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Mission Statement

Together we are committed to graduating and preparing all children for success in college and careers.

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 11, 2008
Central Administration – Board Room

1.00 Call to Order and Roll Call

President Bartha called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Roll call was taken with the following members present: President Anna Bartha, Director Kent Clawson, Director Dave Martin, and Director Mark Shook and Director Dave Stark.

2.00 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

President Bartha welcomed those in attendance and invited them to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mark Carara, Principal of Falcon High School introduced member of the jazz choir, Laura Conrad, Kendall Greenwood, Jessie Neilson, Desiree Nadeau, Annisija Wallin, Erica Simpson, Daniel McCord, and Logan Scheppele who sang for the Board; their director is Maria Green. Mr. Carara also introduced the Cross Country Track Team Kevin Johnson, Wes Rickman, Bryce Gregoire, Jordan Teeples, Brandon Barkey, Dane Mchaffey and Chris Stearns; these young men placed first and the Colorado State Cross Country Track Meet. This is a first for Falcon School District. The team also went to Arizona to the National Regional Qualifier Meet where Kevin Johnson finished in the top five. Kevin Johnson was also invited to the Nike Team National meet in Portland Oregon. This is a great honor for these young men and our district; they also had the highest GPA of any team in the state. The cross country track team is coached by Cameron Magnall and Amanda Lamb.

3.00 Approval of Agenda

Superintendent Schmidt asked that agenda items 7.04 and 7.05 be tabled; the EIC Committee was not able to meet to give final input due to a snow day; and that item 9.02 be moved up to after item 6:00 Open Forum; the presenter is from Denver

Director Clawson moved to move item 9.02, Drafting of District Marketing Plan to after item 6.00 Open Forum. Director Martin seconded the motion.

Vote: Bartha, aye; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

President Bartha requested a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Director Shook moved to approve the agenda as amended. Director Stark seconded the motion.

Vote: Bartha, aye; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

- 4.00 Consent Agenda**
- 4.01 Approval of November Monthly Financial Update**
- 4.02 Approval of Matters Relating to Licensed Personnel**
- 4.03 Approval of Matters Relating to Educational Support Personnel**
- 4.04 Approval of Matters Relating to Schedule B Personnel**
- 4.05 Approval of The Imagine Classical Academy at Forest Meadows Contract**
- 4.06 Approval of Minutes of the October 13th Regular Board of Education Meeting**
- 4.07 Approval of Minutes of the October 18th Board of Education Work Session**

President Bartha requested a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Director Clawson moved to approve the consent agenda. Director Stark seconded the motion. President Bartha asked if there was any discussion; hearing none she called for a vote.

Vote: Bartha, aye; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

5.00 Board/Superintendent Update

Superintendent Schmidt recognized the camera crew filming the Board Meeting; Nicole Hardy and Jonathan Rhen along with teachers John Litchenberg and Amy Bremser. Two articles in the Gazette Isaiah Martinez a student at Horizon Middle School has been chosen for the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington DC in March. The Imagine Classical Academy's assistant principal has agreed to kiss a horse if the students meet their goal for the Care and Share Food Drive. The Show Case of Schools will take place on January 13th at Vista Ridge High School at 6:00 p.m. Falcon Middle School presented two one act plays on December 4th and 5th; it was a pleasure to see these plays.

President Bartha reported on Santa's Toy Express and thanked the Transportation Department for the work that they do in support of the children in our district. She attended the Christmas Parade down town and the Sand Creek High School Band looked and sounded great; it was a pleasure to see them.

Director Clawson attended the Horizon Middle School fund raiser for Santa's Toy Express. Their choir sang during this time and the dinner was great.

Director Shook spoke to students at Horizon Middle School for Veterans Day. He was also able to visit with several parents in the district.

Director Stark has been involved in the Long Range Planning Committee and is excited to see the direction that this committee is going.

Director Martin recognized two Boy Scouts in the audience that were working on their Communications Badge.

6.00 Open Forum

President Bartha read the Open Forum statement.

Jackie Vialpando, parent of students in the district and member of the DAAC, spoke about her concerns regarding the DAAC bylaws; she believes that people will be less willing to volunteer to be on this committee; it puts unnecessary barriers on members of the committee; this committee needs to be more welcoming.

Elaine Olsen, Teacher at Sand Creek High School, spoke about her concerns regarding the DAAC bylaws. This committee needs to be inviting and needs to be easier for people to want to take part on district committees not harder.

The Board had approved to move item 9.02 to after item 6.00.

9.02 Drafting of District Marketing Plan

Diane Keaton, Marketing Consultant presenting:

Superintendent Grant Schmidt introduced Diane Keaton the marketing consultant for the district. Ms. Keaton gave a power point presentation to the Board. The marketing mission is “to create an environment which inspires a sense of trust and pride within the District and throughout the community.” She gave an overview of the current environment, opportunities for District 49, marketing goals, and broad scope areas. Goals of the marketing plan will be to increase community awareness of choice and the district’s unique educational offerings, build strong communications programs in order to convey district messaging, create an accurate perception of the District that generates support within the community and develop a new brand image that embodies the philosophy and goals of the district. Ms. Keaton will be responsible for keeping the web site up to date and will consulting with district administrators to see that accurate information is presented.

7.00 Action Items

7.01 Approval of Early Access for Highly Advanced Gifted Students Under Age Six

Christine Phillips: Gifted and Talented Coordinator presenting:

The new Colorado Department of Education (CDE) regulation House Bill 08-1021 funds early entrance for highly advanced students entering kindergarten or first grade who are under the age of six years old.

The rules and regulations require parents to apply for entrance by April 1st for the following school year. The criterion also requires a comprehensive and specific academic portfolio of evidence and application letter. Once these initial steps are approved by the district Gifted and Talented Coordinator, the parent then pays for cognitive and achievement testing as outlined in the legislation. The child must be age four by the first day of school (for kindergarten) or age five by the first day of school (for first grade). Once the child has met all evaluation criteria, the process requires monitoring of student academic growth after placement.

The early entrance process is valuable to standardize the District’s gifted entrance criteria for students under age six who do not yet meet school age requirements. Parents interested in early access are from public, private and home schooling environments. Establishing early access approval will strengthen the district gifted program.

There is minimal fiscal impact; however, there will need to be continual collaboration among teachers and parents, and ongoing monitoring of student progress. If Falcon D49 does not apply for the process, highly gifted young students may go outside of the district in order to meet their educational needs.

The screening process for this program is very detailed and identifies the truly highly gifted children not just advanced.

President Bartha requested a motion to approve agenda item 7.01

Director Clawson moved to approve the Early Access for Highly Advanced Gifted Students Under Age Six proposal as presented. Director Martin seconded the motion.

Vote: Bartha, aye; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

7.02 Approval of Board of Education Policy FBC and Regulation FBC-R Prioritization of Facility Improvements

Paul McCarty, Chief Operations Officer presenting:

There is no current policy in place in the district that allows for the process used to determine priorities with facility needs. This policy would be followed up with a regulation FBC-R that would provide the necessary steps for determining priorities for capital improvements.

This will provide more structure to determining capital improvements within the district. Create lists of upcoming or deferred capital improvements to provide more accurate budget forecasting in the future.

President Bartha requested a motion to approve agenda item 7.02

Director Clawson moved to approve the Board of Education Policy FBC – Prioritization of Capital Improvements and FBC-R as presented. Director Shook seconded the motion.

This is an improvement plan for all capital improvements in the district. The list of priorities will be reviewed and evaluated each year.

Building administrators should have input regarding the priorities of projects within their buildings.

The title of the Policy is to be changed to Prioritization of Capital Improvements.

President Bartha asked if there was any further discussion; hearing none she called for a vote.

Vote: Bartha, aye; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

7.03 Approval of Mill Levy Certification

Joleen Schaake, Chief Financial Officer presenting:

By December 15th the Board of Education must certify to El Paso County Commissioners the property tax mill levy. The General Fund mill is set by the Colorado Department of Education so the District stays in compliance with TABOR. The General Fund property tax is used to reduce the amount of per pupil funding the State sends to the District. The General fund mill will remain as it was the prior year except the abatement mill (a mill levy used to re-coop the cost of property taxes the county abated during the year) is set at .203. The mill on the override will stay the same as the prior year, 9.80 mills, which keeps the cost per \$100,000 of home at \$6.50 per month. The bond fund levy is being set at 11.212, same as prior year. The total mills will be 45.674, a decrease of .121 mills from last year's total mills levied. Assessed value in the District was \$656,524,910 from the latest Assessed Valuation from the County Treasurer on November 24, 2008. Technically, per C.R.S., the Assessor's Office has until December 10, 2008 to change Assessed Valuations.

President Bartha requested a motion to approve agenda item 7.03

Director Clawson moved to certify to the Board of County Commissioners the General Fund Mill Levy of 24.459 mills, Mill Levy Override levy of 9.800 mills, the Abatement Mills levy of .203, and the Bond Redemption Fund Mill Levy of 9.740 mills based upon the current assessed valuation. Director Martin seconded the motion.

The Board reviewed the figures compared to last year and the projected income including state revenue for this year. They also discussed the advantages of paying down the Bond Redemption Fund Mill Levy.

Director Stark moved to strike 9.740 mills and insert 11.212 mills in the last line of the motion

immediately following Bond Redemption Fund Mill Levy of. Director Shook seconded the motion.

President Bartha called for a vote on the amendment.

Vote: Bartha, aye; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

President Bartha asked if there was any further discussion; hearing none she called for a vote on the motion as amended.

Vote: Bartha, aye; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

7.04 Revision to Board of Education Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest

Mark McPherson, Executive Director of Human Resources presenting:

This item was laid on the table

7.05 Revision to Board of Education Policy GBEC, Drug-Free Workplace

Mark McPherson, Executive Director of Human Resources presenting:

This item was laid on the table

7.06 Approval of DAAC Bylaws

Due to changes in Colorado Statute (22-7-104) that govern the District and School Advisory and Accountability Committees, the DAAC Bylaws need to be revised to reflect these changes. Additional changes are also being presented to the BOE to allow for the DAAC to function more effectively and to support the DAAC in its role as an advisory and accountability committee.

President Bartha requested a motion to approve agenda item 7.06

Director Martin moved to approve the revised District Accountability Advisory Committee Bylaws as presented. Director Shook seconded the motion.

President Bartha asked if there was any discussion; hearing none she called for a vote.

Vote: Bartha, no; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

Director Shook read the following joint request.

Administration Liaison Eric Paugh and BOE Liaison Mark Shook jointly make the following request and recommendation regarding current DAAC members.

The proposed revisions to the DAAC by-laws up for approval tonight will require some time to fully implement. The balance of the 2008-09 school year will be a transition period. This has been anticipated, and in order to accommodate, validate and honor all those who have volunteered their time and who have been actively and positively participating on the work of the DAAC for almost half of the 2008-2009 school year, we jointly make the following proposal:

1. Request the board approve all the DAAC members currently listed, as at large members for the 2008-2009 school year.
2. Appoint current acting chairman Rich Layton, as the interim DAAC chairman while the board follows the new interview process for Chairman and Vice Chairman.
3. Direct the DAAC executive committee to begin the transition process by first filling the positions of DAAC Chairman, and Vice Chairman by the new application and interview process by March 2008.
4. Affirm the Goal of having applications for DAAC voting members from each and every building ready to submit to the BOE at the June regular BOE meeting following the new procedure, and the goal of fully implementing the new by-laws for the 2009- 2010 school year.

8.00 Informational Items

8.01 Enrollment Update – Presentation

Sheri Lynn McGrew, Coordinator of District 5 Assessment presenting:

A review of the summary of the October count information was given to the Board. 12,896.5 students in the district as compared to last years 12,218 students. We have 294 ELL students speaking 21 different languages attending school in the district, almost 1,300 special needs students, 300 students in the GT program, and 435 school of choice students from outside the district.

8.02 Demographic Projections Contract Information

8.03 Approval of December Calendar Change for Secondary Schools

8.04 DECA Field Trip

8.05 Expulsion/ Suspension Information

9.00 Discussion Items

9.01 Wellness Guidelines Revisions

Monica Dines-Henderson, Supervisor of Nutrition Services presenting:

Pursuant to Public Law 108-265, Section 204, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 and Colorado Senate Bill 05-081, the D49 Board of Education approved a district Wellness Policy in June of 2006. This policy was developed and presented by a district Wellness Policy Committee. Below is a brief summary of the policy:

- The Board of Education recognized that students need to be physically active and eat nourishing food to grow, learn, and maintain healthy development. The Board adopted goals supporting proper nutrition, opportunities for students to be physically active, and a learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors.
- The district was to establish and maintain a district-wide Wellness Advisory Council. The council monitors the implementation of the Wellness Policy and was to be comprised of representatives from various district departments, administration, students, parents, and community members. This council reports to the Board or through the Superintendent at least once a year.
- The Board adopted Wellness Guidelines that are frequently reviewed and revised by the Wellness Advisory Council. (These guidelines give specific direction for the district.) The guidelines are divided into three parts: Nutrition, Wellness Education, and Physical Activity. Within each part, there are three levels: Basic, Advanced, and Exemplary. The committee included a 5 year timeline for implementation of this policy, beginning in the 2006-07 school year and extending through the 2011-12 school year.

Since August of 2008, the Wellness Advisory Council has focused their efforts on modifying the Advanced level guidelines. The council wanted to make sure all sites were aware of the changes made to the Advanced level guidelines before the required implementation date of August 1, 2009.

The Board discussed the advanced level of the advanced level for the Nutrition guidelines including wellness education and physical activity.

The district is also in an ongoing process of implementing the Basic level guidelines. The council has held two trainings for selected building staff that will be doing site assessments this year. They will be assessing their buildings based on these Basic level guidelines. The committee also created a snapshot reference to help teachers with implementation of the guidelines. This reference was dispersed by committee members attending building staff meetings.

In addition to working on the guidelines, some WAC members have attended Coordinated School Health (CSH) training and Vista Ridge is well on their way to implementing a CSH program.

The Wellness Advisory Council has resumed monthly meetings for 2008-2009, with the next meeting being December 16th from 1-3pm in the Auxiliary Conference room.

9.02 Drafting of District Marketing Plan
This item was moved to after agenda item 6.00

10:00 Open Forum

President Bartha read the Open Forum Statement

Elaine Olsen, teacher at Sand Creek High School, has seen changes in the nutrition services program at the high school and feels that there are too many items that have could be improved nutritionally. If we are really concerned about welfare of students lets increase activities and look at the food items that are offered to students.

Karen Hobson, patron of the district, is very disappointed that the DAAC was not involved in the revision to the bylaws of their committee.

11:00 Other Business

11.01 Executive Session: I move that we go into executive session

12.00 Adjournment

President Bartha requested a motion to adjourn.

Director Clawson moved to return to adjourn. Director Stark seconded the motion.

Vote: Bartha, aye; Clawson, aye; Martin, aye; Shook, aye; Stark, aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Anna Bartha, Board President

Kent Clawson, Board Secretary