

## I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the May 5, 2009, meeting to order at 6:29 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  
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

### ***Posting of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance***

The award winning CO-861/AFJROTC drill team, under the direction of Colonel George Wade, posted colors at the May 5 Board meeting. Cook then led the Board and audience in the pledge to the flag, and welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Cook commented that Colonel Wade and the AFJROTC students have won just about every drill team award. We are honored to have them at tonight's meeting.

### ***Board of Education Announcement***

The Aurora Public Schools learned today that a student at Park Lane Elementary School has tested positive for the H1N1 influenza virus (also known as swine flu). As a result, Park Lane will be closed until further notice effective May 6.

The decision to close the school was based on our collaboration with Tri-County Health Department, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Centers for Disease Control. The school closure is simply a precaution for our students, staff and families.

Parents are being notified through letters and the APS automated phone messaging system about the closure and will be contacted as the situation changes. APS will provide daily updates on the Web site including the status of reopening the school. We will continue to monitor all schools and work with local, state and federal public health officials.

A press conference was held this afternoon and information is available on the Web site.

### ***Approval of Agenda***

The May 5, 2009, agenda was approved as written.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held April 21, 2009, were approved as written.

### ***Student Performance***

Second-grade students from Altura Elementary, under the direction of Peter Stoneburner, sang a musical selection from their upcoming summer concert called "Shark."

Cook thanked Stoneburner and the talented second graders for providing entertainment at the May 5 Board meeting. Thanks to all of the parents in the audience for coming to the meeting to support their students.

### ***Opportunity for Audience***

Michelle Varela, 1608 Jamaica Street, Aurora, 303-304-8938, shared that her daughter is a third grader at Crawford and has been enrolled since kindergarten.

Varela shared that her daughter is learning and reading at a first grade level, but is being passed to the fourth grade. Debbie Gerkin, principal of Crawford, and Cynthia Hurtado, third grade teacher, have tried to help my daughter by placing her in a special learning program. Many students at Crawford are reading below grade level and are being passed to the next grade. I have mentioned concerns to school staff since my daughter was in kindergarten, but no one has helped. I informed Principal Gerkin that my daughter should not be passed to the next grade level because she only has two years left in elementary. What is going to happen to her when she starts middle school and does not have the capacity to learn? As a parent, I am doing everything to help by daughter. I took her to Children's Hospital to be tested, and she is now on medication to help her develop at the appropriate level. My daughter is exceeding at this time and plans to attend summer school, which I am happy about. I explained to Principal Gerkin that I am worried about by daughter's future. What is going to happen to her if her learning does not improve in fourth grade and she continues to be passed to the next grade level? I help my daughter with homework and watch her struggle every day. She wants to know why she cannot read and learn.

Varela noted that Board members were elected to help our students, and questioned if records had been pulled to determine how many students need help at Crawford. These children are our children and we want to give them the best in the world. I would like my daughter to get the help she needs so she can grow up to be whatever she wants to be.

Barry requested that William Stuart, chief academic officer, meet with Varela to get more information.

Brittany Madrigal, student in the Rebound Program, addressed the Board in regard to graduation credits.

Madrigal previously attended Rangeview and shared that she was never withdrawn. She has met all of the requirements and has the credits to graduate, but is only 16 years old. The law states that you have to be enrolled in school until you are 17 years old.

Madrigal shared that she was supposed to graduate in December, but many factors ensued including the lack of seat time. She attended summer school and questioned if that counted for seat time. She noted that her mom would not give consent for her to graduate and questioned if parental consent was necessary to obtain a high school diploma. She also questioned why it mattered as to the length of time it took to obtain credits as long as they were obtained.

Madrigal shared that Rangeview counselors did not want her to graduate and did not want her enrolled in the Rebound Program. She mentioned that Rebound staff members have contacted Rangeview many times, but calls were not returned. She and her mom have also left several messages for Rangeview staff, but have only received one call from the principal.

Barry noted that Pam Turner, principal at Rangeview High School, was in the audience and requested that she meet with Madrigal to discuss her concerns.

Erin Cook, Athena Sorrell and Amelia Polton, students at Aurora Quest, addressed the Board in regard to having a snack bar at Aurora Quest in order to provide healthier choices and more options for lunch. The snack bar would make more money for the school and provide additional lunch choices. It would also improve test scores of students who do not eat lunch because of limited choice offerings. Students would have more energy throughout the day and their brains would function better.

Although Aurora Quest is a K-8 school, we should still be treated like all other APS middle schools and have a snack bar. We believe that food in the snack bar would provide fresher and healthier choices for Aurora Quest students.

Cook requested that students give petitions for a snack bar to Tonia Norman, Board assistant. He requested that Barry follow up with district staff.

## **II. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

#### **Reports from the Board of Education**

Edberg had the opportunity to attend the Annual Volunteer Recognition dinner for The Children's Hospital last Thursday. This was a very big event and the large ballroom was crowded with people. After dinner, the first award was given to the junior volunteer of the year. This recognition was given to the students in the APS Crossroads Transition Program. It was really touching to see the ceremony and see the students who have faced so many challenges in their young lives receive this richly deserved award.

For one person in the audience, it was the realization of a dream. Diane Bieber, family liaison in Exceptional Student Services, had long hoped that her daughter, Annie, would someday work as a volunteer at The Children's Hospital. Annie, who died two and a half years ago, was a special APS student and a frequent patient at The Children's Hospital. After Annie's death, Diane began to think of ways to honor her memory. She decided to explore the possibility of APS

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exceptional students working as volunteers at The Children's Hospital. She talked to staff at The Children's Hospital and staff in the transition program. The result was the creation of the first collaborative partnership between a school district and any children's hospital to provide ongoing volunteer services. This is another example of APS staff and students leading the way and providing a model for other school districts. Many metro school districts have inquired about the program.

Implementing the program was not an easy process. Staff and students had to learn the material from a thick volunteer manual. Teacher Jenna Hess broke the material down into wording that students could understand. A nine-week class was developed so students could learn the manual and practice the drills.

In October 2007, under the direction of a gifted and caring paraeducator, Rosie Yocovazzi, students began working four days a week, two hours per day. Students have worked running a beverage cart, which serves beverages to families in the outpatient department and in the creative play area with siblings of patients. An aim of the program is for students to continue to work in the community after leaving the program. Two graduates have continued work as volunteers at the hospital. A total of 17 students have participated in the volunteer program.

What a wonderful way to honor Annie's memory and provide opportunities for students. I was moved and touched by the story and wanted to share it with the community.

Carmany thanked Barber Cooper, director of school services, Debi Hunter, assistant to the director of school services, and school services staff for organizing the top ten ceremony and retirement dinner. I know that it takes many hours to plan these events and both were class acts.

Carmany thanked staff at Rangeview for providing an opportunity to attend the No Place for Hate ceremony. What a great thing for faculty and staff to recognize.

Carmany thanked the Aurora city council for organizing the Aurora Scholars ceremony. Most Board members had an opportunity to attend the ceremonies at North Middle School and the Aurora chamber. The turnout was phenomenal and the kids were precious.

Congratulations to everyone that participated in the art display at the Town Center in Aurora. Artwork from every APS school was displayed. Carmany thanked Laurie Foster, art teacher at Kenton, for all her work and efforts with the display.

Carmany had a great visit at Elkhart. It was great to see the faculty and all the wonderful things that are occurring at Elkhart.

Prince echoed comments from Carmany in regard to the top ten ceremony and retirement dinner. What a great job. Prince was also honored to attend the No Place for Hate ceremony at Rangeview.

Prince had an opportunity to shadow Superintendent Barry yesterday morning. He wears so many different hats and works very hard with the district leadership team. The hard work of the team is what makes the district so successful. Thanks for all you do.

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Barber attended the service pin ceremony at East, which is always a wonderful event. She also thanked Amy Spatz and the architect for visiting Jamaica last month and gathering input from teachers who worked with students to use in planning for the Meadowood building. This is a great opportunity for APS.

Barber attended the CCA scholarship luncheon on Friday. I was very proud of the students who received awards. CCA is a wonderful place for our children.

Lewis noted that it has been a very busy two weeks with Aurora Scholars, top ten, and the No Place for Hate ceremony.

Lewis attended the annual Mother's Day graduation celebration at William Smith sponsored by Quota International of Metro Denver. They have taken students in the young parenting program under their wings, and helped honor all of their accomplishments at the graduation celebration. Ten students will graduate in May and two graduated in December. Both graduates are doing well and one will speak at the upcoming commencement ceremony. It was a very nice lunch.

Lewis attended service pin ceremonies at Century, Dalton and South. While visiting Dalton this morning, she noticed that someone had put a bicycle up the flag pole. The May pranks have begun in APS.

Cook recognized the drama department at Rangeview High School. The student production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" was excellent and the set was one of the best seen for that type of staging. They did a great job and I enjoyed it immensely.

Cook shared that commencement ceremonies will be held next week. They are always memorable events and we shake hundreds of hands. Please take the time to congratulate APS high school seniors for reaching this point in their education.

Cukale enjoyed service pin ceremonies at East and Wheeling. It is always nice to recognize employees who have been with APS for numerous years and have lived the dream. It is a great accomplishment.

Carmany recognized the APS Incident Response Team, under the direction of Superintendent Barry and Chief Operating Officer Anthony Sturges. The team has worked hard to keep staff, parents and the community updated and informed in regard to the H1N1 influenza virus. Numerous communications have been sent via e-mail and information has been posted on the district's Web site.

### **Items of Current Interest**

Barry and the APS Board of Education recognized Rangeview High School science teacher Christopher Carpenter, his wife Lacey and the Rangeview High School sophomore class leadership for collecting dental hygiene supplies for children in Costa Rica. I am proud that our students are being given the opportunity to make international connections with other students. These partnerships help shape the global community that defines our district.

Christopher Carpenter presented a slideshow that showcased Rangeview students collecting 1,582 dental hygiene items for children in Heredia, Costa Rica.

Carpenter shared that one of the goals of student leadership is to do community service and get leadership students as well as students throughout the school involved. When I spoke to Lacey, who is a physician assistant, about supplies needed for her medical mission's trip to Costa Rica, we discovered that there was a need for dental and basic hygiene supplies. I spoke to my leadership students and they were very excited about teaming up with my wife and her team. We distributed flyers, did commercials and kids really got involved. Overall, we collected 722 toothbrushes, 724 toothpastes and 136 dental flosses. Some of the larger donations came from parents, but most were donated by Rangeview students.

Carpenter reviewed slides of children in hygiene education classes in Heredia. My wife's team also had a chance to visit some of the Nicaraguan refugee camps. The team distributed hygiene supplies and taught people how to use them. Barry presented Christopher and Lacey Carpenter with Superintendent recognition coins.

Congratulations to Debi Hunter-Holen for earning the Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Women Sculptors of Aurora" award. This award recognizes women whose accomplishments have an Aurora focus and have made a significant contribution in the community.

Hunter-Holen began working for the betterment of students in APS in 1990 by serving in the media center and our special education department. She now works as assistant to the director of school services where she plays a key role in organizing events such as graduations, the retirement celebration, top ten and many others. She hosted the Bond Kick Off event, resolves community and parent concerns, advocates for the diverse APS population, provides crisis support and much more. In addition, Hunter is an extremely active community volunteer serving in the following roles:

- Aurora Citizens for Excellent Schools committee member
- Nunez Foundation member and former president
- Asian Pacific Partners in Leadership for Education board member
- Congressman Perlmutter's military academy selection board member
- Aurora PTA Council president
- Colorado PTA board member
- Recurring judge for the Windsor Optimist Breakfast Club JROTC speech competitions
- Participant in fundraising events for a variety of candidates
- House District 42's chair and precinct committee person
- Aurora Association of Educational Office Professionals member
- Aurora Central High School Leadership Team member
- Mentor of an elementary school student
- Mentored high school students in a poetry after school program
- Helped with the Alternative Cooperative Education program for special education students
- Served on the Facilitator Cadre
- Established the summer school program for middle school students in Aurora and neighboring districts

Hunter-Holen's efforts and deeds have greatly enriched our city as well as individuals in Aurora. As a community, we say with great sincerity, "thank you" for serving us so selflessly. Barry presented Hunter-Holen with a Superintendent recognition coin.

Congratulations to the Gateway and Rangeview high school CO-861 AFJROTC for an impressive performance at Rocky Mountain Regional Drill Meet. They competed against 29 schools from Colorado, Utah and Kansas. These cadets won more trophies than in any previous year. The overall results were as follows:

- first place—overall regulation drill without arms
- first place— Color Guard (Division A)
- second place—Color Guard (Division B)
- second place—regulation drill without arms
- fourth place—exhibition drill with arms
- fifth place—exhibition drill without arms

In individual, regulation drill Cadet Devon McGill won a ninth place trophy out of 425 cadets who competed. We are very proud of these students and commend them for all of their hard work and dedication.

Bill Holen, 573 Quentin St., Aurora, addressed the Board as a representative of the Colorado delegation. Holen is also a staff member in Congressman Perlmutter's office.

Holen thanked the district for opening up Hinkley High School last Saturday for the Military Academy Information Day. All of the members of the Colorado congressional delegation staff attended as well as representatives from the military academies. We had more than 500 parents and students who attended the event. I want to personally thank Superintendent Barry for opening the school so parents could obtain more information about military academies and educational opportunities in the military.

Barry shared that we are extremely thankful for Rangeview High School Nurse Pat Grant whose quick thinking saved a student's life. Recently, a student reported not feeling well. Grant tended to her, but also called the student's mother who suggested sending the student back to class after speaking with their physician.

Later that day, the student had a seizure. Grant promptly dialed 911 feeling that it was more than a medication issue. Based on a CAT scan, the student was found to have a brain tumor and was scheduled for surgery that afternoon.

The student's family is incredibly thankful to Grant for her wise intervention. We are so grateful to have such a caring, attentive, quick-thinking staff member on our team. You truly make a difference.

On Wednesday, May 6, we will celebrate "National Nurses' Day." We would like to thank all of our school nurses for all their efforts to improve the health and educational success of APS students. Students learn best when they feel well.

Over the past week, our nurses have worked long hours and have been extra vigilant to keep our students healthy in light of the H1NI influenza outbreak. One of the greatest assets we have in APS is our caring and dedicated staff. The Board of Education and I are extremely grateful for our school nurses and appreciate all you have done and continue to do for APS students and staff.

Today is National Teacher Day and this week is National Teacher Appreciation

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Week. Please join the APS Board of Education and me in recognizing and celebrating our educators for expanding the minds of our youth. They are more than teachers. They are role models, motivators, listeners and friends and we are proud to acknowledge the contributions they make in student's lives.

Cook read a proclamation in recognition and honor of National Teacher Day.

### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, teachers make public schools great; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers work to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers fill many roles as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators and mentors; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Matthew Cook, serving as president of the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education,

**HEREBY PROCLAIM**, Tuesday, May 5, 2009, as

### **National Teacher Day**

We, the Board of Education, urge that we observe this day by taking time to recognize and acknowledge the impact of teachers on our lives.

Cook thanked Brenna Isaacs, AEA president, and the Aurora Education Association. The APS Board and the association have a unique relationship. Many things that we have been able to accomplish are due to Isaacs' leadership and our ability to work together. Our mutual goal is that great things happen for APS kids.

Isaacs thanked Cook for reading the proclamation in recognition of National Teacher Day. She also thanked Superintendent Barry for remarks in recognition of National Teacher Day.

Today is an important day to recognize the work and efforts that teachers make on behalf of students in classrooms every day. It is also important to recognize that it is not just about what they do in their classroom, but the breadth, depth, knowledge and expertise that they bring each day to impact our profession. Our profession is changing in very unique and interesting ways on a daily basis.

In the past, we have joined with the district to provide a small token of appreciation for district teachers and we shared the expense. At one of our earlier AR council meetings, a motion was made to do something different and use resources to make a contribution to a nonprofit organization or charity in the Aurora community. We looked at five or six local charities and nonprofit organizations that were approved by the AR council and shared information with Superintendent Barry. We polled teachers to determine which charity or

nonprofit organization to recognize. APS teachers elected to contribute funds and recognize the Aurora Education Foundation in their work and efforts to support APS students and staff. We will work with the district to communicate information broadly so everyone is aware of how we recognized the Aurora Education Foundation in honor of APS teachers.

Barry noted that last week we celebrated National Principal Day and recognized principals for all of their work and devotion to the success of our students. Please take the time to express your gratitude to these honorable staff members who are helping to shape the future of our children.

### **VISTA 2010 Update**

Cook shared that the Board look at different elements of the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan at the first meeting of the month to determine how we are progressing on goals and metrics.

### **People**

Allen shared that the slide chosen highlights data to ensure all employees are highly qualified and skilled for their positions.

This is the time of year when we receive results from CDE in regard to data collected December 1 of the previous year. The hard work of many staff members has resulted in the highest highly qualified rate of APS teachers, 99.07 percent, since data was tracked as required under NCLB. This includes teachers at charter schools and the options program. Approximately fifteen teachers in the district are not highly qualified as defined by Colorado guidelines under NCLB. Last year, 21 teachers were not highly qualified as defined by Colorado guidelines under NCLB.

We continue to work with our charter schools to ensure that highly qualified teachers are hired. AXL Academy Charter School has 69.23 percent of highly qualified teachers and Global Village has 52.63 percent of highly qualified teachers. All other charter schools in APS have 100 percent of highly qualified teachers. The Options program has 99 percent of highly qualified teachers and one K-12 school in the district has 99 percent of highly qualified teachers.

Prince noted that this is the first year for AXL Academy and questioned if that was a reason that many of the teachers who were hired were not highly qualified. Allen replied that all APS schools should hire highly qualified teachers.

Lewis asked how other districts looked in terms of highly qualified staff. Allen shared that the state report indicated that some rural districts have 100 percent of highly qualified staff and some rural districts had less highly qualified staff. Several rural districts had a hard time tracking some of the hard to fill teaching positions. A couple of years ago, we compared our data with the top ten school districts in the state and APS was either first or second in terms of highly qualified teachers. We did not compare data last year. Most school districts in the metropolitan area have 90 percent to 95 percent of highly qualified teachers.

Barber asked if classified staff were involved in the development and implementation of the NCLB professional development program. Allen replied that classified staff members were involved to some extent. It is great program for classified staff and is working well.

## **Achievement**

Stuart reviewed progress related to the development and implementation of the response to intervention plan that all school districts are required to have in place in the fall. The work around Rtl has been as significant as any initiative in the district and has involved a tremendous amount of work from the director of exceptional student services, the director of professional learning and curriculum and staff in the Division of Accountability and Research. We have worked all year to develop the plan and provide professional learning opportunities for building administrators and teachers.

Our job has been to visit schools and notice and name what is currently in place and note components of the Rtl plan. Many staff members are relieved that a number of major components of Rtl are already in place. We need to make components more consistent throughout the district and provide better support through professional development opportunities.

At the building level, we are reviewing the development and refinement of instructional support teams. Many staff recognize the instructional support teams as child study teams, which have been in place for many years. We plan to make the practice more consistent throughout the district so every student has the same kind of support. We are very pleased with the progress seen so far.

## **Community**

Escárcega presented a follow up to the student and parent climate surveys that were presented to the Board on April 21. We have a VISTA action and metric related to increasing satisfaction in regard to parental involvement activities by five percent. For the past three years we hovered around the 80 to 81 percent return rate range for student and parent surveys. We also had a high satisfaction rate with many of the questions on the parent survey, but realize it is more of an elementary climate survey. Results were shared with district leadership team and principals.

We informed building administrators at the secondary level that parent surveys would not be mailed next year. Surveys would be distributed at the site for parents to complete during specific activities. We spent some time listening to staff at schools that had a high return rate to determine how to distribute parent surveys next year and received some good ideas.

We followed up with high schools in regard to the student climate survey. Some middle schools had high return rates and they met with high school staff to discuss how they were able to distribute and receive a high student return rate of 80 to 90 percent within a day. Our overall goal is to have an 85 percent student survey return rate.

We also informed secondary building staff that we wanted to focus on four questions on the student climate survey and include information in school improvement plans next year in order to make a districtwide impact. The four focus questions include: welcoming at school, safety of personal belongings, bullying and cyberbullying.

## **Environment**

Sturges invited Josh Hensley, district planning coordinator, to the staff table to provide an update on building permits issued in APS.

Hensley shared that building permits are issued to builders in order to start home construction. We track the number of building permits issued quarterly including in the E-470 corridor. We also track the number of certificates of occupancy that are issued.

In 2008, we saw a 20 percent decrease of building permits compared to 2007 over the course of the year, which is a reflection of the overall economy. The Traditions development in the E-470 corridor was the second leading selling community in the entire metro area.

We are doing pretty well as a district, but the housing market has slowed. We expect the number of building permits to increase as the economy improves. The new APS schools that are being built in the E-470 corridor will be a significant attraction and draw for new families.

Lewis asked at what point are building permits pulled. Hensley replied that building permits are required before the start of construction with a potential lag time between nine months to a year. We had 59 certificates of occupancy this quarter, which is a short-term indicator of what to expect for the next six to nine months.

## **DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH**

*No Items*

## **DIVISION OF FINANCE**

### **2009-10 Proposed Budget Review**

Weeks reviewed the 2009-10 proposed budget, a required process that the Board must review and approve in May of each year. Periodic budget updates have been provided to the Board throughout the year.

Weeks reviewed a slide that showed comparisons between the 2008-09 readopted budget in December and the 2009-10 proposed budget. The 2009-10 proposed budget is \$445 million, which is the first time that the budget has exceeded \$400 million. The district is approaching a half billion dollar operation. The increase of \$62 million is mainly attributable to the building fund as a result of new construction of schools on the 100-acre site.

Weeks reviewed the district's 15 funds including the charter school fund and one additional program fund. Fund balances have remained fairly consistent with minor inflationary increases or decreases in beginning fund balances or revenue streams. Funds with significant increases include:

- charter school budget will increase by \$2 million due in part to increased student enrollment or the addition of new grade levels
  - The majority of the \$2 million charter fund increase is a result of the funded pupil count change in which charters will receive the full \$7,500 per student.
- bond fund will increase significantly as a result of scheduled principal and interest debt payments to investors
  - debt capacity is \$370 million – outstanding debt is \$336 million
  - APS has the ability to issue \$34 million additional bonds

- scheduled bond payments in 2009-10 total to \$27 million
- The mill amount, which is the amount that taxpayers who reside in the APS boundary receive on their tax notices for the debt portion of the district's tax, will remain at 15.000. The mill amount has not changed in six years and generates enough revenue to pay scheduled debt payments. The fact that the mill amount has not increased in six years speaks volumes to district staff who oversee construction projects as well as the Board and district leadership who oversee finances.
- CDE recommended that we move the current recording and accounting for the Aurora Education Foundation budget from the general fund in the Division of the Superintendent to its own separate fund. The program and fund balance will not change, but will be more consistent with recording and accounting practices of other metro school districts.
- grants fund increased as a result of Title I funds, stimulus funds and IDEA funds in the form of stimulus and regular funding. Lewis asked if stimulus funds were only for a two-year period. Weeks replied yes. The plan is to spend down funds received in both 2009-10 and 2010-11. We will work with recommendations from two task forces that were convened to determine how to best spend funds in terms of investments. Both task forces are reviewing IDEA fund guidelines to determine if there is any flexibility to utilize funds in a broader sense.
- insurance fund decreased as a result of a reduced beginning fund balance, reserves, funding and premiums
- 31 different programs are listed in the special programs funds – 10 budgets increased; 14 budgets decreased
- The Board received a summary of the general fund last month and budget amounts have not changed much.
  - School Finance revenues that the district is scheduled to receive have increased slightly, questionable amounts have not changed.
  - new expenditures include compensation, mill override promises to the community and district initiatives
  - Senate Bill 256, School Finance Bill, reflects \$4.9 million that the district could still receive, but could not spend until January 2010. Legislative action is required in order for districts to spend these funds.
  - \$4.9 million is the district's portion of \$110 million that all school districts are contributing as a result of the state's budget deficit
  - Barry met with Denver Area School Superintendents and noted that, based on information from CASE and CASB, the \$110 million will be returned to the state in January. We are not incorporating the \$4.9 million in the district's budget projection.
  - Mill freeze funding has been approved and the district will receive full-day funding for kindergarten at .58 percent. Funding will increase over a six-year period until full-day kindergarten is completely funded.
  - New student enrollment continues to increase in the Rebound Program and is generating additional revenue. Aurora Quest had additional students who live outside the district that were not included in preliminary enrollment projections. We are expecting a slight increase in new student enrollment.
  - The base expenditure for the general fund is \$233 million and includes expenditures for staffing and programs. The increase reflects salary steps, health, PERA, mill override, initiatives, T.E. reserves and contingency reserves. Every one percent general

salary increase that is approved across all employee groups totals to \$1.9 million.

The 2009-10 proposed budget will return for action on May 19. DAAC will host a public budget hearing on May 21 and will provide recommendations to the Board. The adopted budget will be presented to the Board for consideration on June 2. The adopted budget will be presented to the Board for action on June 16.

We will have final information from the state in June and will present a three-year financial plan to the Board.

## **DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

*No Items*

## **DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

*No Items*

## **DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Planning Update**

Joshua Hensley, planning coordinator, and Jaclyn Gorman, assistant to the planning coordinator, presented a planning update to the Board.

Hensley reviewed a slide that showed total historical enrollments and projections through 2013. As noted by Weeks, we are projecting a very slight student enrollment increase next year. New enrollment is primarily flat, but we are projecting a gradual increase, 0.5 percent to one percent, as enrollment starts to stabilize. As planning progresses for new APS schools in the E-470 corridor, we may start noticing an increase in student enrollment.

The mean center of student enrollment starts at the Aurora Municipal Center. Enrollment was moving toward the southeast quadrant of the district as growth began along the E-470 corridor and the southeast quadrant of the district and declined in the northwest quadrant of the district. This changed this year because of enrollment increases in the north quadrant of the district and growth slowdown in the E-470 corridor.

Hensley reviewed a slide highlighting increased student growth when declines were projected this year. The graph showed students who were enrolled in an APS school in May of the previous year, but not present in the October count window. Another graph showed new students who were enrolled in the October count window that were not enrolled in an APS school in May of the previous school year. We had fewer students who left the district this year compared to the two previous years and we gained new students. Another factor is that our kindergarten student count increased by six percent compared to the previous year.

As of May 1, APS lost 136 total student enrollment compared to significant student enrollment declines in 2005 and 2006 during the same period. We look good in terms of meeting stable enrollment projections in the 2009-10 school year. Student enrollment at the secondary level has also stabilized in that we lost 182 students between the October count and the end of April compared to 665 students during the same period in 2005.

The planning department has made a large effort to track student mobility. Gorman created an outstanding report for the 2006-07 school year that tracked mobility by grade as well as the number of students who entered and exited APS schools monthly. Summary statistics showed total student numbers as well as stability rates. Class cohorts were tracked from previous years to compare enrollment by school and by district. Information is available on the district's intranet site under the planning department in the Division of Support Service.

Prince asked how often the site is updated. Hensley replied once a year due to the amount of work it entails. Gorman compiles data over the summer because we track information for the entire year. Information is then incorporated into projections. Cukale asked if the city of Aurora ever requested information. Hensley replied no.

Hensley reviewed a graph that showed ethnic breakdowns over a 10-year period. For the first time, enrollment for the African American student population group exceeded enrollment for the White student population group. The percentage was a very small margin and occurred during the October count window. Student growth has increased in all ethnic groups except the White student population group and the Native American student population group. It was the smallest one-year decline in the White student population group in the 10-year study period and the first enrollment increase for the African American student population group since 2003.

Since 2000, the number of students that attend APS charter schools increased by 1,900 students. About 74 percent (1,700 students) of the 2,288 students that attend charter schools reside in the APS boundary. The remaining students live outside the APS boundary. This number will continue to increase as charter schools add additional grade levels.

Every year, CDE provides an inter-district open enrollment report that tracks where students who live in certain districts attend school. We had an increase of 153 APS students that attend school outside the district. This compares to 459 APS students who attended school outside the district between 2006 and 2007 and 405 APS students who attended school outside the district between 2005 and 2006. We had a 530 enrollment increase of out-of-district students who attend an APS school, which is mostly attributed to an enrollment increase in our Options program. The top five districts that APS students elect to enroll in are Denver, Cherry Creek, Douglas County, Charter School Institute, and Adams 12. We have seen a decrease of APS students that elect to enroll in DPS and Cherry Creek and have seen a significant increase of DPS and Cherry Creek students enrolling in APS.

We have seen a 1,100 increase of new student enrollments in housing developments along the E-470 corridor. We had about 25 new student enrollments in the same area in 2003. Student enrollment increased by 100 in the E-470 corridor neighborhoods in 2007.

We saw a significant increase of certificates of occupancy issued in housing developments during the first quarter of 2009. An attendance boundary committee comprised of parents, administrators, community constituents and a Board member has been convened to provide recommendations related to boundaries for the new P-8 and high school. The committee has met twice this spring and plan to meet twice more before the end of the school year. They will meet again in August and present scenarios to the APS community in a series of

open houses this fall. The goal is to present boundary information to the Board in December 2009. Upon approval, information would be communicated to the APS community in the spring of 2010. School boundaries would be implemented in the fall of 2010.

Hensley reviewed a graph that showed the percentage of students who attend full-day kindergarten as well as the implementation of full-day kindergarten at sites over a period of time. All schools will have full-day kindergarten by 2010.

Carmany asked if the district did surveys to determine why a significant number of APS kids enrolled at George Washington High School in DPS or other schools outside the district. Hensley replied that we have been in discussions with school officials from DPS and Cherry Creek. We do not know who the kids are and districts cannot provide that type of enrollment information. The communication services department had discussed providing a broad survey to students who are leaving the district to ascertain reasons for withdrawal and enrollment plans.

Carmany asked if we could request information when records are requested from other districts. Escárcega replied that we are having ongoing conversations about ways to track data. Many parents and students are reluctant to provide explanations once the decision to withdraw is made. We are studying ways to obtain exit information that is non-threatening to parents and students.

Lewis asked if the housing development at Buckley AFB was full. Hensley shared that a lot of students are enrolling from Buckley and most are in the primary grade level. Growth has been fairly stable between 2007 and 2008, but we have not planned for an increase in the development.

Lewis asked if increase student growth was expected in the Cross Creek housing development. Hensley believes that there are more students in the development especially at the high school level. Parents with high school aged children will be more attracted to the development once the new high school is built. We should see an influx of students returning to their home school.

Edberg noted that this is one of her favorite presentations and looks forward to it every year. Hensley recognized Gorman for compiling graphs and tables. Cook thanked Hensley and Gorman for presenting information to the Board.

### **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 Prince seconded to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8078

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**

**Pickens Technical College Fee Structure**

Weeks invited Dean Stecklein, executive director at Pickens, and Lezlie Shirk, assistant executive director at Pickens, to the staff table to answer questions from the Board in regard to the fee proposal at Pickens.

Weeks shared that Pickens Technical College is committed to helping students both at the secondary and postsecondary level to move into high wage, high skill and high demand careers. We are incorporating a skills oriented seamless pathway between secondary schools and higher education that leads to career readiness. As an area technical college, our commitment to the community and school district is to keep our program cost affordable and as cost effective as possible for our postsecondary students. After analyzing other colleges in the state, we propose the following for our postsecondary students only:

- base tuition increase - \$66.43 to \$67.00 per semester credit hour
- high cost program tuition increase - \$66.43 to \$97.00 per semester credit hour  
(Certified Nursing Assistant, Dental Assisting, Health Science, IV Therapy, and Respiratory Therapy – Practical Nursing/LPN Program is currently \$96.73 per credit hour)
- base fee increase - from \$20.00 to a range from \$30.00 to \$75.00 per semester
- clinical fee - per semester credit hour that ranges from \$25.00 to \$50.00

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(Certified Nursing Assistant, Dental Assisting, Health Science, IV Therapy, Practical Nursing/LPN and Respiratory Therapy).

The recommendation is that the Board of Education approve the fee structure for Pickens Technical College for the 2009-10 school year as presented.

Barber asked how communication about the fee increase was presented to secondary and postsecondary students. Stecklein noted that the tuition increase applies to postsecondary students only. Fee information was included on a disclaimer that was provided in packets to students during early registration. Students were also invited to the Board meeting if they had questions or concerns. Approximately 189 postsecondary students have picked up packets to date.

Lewis asked if the number of students who picked up packets was the same as last year. Stecklein noted that numbers have never been tracked. Shirk added that we usually do not offer early enrollment. We are trying to align with Community College of Aurora and better track programs. Of the 189 postsecondary students that picked up packets, 52 were impacted. We have met with students one-on-one to discuss possible tuition and fee increases. Some were concerned and some were not. We have not received any calls of concern.

Cukale asked if scholarships would be offered to help cover fee increases. Stecklein replied that postsecondary students could apply for different programs to cover tuition and fees. We have set aside funds for secondary students who need help with program costs. Shirk added that \$30,000 has been set aside to help secondary students with program costs.

Cook asked if fees would be reviewed on a revolving schedule. Stecklein noted that the process to increase fees started before he became the executive director. Some program fees had not been aligned in a long time. Most state schools had cost alignments three to five years ago. Shirk added that tuition fees will be reviewed every February in order to forecast any additional increases. Tuition fee increases were mainly in high cost programs such as Certified Nursing Assistant, Dental Assisting, Health Science, IV Therapy, Practical Nursing/LPN and Respiratory Therapy Programs.

Carmany noted that the majority of fees for higher education were very expensive. The tuition fee increase that is being requested at Pickens is nowhere near as expensive as other comparable higher learning institutions. Shirk noted that we made the commitment to have the lowest possible tuition and fees, but not lose money in the program. This has been a very long journey to get to this point. Shirk thanked Weeks and the finance department for all their help and efforts during the process.

Barber moved and Edberg seconded to approve the fee structure for Pickens Technical College for the 2009-10 school year as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8079

Approved on a vote of 7-0

## **DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

***No Items***

**DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

*No Items*

**DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Professional Development Center/Office Realignment Project**

Sturges shared that on April 7, the Board of Education was presented information pertaining to a proposed office realignment and building a professional development center. Jim Bittle, director of construction management, was in the audience to answer questions from Board members.

The recommendation is that the Board of Education approve the proposed office realignment and professional development center as presented.

Lewis moved and Prince seconded to approve the proposed office realignment and professional development center as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8080

Approved on a vote of 6-1

Barber voted against approval of the proposed office realignment and professional development center.

Cook noted that he attended the FBLA and DECA award ceremony for business students. Congratulations to all the students who were honored and recognized.

**VI. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

***Opportunity for Audience***

***Correspondence***

***Next meeting date***

Cook motioned to recess into executive session under the authority of C.R.S. §24-6-(402)(b) to discuss personnel matters. All Board members were in favor.

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be held May 19, 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 8:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President**

**ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**