

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX

**Littleton, Colorado
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Meeting**

May 12, 2011

Call to Order

Secretary Sue Chandler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Education Services Center, 5776 South Crocker Street.

Present

Sue Chandler, Secretary
Lucie Stanish, Treasurer
Mary Nichols, Assistant Secretary

Absent

Bob Colwell, President
Renée Howell, Vice President

Others in Attendance

Connie Bouwman, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services
Lucinda Hundley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services
Scott Murphy, Superintendent

Absent

Kirk Madsen, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Mike Owens, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Chandler asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the April 28, 2011, regular Board meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 28, 2011, regular Board meeting as presented. SECOND: Ms. Stanish.

AYE: Chandler, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Murphy said that the district is looking forward to high school graduations next week. He announced that Arapahoe High School special services teacher Denise Vedoveli received the John Boyle Community Service Award from the Arapahoe District of the Denver Area Council of Boy Scouts. Mr. Murphy reported that seven Littleton High School students competed in the International DECA competition, and two students participated in the Leadership Academy. He announced that Heritage High School special education teacher Nancy Knight received the Gary Schmidt Award from the Colorado Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Mr. Murphy said that Littleton Academy Charter School teacher Jay LeBlanc received the Colorado Outstanding

Teacher of American History award from the Mt. Rosa chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mr. Murphy introduced thirteen graduating seniors from Arapahoe, Heritage, and Littleton high schools who are recipients of prestigious scholarships. In addition to their academic excellence, these students also participate in many extracurricular activities. Mr. Murphy said National Merit Finalists must score in the top one percent on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) and excel in extracurricular and community activities. Boettcher Scholarships provide full tuition, fees, books and a living stipend for four years at any Colorado college or university. Students eligible to compete for these scholarships must rank in the top five percent of their class and score at least 1,200 out of a possible 1,600 on the SAT.

Students recognized were: Jordan Anthony, National Achievement Recognition Scholar, LHS; Nile Carethers, National Achievement Scholar, AHS; Kaitlin Ching, National Merit Scholarship Finalist and Boettcher Scholar Candidate, HHS; Jasmine Griffin, National Merit Scholarship Finalist and Presidential Scholarship Candidate, AHS; Daniel Lathen, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, HHS; Ashlyn Mooney, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, LHS; Javon Moore, National Achievement Scholar, AHS; Willie Payne, Boettcher Scholar Candidate, HHS; Hilary Redmond, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, AHS; Joe Selzer, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, AHS; Caryn Shebowich, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, AHS; Edwin Supple, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, HHS; Semhal Tsgaye, National Achievement Recognition Scholar, HHS

Mr. Murphy commented about the number of students who are pursuing higher education in the fields of science and math, as well as their involvement in the fine arts.

Mr. Murphy announced that Teacher Appreciation Week was May 1-7. During the week parents recognized LPS teachers in a variety of ways. Mr. Murphy read the proclamation:

WHEREAS, teachers make public schools great; and

WHEREAS, teachers work to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams; and

WHEREAS, teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators, and mentors; and

WHEREAS, teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories;

NOW THEREFORE, WE, Mary Haney, president of Littleton Education Association (LEA); and Scott Murphy, superintendent of Littleton Public Schools; do hereby declare the week of May 1-7, 2011, as **Teacher Appreciation Week in Littleton Public Schools** and ask citizens to join in honoring and acknowledging the impact of teachers on our lives and those of our students.

Ms. Stanish commented that she is a product of LPS and her parents chose to live in Littleton because of its schools. Ms. Nichols thanked teachers for all they do, noting

it is often a labor of love. Ms. Chandler said it is an honor to work with the professional teachers in LPS.

Mr. Murphy announced that May is Better Speech and Hearing Month. Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, introduced Nancy Souther, and Amy Philofsky, who are LPS speech-language pathologists.

Ms. Stanish read the proclamation:

WHEREAS, the audiologist and speech-language pathologists in Littleton Public Schools observe and celebrate Better Speech and Hearing Month during the month of May; and

WHEREAS, Littleton Public Schools recognizes and values the efforts of all who work to eliminate or minimize the isolating effects of communication disabilities in the one in ten families affected by them; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who have overcome their communication disabilities through the services of dedicated audiologists and speech-language pathologists; and

WHEREAS, audiology and speech-language pathology services throughout our nation help to enable and empower individuals with communication disabilities to lead independent, productive and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, Littleton Public Schools is proud and honored to have 31 audiologists and speech-language pathologists who offer quality educational and support services to over 500 students;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Littleton Public Schools proclaims the month of May as Better Speech and Hearing Month, and we encourage our staff and students to recognize the achievements of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in improving the quality of life for people with communication disabilities.

Ms. Chandler thanked those teachers who work with students with communication disabilities for their dedication to this important work.

Board Reports/Requests

Ms. Nichols attended the LPS retirement dinner, the PTO joint scholarships presentation, and the Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC) luncheon. She attended the breakfast with the Classified Employees Advisory Council (CEAC), a Gifted and Talented Advisory Council executive committee meeting, and a Wellness Committee meeting. Ms. Nichols visited the district's instructional coaches ten-year celebration, and the retirement celebration for Julie Carlson, instruction coordinator. Ms. Nichols also attended an Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council meeting.

Ms. Stanish attended a Littleton Community Retreat planning meeting and commented that the group is looking for a keynote speaker. She attended an LPS Foundation board meeting and said the Foundation is working with the Wellness Committee. She reported that the Spirit Dinner raised \$30,000 in technology shares and another \$30,000 to support various other grants. Ms. Stanish said the next major fund-raiser for the Foundation is the Stride on October 23. She also mentioned that the Corner Bakery is giving away free coffee all day on Monday, May 16. Donations to the Foundation are welcome. Ms. Stanish attended the PEBC luncheon and the

Family and Consumer Science Advisory Council meeting. She expressed her personal appreciation for the LPS driver's education program.

Ms. Chandler attended the LPS Retirement dinner and expressed her thanks to the organizers. She attended the PTO joint scholarships presentation, and the CEAC breakfast.

Citizens' Requests to Speak to the Board

Mr. Sam Drury spoke about the LPS third grade reading CSAP results and said he is looking forward to seeing the remaining CSAP test results that will be released over the summer. He commented that these results are great news for the district.

Action

Consent Agenda

Ms. Chandler asked if there was any additional information concerning the consent agenda. On behalf of Mr. Owens, Ms. Lori Kinney, director of human resources, corrected some information presented on April 28 concerning employee health benefits. She said the increase in the CIGNA premium was 12.3 percent, not 13.3 percent as previously stated.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended consent agenda numbered 1.1 concerning Personnel Recommendations with the additions made this evening, 1.2 Employee Health Benefits for 2011–2012, and 1.3 Board Policy Revisions: DBJ—Budget Transfers, and DIB--Funds. SECOND: Ms. Nichols. AYE: Chandler, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0.

Quarterly Financial Update

Mr. Scott Myers, chief financial officer, presented the quarterly financial report for the period ending March 31, 2011. He contrasted revenue for the current year with the prior year, noting that current year revenue is approximately \$6 million lower primarily due to reductions in state funding for K–12. Mr. Myers stated that tax revenue is \$5.2 million greater this year than last year as a result of increased property collections this year, which includes a portion of the \$12 million mill levy override and helps to offset the loss of state funding revenue.

Mr. Myers noted that expenditure rates are down about \$4.2 million due to budget reductions for the current year. He also noted that the interest-free state loan has been fully repaid from February 2011 property tax revenue.

Ms. Stanish asked why investment earnings show a loss. Mr. Myers responded that this is not a realized loss as investments are held to maturity. He added that this reporting is one of the new government accounting standards. Ms. Chandler asked why expenditure rates are down for financial services and human resources.

Mr. Myers responded that this is due to some reorganization and elimination of some one-time IFAS expenditures.

Ms. Nichols asked for clarification about the change in the extended day care program fund from an income loss last year to a net income gain this year.

Mr. Myers said the expectation is for the program to maintain a balance between revenue and expenses, and Ms. Jean Martinez, director of elementary education, has

improved the accounting practices for these programs and there is a better alignment between revenue and expenditures.

Ms. Stanish asked for clarification about the student athletic and activities fund assets and fund balance. Mr. Myers responded that the difference between this year and last year is due to the new accounting practice of making transfers on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Chandler commented that the pie chart on page 8 of the report representing the distribution of expenditures is very helpful in showing how the district uses revenue. Ms. Stanish noted that the increase in state revenue and decrease in local revenue is a change in how schools are funded and places added pressure on the state.

Ms. Chandler asked if this report is posted on the district website, and Mr. Myers said it is posted.

Ms. Chandler thanked Mr. Myers and his staff for their excellent work and congratulated them for the financial awards they received recently.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved that the Board of Education approve the quarterly financial report ending March 31, 2011. SECOND: Ms. Stanish. AYE: Chandler, Nichols, Stanish. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0.

Discussion

District Planning for Concussion Management

Ms. Lucinda Hundley, assistant superintendent of student support services, presented information about the district's plan to address student concussions related to athletic competition in response to the growing concern in this area. She reviewed recent legislation, Senate Bill 11-040, the Jake Snakenberg Youth Concussion Act, which becomes effective January 1, 2012. This legislation contains specific requirements related to concussion management in middle and high schools including annual training for coaches related to identification of signs and symptoms of concussions, immediate removal from play, parent notification, and conditions for allowing a student to return to play.

Ms. Hundley reviewed district plans for implementing this new statute, which include: 1) coaches with primary supervisory responsibility will participate in standardized district training; 2) student safety will be the priority in decisions regarding removal of a student from play or return to play; 3) coaches have responsibility for the decision to allow students to return to play; 4) all LPS secondary schools will follow the same protocol for all sports; 5) a coach's decision can only be appealed to the principal; and 6) concussion protocol will be published in the District Athletic Code and implementation will begin August 1, 2011.

Dr. Amy Oaks, director of secondary education, reviewed the ImPACT protocol, which is a computer-based concussion evaluation system. All athletes will take this 20-minute evaluation prior to the athletic season to establish a baseline score that is good for two years. Dr. Oaks explained that ImPACT is a researched-based, scientifically validated test that provides national norms. It is accepted by medical professionals as a means to determine if a concussion has occurred, and it is already in use in LPS. Dr. Oaks presented additional information about the steps that will be taken with an injured athlete to determine if a concussion has occurred. She provided

details about the post-concussion protocols to be used to assess a student's readiness to return to play. She said the new rules and district protocols will have the greatest impact on a student athlete's return to play after a concussion, which will no longer be possible after only 24 hours.

Ms. Stanish asked if this new legislation covers all athletes. Ms. Hundley responded that it is intended to cover all sports activities. Ms. Chandler asked about alignment with Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) rules, and Dr. Oaks said the district's protocols align with these rules.

Mr. Murphy asked if action by the Board will be necessary as part of the implementation process. Ms. Hundley responded that administration is seeking legal counsel regarding the need for Board policy. She added that the Board will be asked to take action on the District Athletic Code, with the additional concussion protocol information, in June. Mr. Murphy suggested that the Board may want to send a letter of thanks to Senator Nancy Spence for this legislation.

Ms. Chandler said she appreciated the safety net this legislation offers and thanked Ms. Hundley and Dr. Oaks for their work in preparing to implement these rules.

Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)

Ms. Connie Bouwman, assistant superintendent of learning services, explained that Senate Bill 09-256 created the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) requirements, and the district has been preparing for implementation for the past two years. She said that under the direction of Dr. Oaks, Ms. Mimi Leonard, career and technical education coordinator, has led the implementation process. This implementation included selection of an online vendor to manage students' ICAPs and the preparation of implementation procedures.

Ms. Leonard said that College in Colorado.org (CIC) is the vendor selected primarily because it offers a free website that students may access to create their ICAP. During the 2010–2011 school year the district conducted two days of training with College in Colorado and has made presentations to staff. Ms. Leonard explained that LPS students in eighth through twelfth grade will have access to ICAP, although the statute requires access beginning at ninth grade. Students will be able to explore high school services, post-secondary education options and careers. In addition, they can access information about financial aid, completing college applications, and learn job interview skills. Students will create a year-by-year plan to reach their educational goals. Ms. Leonard said the website is very user friendly.

Ms. Leonard reviewed ICAP implementation plans for each middle and high school, noting that eighth through twelfth grades students will be able to access the College in Colorado website by the September 2011 deadline. She added that some students are already familiar with the website. Ms. Leonard said that implementation will include staff training through work with individual schools, and initial plans could change as a result of feedback from staff. Ms. Leonard noted that student log-in logistics, on-going costs for data services, and decisions regarding customized services need to be addressed.

Ms. Nichols said the ICAP program sounds very comprehensive and a bit overwhelming. She asked if ICAP information will become part of a student's file.

Ms. Leonard responded that students will first set goals, and learn to use other aspects of the ICAP program as they are needed. She also said ICAP is a tool to benefit students and is not part of school records. Ms. Nichols asked what kind of customization is available from College in Colorado. Ms. Leonard responded that course catalogs can be downloaded into CIC, which simplifies students' use of the website.

Ms. Stanish asked why the CIC website is free. Ms. Leonard responded that it is a non-profit and receives federal funding. Ms. Nichols asked about district reporting requirements. Ms. Leonard responded that the state is still working on monitoring system details. Ms. Bouwman added that ICAP implementation will likely become part of the assurances checklist the district must complete for accreditation purposes. Ms. Chandler asked about plans to communicate with parents concerning the ICAP. Ms. Leonard said there will be an article in school newsletters in August and information will also be available on the district website.

Mr. Murphy suggested that it might be helpful to the Board to have a workshop or presentation on the various Career and Technical Education programs offered in the district.

Ms. Chandler thanked Ms. Leonard for the presentation.

Recent Trends in Special Education Law

Ms. Hundley presented a comprehensive overview of federal legislation that affects the way public schools educate students with disabilities. She noted that federal PL 94-142, enacted in 1975, established basic rights for children, ages three through 21, with disabilities. Over the years these rights and school district responsibilities have been clarified through legal decisions in the courts.

Ms. Hundley reviewed LPS pupil counts of students with disabilities, noting that while the number of students with disabilities served in LPS is going down, the costs related to these students is increasing. Ms. Hundley explained some of the factors related to increasing costs for students with disabilities, including a greater number of students with complex disabilities, and significantly higher excess costs for students with disabilities. She also provided some information about revenue versus actual special education per pupil costs over the past 10 years.

Ms. Hundley highlighted some important components of the special education program in LPS as the district continues to serve students with disabilities. Some of these important areas include: 1) provide appropriate and adequate services; 2) develop and implement effective service delivery models; 3) promote strong partnerships with parents; 4) access multiple funding resources; 5) educate and influence policy makers; 6) maintain responsible fiscal practices; and 7) remain grounded in law and do what is right for students.

Ms. Stanish asked about reimbursement for excess costs, and Ms. Hundley said there are some limited ways to access some funds. Ms. Stanish applauded the efforts to include students with disabilities and special education programs within classrooms and schools. She expressed hope that Ms. Hundley would stay involved in advocacy for special education.

Mr. Murphy thanked Ms. Hundley for her leadership in the district and throughout the state. Ms. Chandler said that serving students with disabilities is important work and the right thing to do.

Future Agenda/Adjournment

Mr. Murphy distributed a draft agenda for the May 26, 2011 Board meeting. Action items include Teacher Status Recommendations for the 2011–2012 School Year. Discussion items include Legislative Wrap-Up, Board Policy Revisions: JLIF—Assistance Dogs and Service Animals in District Programs, and Proposed 2011–2012 Budget.

MOTION: Ms. Stanish moved that the Board of Education meeting adjourn.

SECOND: Ms. Nichols. AYE: Chandler, Nichols, Stanish.

MOTION CARRIED: 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Colwell
President

Sue Chandler
Secretary

ks (5/18/11)