroom.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

President

ATTEST

Secretary