

Minutes – March 11, 2014

SPECIAL MEETING of the Adams County School District 14 Board of Education was called to order Tuesday, March 11, 2014 pursuant to notice by Mr. Vashaw, President, at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Quintana, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Rolla, Mr. Vashaw

Also Present: Patrick Sánchez, Walter Kramarz

Executive Session

MOTION was made by Mr. Rolla, seconded by Mr. Quintana to move into executive session pursuant to ***C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b)**—Legal Advice; for the Board to discuss and receive legal advice on specific pending legal matters, ***C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e)**— in connection with a pending legal matter, determining positions relative to matters subject to negotiation, and instructing negotiators, and ***C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f)**—Personnel; employment contract.

Mrs. Morton, aye; Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

STUDY SESSION of the Adams County School District 14 Board of Education was called to order Tuesday, March 11, 2014 pursuant to notice by Mr. Vashaw, President, at 5:11 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Quintana, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Rolla, Mr. Vashaw

Also Present: Patrick Sánchez, Walter Kramarz

Nutrition Services—Jim Rowan, Manager of Nutrition Services presented a departmental update to the Board. Mr. Rowan shared before and after pictures of different sites with the Board of Education. As you can see we now offer a wide range of items and our menus are more comprehensive.

We now provide full translation of each menu. Mr. Rowan also catered a spread of a variety of meals that are currently being served at the schools for the Board to try.

Budget—Chris Stutler, Finance Consultant gave the Board of Education information on budget including student count, per pupil funding, transfers, expenses, future plans and next steps.

Athletic Helmets—District Athletic Director Damian Brown gave the Board of Education information on Adams 14 helmets and the helmets being used to date in our high school and middle schools.

The study adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING SESSION of the Adams County School District 14 Board of Education was called to order Tuesday, March 11, 2014 pursuant to notice by Mr. Vashaw, President, at 6:33 p.m.

The Board of Education held a moment of silence.

Roll Call

Minutes – March 11, 2014

Present: Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Quintana, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Rolla, Mr. Vashaw

Also Present: Patrick Sánchez, Walter Kramarz

MOTION was made by Mrs. Morton, seconded by Mr. Quintana to approve the minutes of February 25, 2014.

Mrs. Morton, aye; Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION was made by Mr. Rolla, seconded by Mrs. Morton to amend the agenda to include amendments to personnel actions and to include business item 1.3 regarding cancelling this month's second Board Meeting on March 25.

Mrs. Morton, aye; Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION was made by Mr. Rolla, seconded by Mrs. Morton to approve the agenda as amended.

Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

Audience Comments

Jill Fellman, 12659 W. 84th Drive, Arvada, CO 80005

Issue: Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)—I am here representing the Colorado Association of School Boards and I think it is really important for you to know that I serve on the local board for Jefferson County and we are all part of Region 5. As Region 5 and being on the Colorado Association of School Boards Board I get to be the representative that works with you all. I will be sending you emails and I would like communication back. I think it is hard to get emails from someone that you have never seen. I want you to see me. If you would like to talk, if that is a better form of communication, please call me. The mission of CASB is to advance excellence in public education through effective leadership by local school boards. I am on a local school board as well. I understand the difficult challenges you face, I get that and I want to be a good representative for you and I want to make sure that I get your concerns so that I can effectively represent, question, and challenge. If you have a question I want to find an answer. I wanted to commit that to you and I wanted you to see my smiling face so that you get that email you have that picture in your face. Thank you very much.

Juan Martinez, Student

Issue: Lester Arnold High School—I am a student at Lester Arnold High School and I want to say how much they have improved. I went there last year and it was very troubling to me, I was slacking and not paying attention. I'm one of those students where if the teachers are involved I'm more involved. Like if the teachers are involved with me I will do better and how much the improvement went. This year the teachers are a lot more into the students. I have had a big improvement because right now I have A's and B's and I have been learning a lot better. The teachers are a lot more talkative with the students and there is more discipline from how it was last year. It is stricter where kids are getting to their

classrooms and doing their work. I just want to say how good of a job the school is doing. I am graduating this year and it is because of this school and the teachers that have been helping me through it. It has been a good school and that is all I have to say.

Pat Sanchez, 6490 Newport Street, Commerce City, CO 80022

Issue: Lester Arnold High School—I am third generation to go to school here. My grandson goes to Lester Arnold and I want to thank the staff, the principal and everyone there for having so much patience with these kids because when he was going to the high school they were like we cannot do for him anymore, they didn't want him going back the next year. I got him into Lester Arnold and he is going to graduate this year. He is an A student. He is going to go to college. I just can't believe what this school has done for these kids. They have a lot of patience for these kids. These are kids that the high school did not want to deal with because of the issues that they were having. This school is helping them. I would pay surprise visits to them and I could not believe...they are doing great. They are so proud of that school.

Marissa Trujillo, Student

Issue: Lester Arnold High School—I am coming to represent Lester Arnold High School. This school has changed over the past year. It has brought in a lot of events, organizations and opportunities. I feel that this school has changed in so many ways because it is helping us educate ourselves in a better way because we couldn't the first way. The teachers are there to help every step of the way no matter what you want to do in life. They are there for you no matter what. We have taken field trips to colleges. I feel like this school is a good place to be, thank you.

Stephanie Llamas, Student

Issue: Lester Arnold High School —I am a student at Lester Arnold High School and I am here to represent our school because regardless of the obstacles of what the kids go there for whether they have children, or they dropped out of high school going back to school, or people like myself that attend because of the opportunities that are given. My counselor told me that I am able to graduate a year early and that is great. I can't even explain to you how I feel about that. I have an understanding that we are able to graduate at DU. I feel that we should do that because we work so hard to stand where we are and I feel that we should be treated equal as other high schools although it is like a stereotype of how people see our high school. I feel like if we graduate at DU and not at another high school's gym floor it will make us feel like we have accomplished something and we will prove others wrong and we will prove ourselves wrong as well. I just fell that if you guys can help that would be great. That is all I have to say, thank you.

Andrew LaCrue, 7034 E. 73rd Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

Issue: Lester Arnold High School—I have been a member of this community for all of my life. I left to go to college in Trinidad and came back after getting my degree. I am now working on my masters in education and hoping to get back into the school district to serve the students that I work with everyday. I have had the opportunity to volunteer at multiple events this year at Lester Arnold. Lester Arnold High School is going in the direction right now of no longer being that other school in Adams 14. There events such as College Application Day, ACT Prep Night and Family Night is really bringing the community, families and students of that school the opportunity to believe in themselves and know that they have options. For many years these kids thought that they did not have any options. No one was listening to them. There was no one to hear their story and believe in them. Lester Arnold has given them the opportunity. Mr. Thompson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Guardiola, Mr. Deaguero and numerous staff over there can relate to those students. They have given those students an opportunity to speak and tell their story and that is all those students want. I challenge each and every one of you up here to go out and attend these events. Get to know these students. It is nice to sit behind the desk over there and predict what is going on in the district but get your feet wet, go into the community to see what these kids are doing and listen to them. There is a lot going on over there and these kids want to be heard and I challenge you to listen to them. That is all I have to say.

Minutes – March 11, 2014

Barbara Cyrus, 4501 Riggi Place, Commerce City, CO 80022

Issue: Thank the Board of Education Members—I would like to start off by thanking all of you for your work that has been accomplished in our district to help our children move forward with their educational needs. In addition to that I would like to thank you for stopping a nine year decline in student achievement, improving our schools and the lunch programs. Boy, those poor kids at Lester Arnold, it is about time they get treated right and get some real food. With that being said I would also like address increasing the parent participation and culture and climate in the schools and making them a great place for the children and for the young adults as we all know that they are our future. I love the speakers that you have brought into our district to help encourage the family members and students within our area. I also want to thank our leadership for cleaning up the old high school area, yay! It looks so much better and we appreciate that you guys heard our concerns and acted upon them. I am here tonight to show support to all of you especially to Superintendent Sánchez and President Vashaw for your leadership and to also say that though it seems that we have people coming into our district who are angry with our OCR report that is coming out I feel that the people who were largely responsible for the wrongs that were done are no longer here. Mr. Sánchez

Claudia Celis, 10728 E. 96th Place, Commerce City, CO 80022

Issue: Words for Adams 14—Thank you Adams 14 Board of Education, I want to thank Superintendent Sánchez for all of the advances that we have done in this district. I am referring to the advances at Adams City High School, for opening the doors to his office because that is something that we needed. I live in Commerce City and my daughter goes to Adams City High School, I could speak about these changes; mandatory classes to recuperate credits, the new way of keeping parents informed with bilingual notices, with detailed information so that everybody knows what the expectations are to graduate and also the opportunity to have two years of college when they graduate, for making us feel like we are a part of the district with that very particular way you have treated us and made us feel trustfully. I know none of this could have been possible without Mr. Sánchez, members of the district and President Vashaw. I see many positive changes and I thank you for that.

Barb McDowell, 303 Brigitte Drive, Northglenn, CO 80260

Issue: Read Across America and Thank You—I am here speaking as the President of the Classroom Teachers' Association. I am here today because I wanted to thank the district for their support of Read Across America last Monday, March 3. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with Read Across America. At Hanson Elementary we had the entire staff participating in it. At Rose Hill we had the second grade participating. I want to thank Mrs. Quintana and Mr. Rolla for reading with our kids at both of those schools. We had the fire department, Joe Holley Deputy Commissioner of Education, several from CEA and staff were there participating. I want to thank you for letting us participate in Read Across America.

Jason Martinez, 6160 Kearney Street, Commerce City, CO 80022

Issue: Boys & Girls Club Presentation of Club Winners in Youth of the Year—I am the Commerce City Boys and Girls Club Director. We recently had the opportunity to recognize our outstanding members of the year. We had fifteen nominees and they went through a difficult process of two months of preparation and interviews. It is always hard to narrow it down to just two winners because all of the kids are deserving. It is my pleasure to introduce to you the two winners to you tonight. I would like to thank you for your support for allowing us to operate out of Kearney Middle School because without your support we couldn't recognize the youth within Commerce City. Our Junior Youth of the Year is Carol Martinez and our Senior Youth of the Year is Roxana Bustos

Laura Valenzuela, 6026 Forest Drive, Commerce City, CO 80022

Issue: Introducing New Classes for Next Year—I am a Junior at Adams City High School and the Student Board of Education Secretary. I would like to inform you that we have started the registration process at Adams City High School for the 2014-2015 school year

which includes a whole new set of classes that I am extremely excited about, such as robotics, sign language, aviation and Mandarin Chinese. I would just like to let you know how excited we are that these new changes are happening because all of the kids who have already taken all of these classes are extremely excited, me in particular for psychology, it is going to give us a whole new set of opportunities and it will be great going into college so thank you.

Responses to Prior Audience Comments

Mr. Kramarz—I would like to take this opportunity to respond on behalf of the Administration to public comments that were made at the February 25 Board of Education meeting. Several members of the public suggested at that meeting that this Board of Education has received a copy of findings issued by the federal Office of Civil Rights regarding a complaint against the Adams County School District 14 in Commerce City, Colorado, alleging that the District discriminates against students, parents and staff on the basis of their Hispanic national origin. Let me restate that Adams 14 does not have a copy of the Office of Civil Rights' findings document, nor are we aware of those findings having been finalized and issued by the Office of Civil Rights; nor do we know for certain when we will receive the OCR's findings document. We have been in communication with the Office of Civil Rights, who have advised that their issuance of their findings is imminent. The Board of Education voted to approve an agreement to resolve this matter, copies of which we have made public. Any questions about the findings' content, or when they will be finalized and issued, should be directed to their author, the Office of Civil Rights. Their phone number is 303-844-5695. This Board of Education, and the Patrick Sanchez administration, reaffirm their dedication to equity and anti-discrimination. We will not tolerate unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind. On behalf of the administration, I strongly urge anyone who believes they are now being unlawfully discriminated against or harassed to contact my office immediately. We will vigorously investigate these allegations. Finally, let us remember who we serve, and what we stand for. Know that how we speak to each other is being watched by our children. What is the example we as adults set for our children when we behave in an uncivil manner to each other? As Dr. Steel so often says, "Hard on the issue, easy on the person." We ask everyone to consider that wisdom when we interact with each other at our meetings. We appreciate that some may feel that their voices have not been heard. We appreciate that some may feel frustrated with a 2010 complaint that the federal Office of Civil Rights has not brought closure to. But surely all here have the same goal in mind, great education for the children of Adams 14 we serve. While some in the room may have their differences, we must look forward to confront the real challenges ahead. We know that the journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step. Let's all walk forward together, starting today. For example, we have some very exciting initiatives being developed with the University of Colorado's BUENO Center, and their nationally renowned team of experts to partner with us in our continuing equity work, to support our English Language Learners, and to faithfully fulfill the necessary steps listed in the Agreement to Resolve. This Board and administration are taking extraordinary steps to move this District from worst to first. Let's work through our differences in a way that helps our children and sets a good example for our community. We will issue in due course further public statements regarding the Office of Civil Rights matter, as stated in the Agreement to Resolve. We sincerely appreciate your patience, and thank you for your support of Adams 14 public schools.

Superintendent's Report

BUENO Center Partnership—Superintendent Sánchez was proud to announce the partnership with the CU BUENO Center.

RE-1 School District Partnership—Superintendent Sánchez was proud to announce the partnership with RE-1 School District Partnership.

Student Success Act Update—Superintendent Sánchez mentioned that this proactive position allows us to continue to work on eliminating prescriptive mandates and reporting requirements in the bill, and also work toward the payback of the negative factor.

Consent Items

MOTION was made by Mr. Rolla, seconded by Mrs. Morton to approve the consent items as amended.

1.0 Personnel

- 1.1 Superintendent's Recommendation
Personnel Actions

Mrs. Morton, aye; Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

Business Items

1.0 Policy

MOTION was made by Mr. Rolla, seconded by Mrs. Morton to adopt policy item 1.1.

- 1.1 Superintendent's Recommendation
Policy BDAB – Revised
Board Operations

MOTION was made by Mrs. Morton, seconded by Mr. Rolla to amend the current language in policy BDAB to have the second meeting of the month start at 5:00 p.m. instead of 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. Morton, aye; Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION was made by Mr. Rolla, seconded by Mrs. Morton to adopt policy item 1.1.

- 1.1 Superintendent's Recommendation
Policy BDAB – Revised
Board Operations

Mrs. Morton, aye; Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION was made by Mrs. Morton, seconded by Mr. Rolla to adopt policy item 1.2.

- 1.4 Superintendent's Recommendation
Policy KBE and KBE-R – New
Relations with Parent Organizations and Organizational Options for Parent Organizations

Mrs. Morton, aye; Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

Amended 1.3 Business Item

MOTION was made by Mr. Rolla, seconded by Mrs. Morton to cancel the March 25 Board of Education meeting and study session.

Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session

MOTION was made by Mr. Rolla, seconded by Mr. Quintana to move into executive session pursuant to ***C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b)**–Legal Advice; for the Board to discuss and receive legal advice on specific pending legal matters, ***C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e)**– in connection with a pending legal matter, determining positions relative to matters subject to negotiation, and instructing negotiators, and ***C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f)**–Personnel; employment contract.

Mrs. Morton, aye; Mrs. Quintana, aye; Mr. Quintana, aye; Mr. Rolla, aye; Mr. Vashaw, aye

MOTION CARRIED

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 7:33 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be Tuesday, April 8, 2014. The Board will convene in the Board of Education room located at 5291 East 60th Avenue.

Monica Avina
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education

Approved and Entered into Proceedings
March 11, 2014

Mary Morton
Secretary, Board of Education

Robert Vashaw
President, Board of Education