



10850 East Woodmen Road • Falcon, CO 80831
Tele: 719-495-3601 • Fax: 719-495-0832 • E-mail: d49@d49.org

Mission Statement

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

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
September 24, 2008
Central Administration – Board Room

1.00 President Bartha called the works session to order at 6:37p.m. with the following Board members present: President Anna Bartha, Director Kent Clawson, Director Dave Martin, 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.

3.00 Discussion Items

3.01 Learning Services Department Presentation/Discussion

The Learning Services Department under the direction of Eric Paugh, Chief Academic Officer gave presentations to the Board letting them know the programs and assistance to district staff provided by the Learning Services Department.

Learning Services Mission Statement:

“Learning Services will lead all staff to A.C.T.I.O.N for students’ success.” Action stands for, achieve, collaborate, think, inspire, and seek opportunities and nurture.

Learning Services Vision Statement:

“To ensure effective learning communities through collaborative relationships rooted in integrity.”

Belief Statements:

- it is our moral obligation and passion to ensure that all students can and will learn.
- students should be the center of all decisions.
- in being transparent in the decision making process.
- in providing equitable access to a quality education for all students.
- in emphasizing positive relationships through recognizing the inherent value and uniqueness of individuals.
- in supporting our staff by eagerly serving and meeting the needs of our constituents.
- in providing differentiated opportunity and resources for professional development to make every staff member successful.
- in reaching beyond the status quo using data to show our results.
- in the necessity of a rigorous and relevant curriculum that is results driven.
- in communicating with integrity by:

Listening to understand

Systematic, consistent communication
Speaking in a common voice.

The Department of Educational Opportunities presented its individual department goals that centered on the following:

- support a multi-tiered approach using the Response to Instruction (RtI) model to personalize education.
- support the enrichment and extension of mathematical knowledge and understanding.
- support an inclusive approach to education by supporting the differentiation of instruction and the development of access to programs.

The Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Department presented a summarization of the various facets of our department and the progress being made towards selected tasks and projects this year. Dr. John Weishaar presented a summary of the philosophy and reasoning behind our current curriculum development progression. A PowerPoint presentation by department members included Curriculum Alignment and Mapping, RtI - Response to Instruction, Staff Development, Formative Assessments, Summative Assessments, and DCPC – District Curriculum Planning Council, Leadership, and Curriculum Review and Adoption. A drama was presented depicting how the new Curriculum Alignment and Mapping initiative will impact teacher effectiveness as compared to previous practice.

The Learning Services, Standard Operating Procedures were presented. There has also been a Master SOP Request form developed for those who wish to add to the Master SOP. Each section will begin with a “fact sheet”. This gives the reader a quick summary of what is to come in that section. The goals for the use of SOP’s are to be able to share commonality procedures with all. We also plan on putting this information on the internet, as well as the intranet, with links to both appropriate personnel it pertains too and Board Policy. Learning Services also feels that putting the information on a CD ROM will be a valuable tool. We recommend that the SOP’s be updated yearly or on an as needed basis.

Special Services Department 2008-09 Overview: In Falcon D49, there are over 1300 students with disabilities in learning, speech, physical, emotional, vision, hearing, autism, traumatic brain injury and other learning challenges. The Special Services mission is to provide such effective instruction and intervention as to *cause* students with disabilities to achieve their highest potential in all domains—academic, social and physical—through effective service delivery from caring and competent professionals in a positive and safe environment. The greatest challenges are recruiting, training and retaining staff during a time of shortage in order to maintain compliance with federal and state regulations. Goals are to: 1) support improvement in achievement with effective staff and enhancement of the Response to Instruction model; 2) promote inclusivity through caring, responsive and effective communication, collaboration and cooperation with parents, students, staff and community members and the expanded use of technology to provide equal access to curriculum for students with disabilities; and to 3) improve compliance with federal and state regulations through the completion of the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process. Results indicate progress as D49 beat the State average on CSAP 2008 in 21 of 27 categories for students with disabilities. D49 students with disabilities also beat the State average graduation rate 76% to 69%. In fact, D49 students with disabilities even beat the State average graduation rate for non-disabled students (74%). Post-graduation outcomes are enhanced by our award-winning Transition Program called “ELEVATES” which reports that twelve months after graduation, 90% of students had achieved goals. Annual “customer satisfaction surveys” recognize a high level appreciation and performance for special education staff.

Achievement Conferences

There are three Achievement Conferences per year and the purpose of these are measuring successes such as, Curriculum Leadership, Cultural Competency, Data, Student Achievement, Professional Development, Fidelity of Programs, Safety and any help needed from Learning Services.

Evaluations

The principal evaluation was piloted last year. We are currently working on a Rubric. Major parts of the evaluation are achievement conferences and a survey.

The teacher evaluation is being piloted this year. The evaluation consists: a formal, informal, and walk through. Evaluations that need to be visited this year are Assistant Principal, Counselor, Library/Media Specialist, Itinerants, IB Coordinator, Literacy Coach/Assessment Coordinator.

D-49 Athletic Strategic Plan: As outlined in this Plan, comprehensive athletic programs that incorporate academic and athletic excellence and include the teaching of fundamental skills within a vertically integrated system will lead to long-term success. Likewise, providing competitive resources, maintaining quality coaches and staff and building a District Sports Complex will lead to excellence at all levels and build bridges with the community. Successful athletic programs will generate pride and community support within the District and provide publicity and recognition for District schools and students. Athletics also has the unique ability to help the District develop character and discipline among the participating student-athletes. By developing and following an objective-based strategic plan Falcon School District 49 Athletics will not only exist, but have the opportunity to prosper for years to come.

The Board thanked the Learning Services Department for the work that they are doing in the district. This presentation shows the passion that this department has in the work that is being done and the benefit that is there for both the students and the staff in the district. The difference is being felt across the district in all areas.

3.02 Policy Regulation ACD-R Commitment to Religious Neutrality

Director Shook stated that after having questions regarding what is and what is not permissible and after receiving information from the BOE legal counsel, he is presenting information regarding what is allowed within the law in celebrating this holiday. Christmas, a holiday of great significance to Americans and many other cultures and nationalities, is celebrated annually by a substantial plurality of the families residing within Falcon School District 49. It is an information policy regulation.

It is reintegrating that holidays such as Christmas can be celebrated as it relates to constitutional rights. It will be reviewed each year.

What guidance will the attorney be able to give? The notions set forth by the Supreme Court and the congress. They will give specific guidance as it relates to the courts and what is permissible in decorations, expressions of speech by both students and staff. It is a cultural part of the United States. They would give a very clear pathway as to what should and what should not be done.

It might be more valuable to have information regarding intolerance of religion; it is not acceptable.

It is a regulation that directs legal counsel review and lets the Board know of any new laws or court rulings that would effect this regulation and make changes that are needed. We need to be accommodating not intolerant. This regulation gives guidance and support to inclusivity.

Superintendent Schmidt would like to see the last sentence separated out “To that end memorandum setting forth all such rights in accordance with laws or Supreme Court of the United States, along with any additional legal guidance related to religious expression and holiday observance within the public schools. Thereafter, the Board’s attorney shall supply such memorandum to the Superintendent who shall affect District-wide distribution of the memorandum in September of each year”. He would like to see this being more inclusive to all holidays and observances.”

By consensus the board would like to see this brought to the Board as an action item at the October BOE meeting.

4:00 Other Business

5.00 Adjournment

The work session adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Anna Bartha, Board President

Kent Clawson, Board Secretary