



Board of Education Special Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2018

Study, Dialogue and Dinner Session

1. Work Session on FY2018-2019 District Budget

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.

- Attachment #1: BoE Department Budget Work Session 04.26.18
- Attachment #2: 17-18 to 18-19 Department and District-Wide Walk Forward
- Attachment #3: Revised 17-18 to 18-19 Department and District-Wide Walk Forward

President Ray convened the Work Session at 5:00 p.m.

President Ray welcomed new Superintendent Dr. Thomas Tucker to the meeting.

President Ray invited Acting Chief Financial Officer Scott Smith to present.

Board discussion on the proposed 18-19 budget followed.

2. Board of Education: Department Budget Worksheet

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.

- Attachment #1: BoE Department April 2018 Worksheet

President Ray concluded the Work Session at 6:30 p.m. and called a 15-minute recess.

3. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

The special meeting of the Board of Education of Douglas County School District Number RE-1 was called to order by President Ray at 6:45 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ciancio-Schor, Graziano, Holtzmann, Lemieux, Leung, Ray, Vogel

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Assistant Superintendent Knight, Chief Human Resources Officer and Acting Legal Counsel Colella, Chief Technology Officer and Chief Operating Officer Sethi, Acting Chief Financial Officer Smith, Communications Officer Rader, Assessment and Data Officer Reynolds, Incoming Superintendent Tucker, and Assistant Secretary Taylor

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Acceptance of Agenda

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

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member Vogel moved, Member Lemieux seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion that the Board of Education approves the Agenda as presented.

Ciancio-Schor, aye; Graziano, aye; Holtzmann, aye; Lemieux, aye; Leung, aye; Ray, aye; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried 7-0.

6. Public Comment

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

- Stephanie Van Zante, voiced strong opposition of Ascent Classical Academy (Ascent) and the request of Ascent to transfer to Colorado Charter School Institute as charter authorizer. Ms. Van Zante urged the Board to remain as charter authorizer of Ascent.
- Ashley Linville, Mountain Vista High School Junior, addressed the Board on the importance of Art to her education and advocated for funding to retain programming of the Arts.
- Rose Linville, Mountain Vista High School Senior, shared how Art and Band have influenced her education and the importance of retaining these programs.

Director Leung acknowledged Ashley as a scholarship award winner at the Air Academy Art Scholarship Awards and thanked both Ashley and Rose for speaking on behalf of programming for the Arts.

Actions Items

7. Ascent Classical Academy Request to Transfer to Colorado Charter School Institute as Authorizer (10 minute presentation, 10 minute discussion)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education adopt the Resolution as presented.

- Attachment #1: ACAD Request to DCSD for CSI Transfer Release
- Attachment #2: 2018.04.26 Resolution DCSD Approval for ACAD CSI Submission

Colorado law allows a charter school to request a transfer from its current authorizer to the Charter School Institute (CSI), which requires both a resolution from the current district approving of that transfer and an approval from the CSI board. (CRS 22-30.5- 504(8)). The school could remain physically located in Douglas County but would no longer be a charter school authorized by the Douglas County School district. In connection with their expansion into other districts, Ascent is requesting that DCSD allow them to transfer to the Charter School Institute as their authorizer. This same request for Golden View Classical in Jeffco was approved by the Jefferson County School Board on April 5. This transfer would benefit Ascent and its operations and students by allowing multiple campuses in different districts to be authorized by one central authorizer. The CSI board has agreed to expedite this application from Ascent for the 2018-2019 school year.

Ascent Classical Academy Founder Derec Shuler, Board Chair Rob Williams and Founding Principal Dr. Terrence Moore addressed the Board.

President Ray asked for questions.

President Ray asked if Ascent would continue to seek District property under a different authorizer.

Mr. Shuler reminded the Board that the decision to grant use of District property lies with the Board.

President Ray asked if Ascent would be amenable to include a protective clause in the Resolution stating no intent on the part of Ascent to pursue District property.

Mr. Shuler stated that it is not the intent of Ascent to pursue District property. Mr. Shuler shared that the request for the Meridian Village site was prior to Jeffco's approval for Golden View Academy to transfer to CSI as charter authorizer.

Mr. Shuler shared the rationale of converting to CSI as charter authorizer prior to establishment as a charter school under District authorization. Mr. Shuler commented that CSI is accommodating the shortened time frame in order to convert by July 1st.

President Ray inquired if the larger vision of Ascent would include building several Ascent-type schools in Douglas County.

Mr. Shuler responded that this is not the intent of Ascent and that the Resolution specifies the Board retains exclusive chartering authority.

Dr. Moore shared that the mission of Ascent is a more deliberate, small school model and the next school location for Ascent is intended for northern Colorado.

Mr. Williams concurred that Ascent does not intend to seek additional sites in Douglas County.

President Ray summarized that in order to replicate another school in Douglas County, Ascent would need to come before the Board as the charter authorizer.

Mr. Shuler concurred.

Director Vogel inquired if District charter authorization would hinder the networking process for Ascent.

Mr. Shuler responded that working with only one Local Education Agency (LEA) streamlines processes and services with Special Education resources at the network level, trained according to the classical curriculum and delivery method.

Director Vogel inquired about the consequences of tabling this decision to address later.

Mr. Shuler responded that CSI would expect the Ascent application by April 27th, which necessitates immediate Board action in order for Ascent to open as a CSI approved school by July 1st.

Director of Student and Parent Choice Tom McMillen requested that the Board expedite the process, before District systems are established. Mr. McMillen stated that Board approval at this point would save District staff time, processes and resources both now and one year from now.

Director Ciancio-Schor asked Ascent if they would consider an amendment to the Resolution stating that Ascent would not franchise or replicate a school in Douglas County and would not seek District property except through Douglas County School District Board of Education approval.

Mr. Shuler replied that this request was fully consistent with the current Resolution, in that the Board retains charter authorization and that Ascent would agree to the concept.

When asked to confirm agreement with the amendment to the Resolution, Mr. Shuler responded yes.

Director Holtzmann asked for clarification regarding Golden View Academy and the network.

Mr. Shuler replied that Ascent developed from a desire to replicate Golden View Academy in Douglas County. Mr. Shuler stated that, at this time, Golden View Academy is not a part of the network however; CSI would allow the Ascent transfer under a replication process with Golden View Academy.

Director Holtzmann requested clarification on the replication model regarding streamlining, economy of scale and special education services.

Mr. Shuler explained that the replication component had always been included in the school model and apologized that the Board was not aware.

Director Holtzmann asked for the staff recommendation.

Mr. McMillen shared the list of pros and cons for allowing the charter authorizer transfer to CSI.

Pros

- Two-thirds of the Ascent intents to enroll are private school, home school or out-of-district students.
- No District MLO sharing for out-of-district students.
- District staff and resources would not support Ascent students.
- District would not have exposure in the unlikely event that Ascent fails
- Potential Parker location could help with capacity issues.
- Eliminate staff time to launch and establish Ascent.
- Issues around the Ascent location after first year at Apex becomes moot for the District.
- Eliminates issues related to PERA for Ascent teachers, use of Infinite Campus and Workday.
- Positive experience with Early Colleges of Parker.
- District remains the charter authorizer of Douglas County unless waived.

Cons

- District would lose this educational offering.
- Other charters might choose to leave the District for CSI.
- District would lose oversight of a charter within the District.

Director Vogel commented that Statute requires that an adequate number of parents and students must support the formation under CSI and asked if Ascent had secured said support.

Mr. Shuler responded that this would be part of the CSI authorization, and Ascent will inquire from CSI the expected feedback process.

Mr. McMillen reminded the Board that the Resolution is contingent upon CSI approval and in the event that CSI does not approve, the Resolution is invalid and Ascent would remain authorized under the District.

Director Holtzmann questioned the accuracy of Ascent's ability to seek District land without Board approval and through a different avenue.

Acting Legal Counsel Colella stated that the design of contract language would help ensure this question is resolved.

Mr. McMillen stated that State Statute preserves exclusive chartering authority to this Board unless waived. Mr. McMillen explained that Douglas County Statute language regarding dedicated school sites states "to the School District."

Director Ciancio-Schor inquired about the benefits to the District by an immediate Board decision.

Mr. Shuler reminded the Board that by leaving the authorization of the District, Ascent would no longer receive District Mill Levy shares.

President Ray closed questions and asked for discussion.

President Ray advocated for approval of the Resolution with amendments.

Director Vogel voiced concern with the quick timeline and rushed decision without adequate information and lack of legal opinion.

Director Leung stated concern with the lack of parent involvement in Ascent's request.

Director Holtzmann agreed with President Ray but expressed concern with the lack of information, the timeline, and certainty of legal counsel.

Director Ciancio-Schor agreed with all statements of the Board but stated that the timeline made a thoughtful decision difficult.

President Ray asked the Board if the Resolution would be favorable if all legal concerns were resolved and Ascent families informed.

Director Graziano voiced support for the Resolution with the suggested amendments.

Director Ciancio-Schor agreed if aforementioned considerations could be accomplished.

Director Lemieux agreed.

President Ray offered options for immediate Board action.

- Table and postpone the decision.
- Move forward a Resolution with conditions.
- Move forward with the Resolution as written.

Director Lemieux voiced support for amending the Resolution with conditions and immediate Board action.

Director Leung voiced concern regarding legal implications if the Board would pass the Resolution with conditions. Mr. Leung also stated concern with passing the Resolution without input from Ascent parents.

Mr. McMillen clarified that the Resolution is conditional upon Ascent receiving approval from CSI as charter authorizer.

Mr. Colella offered that if CSI would consider the Ascent application with a Conditional Board Resolution, it would allow time for a legal opinion and the Board could declare, at a later Board of Education meeting, that these conditions have been resolved.

NEW - Motion

Member Vogel moved, Member Lemieux seconded to table and postpone this decision to a later date.

Ciancio-Schor, nay; Graziano, nay; Holtzmann, aye; Lemieux, aye; Leung, aye; Ray, nay; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 3. The motion carried 4-3.

8. 15-minute Recess Called to convene in Executive Session (a closed session)

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

9. Convene in Executive Session (a closed session)

Real Estate matters e.g. the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of real, personal or other property pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a); to hold conference with the Board's attorney to receive legal advice concerning pending legal questions, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b); to be advised on specialized details of security arrangements and investigations pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(d); to determine positions relative to matters that are or will be subject to contract Negotiations, developing strategy for those negotiations, and instructing negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e); Personnel Matters, including actions, updates, and Superintendent recommendations involving individual employees, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f); to consider documents protected by non-disclosure provisions of Colorado Open Records Act pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(g); and/or to be

advised on Individual Student matters, where public disclosure would adversely affect the person or persons involved, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(h).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education convenes in Executive Session (a closed session) to be advised on specialized details of security arrangements and investigations pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(d), specifically:

- Security Briefing

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member Holtzmann moved, Member Graziano seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion that the Board of Education convenes in Executive Session (a closed session) to be advised on specialized details of security arrangements and investigations pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(d), specifically:

- Security Briefing

Ciancio-Schor, aye; Graziano, aye; Holtzmann, aye; Lemieux, aye; Leung, aye; Ray, aye; Vogel, aye. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session convened at 8:30 p.m.

Executive Session attendance: Ciancio-Schor, Graziano, Holtzmann, Lemieux, Leung, Ray, Vogel, Superintendent Hire Tucker, Director of Safety and Security Payne, and Security Systems Manager Kleinhans

Executive Session concluded at 11:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education adjourns the meeting.

The meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned from Executive Session at 11:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2018 with a Work Session beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Regular Session at 6:00 p.m. in the Wilcox Board Room, 620 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, Colorado.

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/>.

David Ray
Board of Education President

Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018
Page 8 of 8

ATTEST

Krista Holtzmann
Board of Education Secretary

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES