



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Special Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Attachment #1: Menu

RECOMMENDATION: Presiding Board Member calls meeting to order and roll call

The meeting of the Board of Education of Douglas County School District Number RE1 was called to order by President Silverthorn at 6:01 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Geddes (telephonically), Lemieux, Peck, Ray, Reynolds, Silverthorn, Vogel

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Interim Superintendent Kane, Deputy Superintendent Cook, Assistant Superintendent Knight, Chief Financial Officer Betz, Chief Technology Officer Sethi, Chief Assessment & Data Officer Reynolds, Personalized Learning Officer Ingalls, Chief Communications Officer Barber, General Legal Counsel Trachman, Secretary Eichelberger.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Student and Staff Recognition

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only

Interim Superintendent Kane invited the robotics team from Chaparral High School and their adviser, Joshua Heintzelman to the front of the room. Mrs. Kane announced that the robotics team recently became back-to-back "Best Robotics" Front Range Champions by beating another Douglas County School District robotics powerhouse - STEM Academy - to win the right to travel to Arkansas to compete in Nationals. Congratulations!

Interim Superintendent Kane stated that the District would next like to sing the praises of an important group of people, the "unsung heroes" during an emergency in the District, the Crisis Team. Mrs. Kane said that the psychologists and mental health experts respond when there has been a death of a student or staff member at one of the District schools. Mrs. Kane shared that the crisis team provides guidance to principals and their staff on how to handle difficult situations as well as supporting the grief counseling and communication that follows a tragedy. Mrs. Kane announced that the crisis team does an excellent job during the most challenging of times and thanked them for their service to the District.

Public Comment

4. Public Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Community input that can help the District meet the challenge of becoming the best school system possible is always welcome.

- Tim Krug of Franktown addressed the Board of Education regarding Public Comment. Mr. Krug supposed there was one issue that comes up more often than any and he believes he can help the District. It was Mr. Krug's opinion that the District is in a very vulnerable position and at risk of having a teachers' union form in Douglas County. Mr. Krug stated that the necessity for a teachers' union was an indication that District leadership was not meeting the needs of staff. Mr. Krug shared a personal story about how he thwarted the establishment of a teachers' union and urged the board to seek him out to help.

NEW - Motion

Member Ray moved, Member Vogel seconded that the Board of Education amends the agenda by moving item #9 *Board of Education Request for an Analysis and Report to the Board Regarding High School Honors Courses Having Weighted Grades* to follow agenda item #6 *High School Graduation Competency Presentation*.

Lemieux, aye; Peck, aye; Ray, aye; Reynolds, aye; Silverthorn, aye; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye 6: Nay: 0. The motion carried 6-0.

Adoption of Joint Motion Agenda

5. Board of Education: Unofficial Minutes

- Attachment #1: Unofficial Minutes Board of Education Meeting, December 13, 2016

RECOMMENDATION: that the Board of Education approves the minutes as presented under the Adoption of the Joint Motion Agenda

Director Vogel asked to have the following statements included in the minutes of December 13, 2016 on page 18 under Agenda Item #35 *Board Committee and Liaison Reports* to accurately reflect what happened:

- in addition to Director Reynolds. *President Silverthorn approved Director Ray's request.*
- Following Director Vogel's request to serve as the Government Relations liaison...*President Silverthorn denied the request, but it would be considered at a later date.*
- *Director Lemieux asked to serve as the liaison to the Douglas County Educational Foundation. President Silverthorn stated she would check with the group and follow-up later.*

President Silverthorn asked if Director Vogel would like to table the approval of the December 13, 2016 minutes until she could work with Secretary Eichelberger.

AMENDED - Motion

Member Vogel moved, Member Lemieux seconded that the Board of Education tables the approval of the unofficial minutes of December 13, 2016. Lemieux, aye; Peck, aye; Ray, aye; Reynolds, aye; Silverthorn, aye; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye 6: Nay: 0. The motion carried 6-0.

Study/Action Items  
(presentation; request for board action)

6. High School Graduation Competency Presentation

- Attachment #1: Graduation Requirements
- Attachment #2: Superintendent File: IKF-R-3
- Attachment #3: Graduation Competency Presentation

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education adopts the graduation competency requirements as presented.

Interim Superintendent Kane introduced the presentation team of the Chief System Performance Officer Matt Reynolds and Director of Academic Systems Erik Prouty, Rock Canyon High School Principal Andy Abner and Douglas County High School Principal Tony Kappas.

Board discussion followed.

Interim Superintendent Kane confirmed that the High School Graduation Competency presentation was informational and would not require board action.

Board discussion continued.

President Silverthorn asked if Mr. Abner and Mr. Kappas were willing to join the conversation regarding weighted honors courses. Both gentlemen participated in the following discussion.

9. Board of Education Request for an Analysis and Report to the Board Regarding High School Honors Courses Having Weighted Grades

- Attachment #1: Proposed Request

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approves the request as presented.

Director Vogel introduced her proposal for board consideration.

Board discussion followed.

Interim Superintendent Kane stated that staff carefully looked at Director Vogel's research project, and should the board wish to move forward with the analysis, the request may take up to fifteen hours of staff time and could include a comparison of neighboring school districts. Mrs. Kane suggested that staff present a report in March for discussion.

Board discussion continued.

Director Vogel asked if board members would be amenable to adding a request to the project analysis about the impact of weighted honors classes on awarding scholarships to students.

Director Ray suggested adding to the analysis a list of pros and cons if the District were to adopt a weighted system and advantages/disadvantages to scholarship opportunities.

Director Vogel said it would be helpful to add principal input to the pros and cons list.

Board discussion continued.

**AMENDED - Motion**

Member Vogel moved, Member Lemieux seconded that the Board of Education approves the request as amended to include a list of pros and cons and the advantages/disadvantages to scholarship opportunities. Lemieux, aye; Peck, aye; Ray, aye; Reynolds, aye; Silverthorn aye; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion carried 6-0.

**7. School Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) presentations - HOPE Online Learning Academy, Meadow View Elementary, Mesa Middle School and Northeast Elementary**

- Attachments #1 - #5: HOPE Online Learning Academy UIPs and Board Presentation
- Attachments #6 & #7: Meadow View Elementary UIP and Preliminary
- Attachments #8 & #9: Mesa Middle School UIP and Preliminary
- Attachments #10 & #11: Northeast Elementary UIP and Preliminary
- Attachment #12: UIP PowerPoint Presentation
- Attachment #13: 2016 Framework Scoring Guide

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Education approves the Unified Improvement Plans for Hope Online Learning Academy, Meadow View Elementary, Mesa Middle School and Northeast Elementary as presented.

Director Geddes joined the meeting telephonically at 7:50 p.m.

Interim Superintendent Kane prefaced the presentation by stating that the Colorado Department of Education data that they use is, of course, through the mandated state assessments which is PARCC. Mrs. Kane said that in the preceding years, the Douglas County School District was under a philosophy that PARCC did not accurately measure the skills that are most important to our students, so that philosophy had definitely impacted the number of students that actually took a test as well as the test itself. That being said, Mrs. Kane stated that the District believes that our students being able to show achievement and growth was incredibly important and everyone presenting has that belief as well. Mrs. Kane affirmed that the District stands behind the principals who were presenting and supports them 100% as they look at improving their schools.

Assistant Superintendent Knight provided an overview of the UIP presentation and introduced Lacy Dahl, Meadow View Elementary Principal, Principal Tony Jackowski of Mesa Middle School and Kara Tidemann, Principal, and Katie Sodaro-Jenson, Assistant Principal, of Northeast Elementary to provide a demographic snapshot and focus of their individual schools. Chief System Performance Officer Reynolds outlined the School Performance Framework, process and timelines. Ms. Dahl reviewed the Meadow View action plan. Ms. Tidemann reviewed the action plan for

Northeast Elementary. Mr. Jackowski briefed the board on the action plan for Mesa Middle School.

Board discussion followed.

Superintendent Kane stated that it was important to note that Hope Online Learning Academy moved up a level from a Turnaround School to a Priority Improvement School.

Heather O'Mara, Chief Executive Officer of Hope Online Learning Academy, presented the elementary and middle school improvement plans. Mrs. O'Mara invited student Jorge Saldana, a soon to be 2017 graduate, to share his educational journey. Mrs. O'Mara introduced Lisa Walden who has been with Hope since 2006, year two of Hope, beginning at a learning center in Brighton and currently a licensed teacher. Ms. Walden shared her career opportunities and path as an employee of Hope.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member Vogel moved, Member Reynolds seconded that the Board of Education approves the Unified Improvement Plans for Hope Online Learning Academy, Meadow View Elementary, Mesa Middle School and Northeast Elementary as presented.

Geddes, aye; Lemieux, aye; Peck, aye; Ray, aye; Reynolds, aye; Silverthorn aye; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried 7-0.

President Silverthorn called for a recess at 9:24 p.m.

President Silverthorn reconvened the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Action Items, continued  
(no presentation; request for board action)

8. Board of Education Proposed Legislative Platform

- Attachment #1: Proposed 2017 Legislative Platform

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the legislative platform as proposed.

President Silverthorn had asked Director Vogel to draft a document for the board's consideration.

Director Vogel introduced her proposed Legislative platform. Director Vogel said the draft platform was written through the lens of what is going to be best for the kids in Douglas County. Director Vogel stated that it was important to have the legislative platform in place for the board's lobbyist to have direction from the board. Director Vogel highlighted three basic issues facing the District: local control, school funding and support of public education.

Director Lemieux stated that the document is well-thought out, concise, and meets the board's support of transparency. Director Lemieux said she was in favor of having a legislative platform.

Director Peck asked for clarification on the section regarding support of public education - *Douglas County School District opposes legislation that undermines public confidence in our public schools.*

Director Vogel gave the example of SB 191 which changed the evaluation of teachers and tied evaluations to student test scores.

Vice President Reynolds suggested adding a section about testing or adding it under governance which would state that because Colorado is a local control state, the District is supportive of legislation that pulls Colorado out of the PARCC testing consortium. Vice President Reynolds' second point would be that the board support a menu of testing options where local districts choose the test appropriate for their students. Vice President Reynolds recommended that the District support test options focused on measuring individual student progress and that return results to the teacher, parent and student in a timely manner.

Interim Superintendent Kane shared that she was in agreement with the menu of testing options, so that schools and communities can select an assessment that they value, keeping in mind the importance of accountability to taxpayers.

Director Vogel stated that quality improvement is driven by the school, the parents, the students and the community and when something is mandated, it causes them to lose confidence because the power is taken away.

Vice President Reynolds stated that under the school funding portion some items are repetitive and she would be leery to support something without understanding what she is supporting with regard to the overall tax structure.

Director Ray said that it would be important to break out a sub topic on accountability and assessment. Director Ray recommended that the board encourage the legislation to put trust in teachers to make diagnostic decisions about instruction. Director Ray stated that a statement be added regarding growth paying for itself as opposed to putting the burden on taxpayers. Director Ray suggested that the word "adequate" be replaced with "full" when addressing funding to stress the District will not tolerate withholding money from public education.

Director Geddes departed the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

President Silverthorn shared a comment from Director Geddes who asked for the inclusion for a methodology for growth to pay for itself and where the District asks for a development-based solution. President Silverthorn thanked Director Vogel for her work on the legislative platform. President Silverthorn expressed concerns regarding the two thirds vote of the board requirement. President Silverthorn supports maximum local control. President Silverthorn commented on Mr. Hopfer's work regarding school funding and his work on a school finance study. President Silverthorn questioned the meaning of "undermines the public's confidence in our public schools.

Director Vogel stated that the reference to public schools was to all Douglas County schools, neighborhood and charter.

Director Lemieux advocated for the inclusion of statements under the School Funding section regarding the negative factor. Director Lemieux believes it is important to keep pressure on the legislature.

President Silverthorn suggested that the District look at different ways to supplement funding.

Director Peck was supportive of a legislative platform, but did not favor some of the specifics as written. Director Peck suggested that the board develop a legislative platform that is more deliberate and collaborative.

Director Vogel asked if President Silverthorn could explain how the District requested funding changes in the past. Director Vogel said it was difficult to develop a legislative platform when board members do not know what work has been done on the school finance study. Director Vogel suggested the following language be added: *Douglas County School District supports legislation that seeks creative funding mechanisms for K-12 programming and construction and capital needs.*

Board discussion followed.

Director Vogel asked for a Special Meeting with board lobbyist Jason Hopfer.

President Silverthorn suggested that Director Vogel withdraw her motion to approve the 2017 Legislative Platform proposal and consider joining her to work with board lobbyist Jason Hopfer on a regular, ongoing basis to review the bill sheet.

Director Lemieux supported the idea of Director Vogel serving as the co-liaison for Government Relations; however, she believes the Legislative Platform is important for the community.

Director Ray also supported Director Vogel as the co-liaison for Government Relations to facilitate the board finding common ground.

AMENDED - Motion

Member Ray moved, Member Lemieux seconded that the Board of Education treats the agenda item *2017 Legislative Platform* as a first reading and directs the co-liaisons to revise, refine and bring back the document for approval at a later date.

Board discussion continued.

AMENDED - Motion

Member Ray moved, Member Lemieux seconded that the Board of Education treats the discussion on agenda item *2017 Legislative Platform* as a first reading; requests the School Board Directors to provide feedback by January 17, 2017; directs the co-liaisons to revise and refine the document; and schedules the board's next review of the revision at the board retreat.

Board discussion continued.

Lemieux, aye; Peck, aye; Ray, aye; Reynolds, aye; Silverthorn, aye; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6  
Nay: 0. The motion carried 6-0.

Agenda Item #9 *Board of Education Request for an Analysis and Report to the Board Regarding High School Honors Courses Having Weighted Grades* was heard following Agenda Item #6.

#### Board of Education Reports

##### 10. Board Report: President and Vice President Items

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only

President Silverthorn announced Board Retreat dates as January 27 and 28, 2017. President Silverthorn said there would be a change to the agenda planning meeting schedule for Friday, January 6, 2017 and that confirmation of the date and time would be emailed to board members.

Vice President Reynolds stated that the next Fiscal Oversight Committee was scheduled for Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the West Support Center and the District Accountability Committee meeting is in the Board Room of the Wilcox Administration Building on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January.

##### 11. Board Committee and Liaison Reports

Board/Superintendent Linkage 1.0; Executive Limitation 1.8:

District Accountability Committee (Reynolds, Silverthorn, Vogel)

Fiscal Oversight Committee (Peck)

Long Range Planning Committee (Silverthorn)

Douglas County Educational Foundation (OPEN)

Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (Lemieux)

Partnership of Douglas County Governments (Board Member Rotation)

Douglas County Safety Committee (Geddes)

Douglas County Youth Initiative (Vogel)

Student Advisory Group (Silverthorn)

Government Relations (Silverthorn, Vogel)

Other Board/Superintendent Updates

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only

Director Vogel shared that the Douglas County Youth Initiative Advisory Board meets on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and the 2017 Outstanding Youth Awards nomination form was available online. Director Vogel suggested an update on vocational training at the board retreat.

President Silverthorn said she would work with staff to bring the "state of the District's vocational program" to a February board meeting.

Director Lemieux shared that the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning would be meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Director Lemieux said that there had been agreement with Denver, so the Intergovernmental Agreement will be considered on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Director Lemieux asked to serve as the board's liaison to the Douglas County Educational Foundation (DCEF).

President Silverthorn said she did speak with some members of the Douglas County Educational Foundation Board of Trustees and Director Lemieux was named as the board's liaison to DCEF.

Director Peck stated that he would be attending the Fiscal Oversight Committee on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Director Ray reported that the Douglas County Special Education Advisory Committee was meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Director Ray asked if the board could get an update on the Superintendent Search RFP.

President Silverthorn responded that a discussion regarding the superintendent search would possibly be on the next agenda.

Director Ray asked for clarification on the matter, because it was his understanding upon receipt of feedback from board members, the RFP would be released immediately.

President Silverthorn pledged to bring an update as an agenda item to the next meeting of the board.

#### 12. Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education adjourns the meeting

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member Ray moved, Member Peck seconded that the Board of Education adjourns the meeting.

Lemieux, aye; Peck, aye; Ray, aye; Reynolds, aye; Silverthorn, aye; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6  
Nay: 0. The motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

These minutes summarize the final decisions made by the Board of Education at the referenced meeting. View the meeting via live stream by accessing the following link:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/142979>.

Supporting document(s) attached to agenda items may be viewed by accessing the following link: <http://eboard.dcsdk12.org/>.

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Meghann Silverthorn  
President

ATTEST

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Nona Eichelberger  
Secretary