

ENGLEWOOD SCHOOLS
Englewood, Colorado
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
April 6, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

MR. SCOTT GORSKY, President
MS. KAREN MILLER
MS. MICHELLE GONZALEZ
MS. VICKI HOWARD
MR. GENE TURNBULL

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Sean McDaniel, Superintendent
Ms. Peg LaPlante, Asst. Superintendent/CFO
Ms. Callan Clark, Director of Student Services
Ms. Michell Ansley, Director, Academic Achievement

OTHERS PRESENT:

Judy Cain
Martha Palmer
Mark Hicketier
William Marcy
Renee Hughes
Diana Myers
Teresa Harper
David Henderson
Brian Ewert

Principals
Beth Engel
Nikki Westfall
Eva Pasiewicz
Linda McCaslin
Chris Laney-Barnes
Jon Fore
Bobby Thomas
Brooke Davis
Mandy Braun
Bobbie Skaggs

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gorsky, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Roscoe L. Davidson Administration Building.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. McDaniel said there was a Personnel Addendum, with two more teachers who have announced they are retiring. Under Consensus policy IKF was replaced with a new version that had a wording change, in the second paragraph required was changed to recommended.

IV. SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

Englewood High School (EHS) was the featured school this month. Mr. Jon Fore, Principal, presented information on initiatives at EHS, that included improved attendance. Mr. Fore introduced Thomas Hicks, a twelfth grade student, one of only two EHS students with perfect attendance. Mr. Fore pointed out what a difficult accomplishment perfect attendance is and emphasized that Thomas' work ethic was apparent in all areas of his life. Mr. Fore congratulated Thomas and his parents for all their successes. Overall attendance at EHS is up this year at 88%. Mr. Fore credited the kids, their parents, and the assistant principals for calling and following up to increase attendance. A Safe learning environment is the number one priority at EHS. Other initiatives to improve learning include participation in honors and advance placement courses, increasing participation in athletics and activities, a new schedule, along with double dose interventions, 9th grade transition program, and ELA moving to the EHS building. Mr. Fore thanked the Board for not having athletic fees. A short video clip of late-start Monday activities depicted data team work to identify a student's area of weakness so the teacher could focus instruction on a specific learning area. The teacher leading the data team was using eBeam technology that is much less expensive than Smart Boards. Ms. Sheila Jones accompanied 3 members of the Pirateer staff, Becca Erickson, Corrine Winthrop, and Jordan Frickey, who talked about some of their learning experiences from participation in the journalism program. Corrine stated that journalism students are encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and to take on leadership rolls. Jordan said he will be making videos and posting them to a web site next year, this will be a first for schools in the metro area. Englewood has an award winning journalism program. Through participation in the journalism program students receive many opportunities to participate in a variety of events. Teresa Harper, Library Media Teacher, talked about the EHS web site and its interactive features. She talked about using Glogster EDU, a free Internet program, which establishes links on the web site to more information. A poster type picture can be built on Glogster with bits of information then by clicking on an item on the poster you can get additional information. Ms. Harper stresses Internet safety as she teaches the possibilities available on the web. Ms. Harper helps teachers integrate technology into their lessons. She showed several examples of students work that included technology. Diana Myers AVID (Advancement by Individual Determination) and Social Studies teacher provided information on the AVID program that encourages middle/average students to more fully develop their potential. AVID encourages students to become more involved in school. Ms. Myers provided slides that showed the growth of her students due to their individual determination. AVID kids have a 94% attendance rate, 100% of AVID kids have applied to colleges and 93% have been accepted. Only 53% of EHS student over all have completed college applications. AVID's success is a step toward closing the achievement gap and moving kids on to college who without the AVID program may not have continued to college. AVID directs students to think critically, problem solve, and becoming inquiry learners. Currently there are 16 students in the AVID program at EHS. Mr. Fore said the real power of AVID is the dedicated teachers and the positive response they get from kids. Mr. Fore noted that on the EHS Web Site is an area titled "Celebrations" which links to 12 pages of celebrations. He encouraged the board to take a look at all the great things happening at EHS.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Mr. McDaniel and the Board recognized Ken Anderson, Supervisor of Transportation, Mr. McDaniel said safety is the number one priority in Englewood. Englewood's safety program begins every morning at several bus stops throughout Englewood and ends each day with a safe drop off at home. Recently, Englewood was paid a visit by the Colorado Department of Education's School Transportation Unit. Thanks to our talented and caring bus drivers and to all of the support they receive from paras, principals, teachers and parents, they have made hundreds of trips with thousands of students on board this year in a safe and efficient manner. In CDE's words to Kenny Anderson, "It was a pleasure to work with you and your team. Thank you for your efforts toward the safe transportation of your students." Mr. McDaniel offered a big thank you and expressed his and the Board's appreciation to the Englewood Bus Drivers and to Kenny Anderson.
- Beth Engel, Principle of ECE Maddox, was recognized for her excellent program and for receiving the Highest Qualistar rating, which measures the learning environment, family partnerships, staff training and education, and adult-to-child ratios of the early childhood program. The ECE program at Maddox is excellent and Ms. Engel does an amazing job stated Mr. McDaniel.
- Callan Clark, Director of Student Services, was recognized because annually, the Colorado Department of Education conducts an audit of each district's Special Education Department and how they meet federal requirements established by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). Based upon data that is submitted by the district in conjunction with on-site as well as desk audits, a determination is made whether or not the district is adequately meeting the needs of its students. Mr. McDaniel stated that it is his great pleasure to report that Englewood Schools met all six indicators and for every reportable indicator Englewood has surpassed the state's performance! Recognizing that it takes a team, the district is grateful for the leadership of Callan Clark.
- Mr. McDaniel stated that efficiency and professionalism are two words that capture the work and the disposition of the next recipient. We know that behind every administrator there is a secretary who handles calls, takes care of issues before they become problems, poses insightful questions to help the administrator think through a situation and basically runs the office. In this case, our recipient also serves the Board of Education. Linda Felling continues to be a superstar in the Englewood district. Mr. McDaniel added Linda is committed to the students and to the staff and makes the RDAB a great place to work. On behalf of the Board and the Central office staff, Mr. McDaniel said thank you Linda for all you do to make Englewood shine.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

There was no report.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Howard asked that the minutes be amended to show she provided a report from the wellness meeting but did not attend. Mr. Turnbull noted the roll call on the consensus items should be 4-1 not 4-0

Mr. Gorsky moved and Ms. Miller seconded to approve the March 2, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Gorsky, Aye	Ms. Miller, Aye
	Ms. Gonzalez, Aye	Mr. Turnbull, Aye
	Ms. Howard, Aye	Motion Carried, 5-0

Mr. Turnbull moved and Mr. Gorsky seconded to approve the March 16, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Gorsky, Aye	Ms. Miller, Aye
	Ms. Gonzalez, Aye	Mr. Turnbull, Aye
	Ms. Howard, Aye	Motion Carried, 5-0

Ms. Howard moved and Ms. Miller seconded to approve the March 25, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Gorsky, Aye	Ms. Miller, Aye
	Ms. Gonzalez, Aye	Mr. Turnbull, Aye
	Ms. Howard, Aye	Motion Carried, 5-0

IX. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Ms. Miller attended the Parks and Recreation meeting and reported that the community garden is growing and that 3.5 plots are still available. Trees and sod removed from the garden site are being re-purposed to other areas in the city. The city did not receive the grant from Great Outdoors Colorado to pay the remaining portion of the Duncan purchase. The Post Office building on Broadway and Floyd will not be closed and hopefully, will be listed as a historic landmark. Ms. Miller attended the inspiring Rachel's Challenge program at EHS. She also attended the Kid Quest "Lights On" activities and enjoyed the event. Ms. Miller mentioned work has started on the Fall Fling scheduled for October 16 at the City Center.
- Ms. Howard volunteered at the Destination Imagination (DI) event at EHS. Kids of all ages participated in the Destination Imagination contest. Ms. Howard thought this was a very positive event and was happy to be able to help. The sponsors of DI expressed their appreciation for the fact that the high school met all their needs. The organizers also expressed gratitude for all the help the EHS community provided.
- Mr. Gorsky mentioned that he attended City Councilmen Joe Jefferson's and Rick Gillit's community meetings. These two councilmen hold monthly meetings to keep their district residents informed about happenings in Englewood. Mr. Gorsky encouraged people to attend; information is on the City's Web Site.

X. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Mr. McDaniel informed that Delaware and Tennessee were the states selected in the initial round of Race to the Top funding. Colorado will reapply for round two and make adjustments to the proposal based on feedback the state received regarding the initial application. June is the deadline for second round applications.
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XI. ACTION/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Financial Support for the Lobato v Colorado Law Suite

Mr. McDaniel introduced Mr. John Hefty, Director of Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), who was present to provide information on the Lobato v Colorado Law Suite. The suite states that the current funding system of Colorado schools violates the "thorough and uniform" clause of the Colorado constitution. Kathleen Gebhardt, an attorney, has taken this case pro bono but is asking for financial support from across the state to pay for expert witnesses and other expenses. Ms. Gebhardt and Alex Halpern working together have demonstrated their commitment to the Lobato case and have assembled an excellent trail team from one of the largest Denver law firms for the litigation. The Education Clause mandate to the general assembly to establish and maintain a thorough and uniform system of free public schools includes a substantive standard of educational quality. That substantive standard is the same as what is sometimes referred to as educational "adequacy." This indicates the General Assembly is constitutionally required to provide school districts with the funding necessary to meet the constitutional standard of educational quality, explained Mr. Hefty. If the court rules that the current finance system is not legally sufficient, it will rule the system unconstitutional and demand the legislature to adopt a system of funding that meets constitutional requirements. This coupled with a positive vote from Colorado voters would go a long way toward providing funding reform so badly needed to improve education in Colorado. The Colorado Supreme Court has ruled that the state legislature must provide adequate funding for the estimated actual cost of providing an education that would allow students to meet the standards and objectives set forth in the legislatures education reform legislation. If the state mandates requirements it must provide adequate funding to meet those standards and objectives. The Lobato case states the State is not providing adequate funding to meet those standards and objectives. This law suite will be a catalyst for funding reform. Vody Herrman, Director of Public School Finance at the Colorado Department of Education, has stated that \$2.9 billion is needed to accomplish education at the appropriate level. Colorado funds education at a lower level than neighboring States. Mr. Hefty talked about support already in place from law firms, education support groups, and many school districts across Colorado. Money collected for the Lobato case is being kept in a separate account. Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), and Colorado Education Association (CEA) jointly manage the account. Ms. Howard asked if the amount of money requested of districts is equal to pupil count. Mr. Hefty said that is what is recommended however some districts specify another amount. Mr. Gorsky stated that from what he has learned about this case he thinks it could be a "game changer" for public education in Colorado. Ms. Howard asked where the money would come from in

the Englewood Schools budget? Ms. LaPlante stated the money could be taken from line-items and said there is money that was allocated for the election expenses that were not required. Ms. Miller said it is imperative that something is done to support public education and this may be a step toward a solution. She recommended that the district use money from board accounts for funding the Lobato action. Mr. Turnbull stated that he recognizes that some other states may fund education at a higher level but those states also tax at a higher level and some object to increasing taxes. Ms. Howard stated she supports contributing.

Ms. Miller moved and Ms. Gonzalez seconded to approve contributing \$3000 to support the Lobato versus Colorado legal action.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Gorsky, Aye	Ms. Miller, Aye
	Ms. Gonzalez, Aye	Mr. Turnbull, No
	Ms. Howard, Aye	Motion Carried, 4-1

2. Early Childhood Education

Mr. McDaniel informed that the Early Childhood Education (ECE) would be moving to a new schedule. Children in the Part Day program will attend on Tuesday through Friday instead of Monday through Thursday. This will allow ECE staff to participate in late-start Monday staff development and study activities. Tuesday through Friday also works well for busing allowing for better coordination of bus schedules. Attendance statistics show a higher rate of absence on Mondays. Hopefully moving to Tuesday through Friday will increase attendance. Another change would be to begin school all together on August 24, 2010 eliminating the different start dates for Head Start funded students and all other students. This will also increase the amount of school days for all students by five days. Changes for the Full Day program include eliminating the 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. time that traditionally has less than 10 kids, only 3 stay until 6 p.m. Mr. McDaniel said it is not cost effective to continue the service after 5 p.m.

3. Early Childhood Education Tuition Increase

Mr. McDaniel presented information on increasing ECE tuition. The district would like to raise Part Day tuition by \$1.00 per day to align with the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) reimbursement that would mean changing from \$14.00 to \$15.00 per day. The Full Day program requested tuition changes include increasing before and after school care by \$2.00 per session to \$5.00 or \$10.00 per day. For 5-days per week School Day 8am-4pm tuition would be \$27.00 per day, a \$2.00 increase. For less than 5-days per week tuition would be \$30.00 per day, a \$3.00 increase. School Day Monday – Friday 8am-4pm with part day funding will remain the same at \$18.00 per day.

Mr. Turnbull moved and Ms. Gonzalez seconded to approve increasing tuition rates for ECE as presented.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Gorsky, Aye	Ms. Miller, Aye
	Ms. Gonzalez, Aye	Mr. Turnbull, Aye
	Ms. Howard, Aye	Motion Carried, 5-0

4. Consensus Items

Consensus items d. and e. were pulled, at the request of Mr. Turnbull, so the board could vote on these items separately.

Ms. Miller moved and Mr. Gorsky seconded, to approve the consensus items as follows:

- a. Personnel Recommendations and Addendum
- b. Head Start Grant
- c. 2010-2011 Calendar (2nd Reading)
- f. Policy BEDB Board Agendas (2nd Reading)
- g. Policy JKD/JKE Suspension/Expulsion of Students (1st Reading)
- h. Policy JICI Weapons in School (1st Reading)
- i. Policy JFBB Inter-District Choice/Open Enrollment (1st Reading)

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Gorsky, Aye	Ms. Miller, Aye
Ms. Gonzalez, Aye	Mr. Turnbull, Aye
Ms. Howard, Aye	Motion Carried, 5-0

Ms. Miller moved and Ms. Gonzalez seconded to approve consensus items

- d. Policy IKF Graduation Requirements EHS (2nd Reading)
- e. Policy IKFC Diplomas (2nd Reading)

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Gorsky, Aye	Ms. Miller, Aye
Ms. Gonzalez, Aye	Mr. Turnbull, No
Ms. Howard, Aye	Motion Carried, 4-1

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

A list of upcoming Board events is provided in the agenda.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McDaniel provided these items in the form of a memorandum.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Gorsky adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Scott Gorsky, President
Board of Education

Linda Felling, Secretary to the
Superintendent and Board of Education

Date Approved