



Building Bright Futures

OFFICIAL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 5, 2009
Board and Seminar Room

Jefferson County School District R-1
1829 Denver West Dr., Bldg. 27
Golden, Colorado

Our mission: To provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION: A majority of the Board met – Scott Benefield, President; Dave Thomas, Second Vice President; Sue Marinelli, Secretary; and Richard Rush, Treasurer - in study/dialogue session at 5:04 p.m. in the Board Room at Education Center, Golden, Colorado. Cindy Stevenson, superintendent, represented the administration. Jane Barnes, First Vice President, joined the meeting at 5:27 p.m. Breaks were taken from 6:25 p.m. to 6:35 p.m. and 7:20 p.m. to 7:25 p.m.

PURPOSE: The Board met with instructional coaches and principals from the elementary, middle and senior high levels and with central staff supporting the instructional coach program.

DISCUSSION: Staff reported to the Board on specific actions of instructional coaches related to structures for daily work with teachers, shared leadership in building instructional capacity in schools, implementation of new learning within the classroom, formats and protocols for engaging teachers and the accountability measures in place. Discussion covered the use of the professional learning communities (PLCs), instructional coach's goals and success indicators aligned with a school's urgent challenges in its School Improvement Plan, use of data points and progress monitoring, and specific school examples showing significant shifts in student achievement and/or teacher learning from Allendale Elementary, Creighton Middle School, and Bear Creek High School. Board questions included how instructional coaches engage reluctant teachers, how teacher staff development is supported, need for long-term data on success of instructional coach program, evaluation and monitoring of instructional coach's work, feedback from teachers.

CONCLUSION: Staff members thanked the Board of Education for maintaining the instructional coaching program for the 2009/2010 school year. Board members thanked the teachers, instructional coaches and administrators for sharing details of the instructional coach program in greater specificity.

PURPOSE: At 6:35 p.m., the Board continued its study/dialogue session in the Seminar Room to discuss with student advisors, “What would make a difference for 9th graders?”

DISCUSSION: Board members and six student advisors discussed what the students believed would assist younger students with transitions, i.e., 9th graders acclimated to a high school environment. Discussion covered interaction with upperclass students during middle school, shadowing students in high school, student mentoring programs in high school, involvement in athletics and activities, clear communication that grades are connected to later success in high school and beyond.

CONCLUSION: The Board thanked the students for joining them for the discussion and look forward to the March 12 meeting when student advisors are next scheduled to meet with the Board of Education.

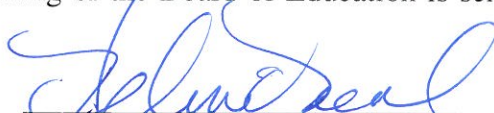
PURPOSE: At 7:25 p.m., the Board continued its meeting to review the second quarter financial report with members of the Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) and the external auditor.

DISCUSSION: The external auditing firm, Clifton Gunderson, reported on its agreed upon procedures and the results for the second quarter. All issues identified have been corrected. Charter school issues remain yellow flagged. The members of the Financial Oversight Committee shared their support for the district’s methods of financial management. Recent misinterpretations in the media have taken up limited staff time and are not a productive way of fixing district budget issues. Members of the FOC advised the Board that laying off employees should be a last resort to address reductions due to the economic downturn and that a wage freeze, as in private industry, could be instituted. Discussion covered the flaws in budget assumptions inherent in public education in Colorado.

Staff responded to questions regarding the Stakeholder Panel meeting, supplemental retirement, and the re-evaluation of property for the mill levy.

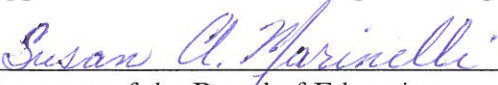
CONCLUSION: The Board members thanked the FOC members for their continued work on behalf of the Board on financial issues facing the district. The Board will schedule a discussion with the FOC once final budget numbers are available.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for February 12, 2009.

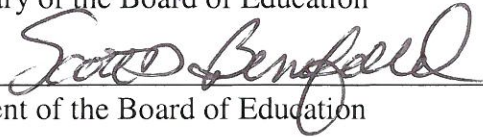


Helen Neal, Recording Secretary

Approved and entered in the proceedings of the District on February 26, 2009.



Secretary of the Board of Education



President of the Board of Education