

ENGLEWOOD SCHOOLS
Englewood, Colorado
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
August 1, 2006

2006-91-(1)

MEMBERS PRESENT: MS. KAREN MILLER, Presiding
MR. SCOTT GORSKY
MS. HEATHER HUNT
MRS. SHERRY SCAGGIARI
MS. SHELLEY THOMPSON

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. James McCabe, Superintendent
Mr. Chris Gramstorff, COO
Ms. Joan Diedrich, Director, Student Services
Ms. Peg LaPlante, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Dale Stout, Director, Technology
Ms. Mary Vedra, Director, Learning Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Marsha Harrington, Principal, Maddox
Ms. Corey Dahl, *Englewood Herald*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Miller, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Roscoe L. Davidson Administration Building.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. McCabe said there would be a personnel addendum. The agenda was adopted as amended.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hunt expressed the concern that Item 3.d. Updated Policy 3411-Flag Display-2nd Reading did not explain Ms. Thompson's opposition to the proposed policy update. It was agreed to update this section with additional detail.

Ms. Hunt moved, and Ms. Thompson seconded, to approve the July 11, 2006, Regular Meeting Minutes, with the exception of d. under Number 3, Consensus Items.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gorsky, Aye Mrs. Scaggiari, Abstain
Ms. Hunt, Aye Ms. Thompson, Aye
Ms. Miller, Aye Motion Carried, 4-1

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS AND RECOGNITION

There were no special reports and recognition.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Ms. Miller attended the recent Parks and Recreation meeting and reported the following:
 - There has been a request to put a Horseshoe Pit in at Duncan Park.
 - The Grand Opening for Englewood Canine Corral, Englewood's new Dog Park, will be August 12.
 - Englewood is hosting a Fun Run/Fun Fest at Belleview Park on August 26. Ms. Hunt volunteered to work a dunk tank at this event.
 - The Englewood Days Car Show will be held on September 9. The Car Show will consist of tractors, tanks, monster trucks, a fishing derby, and more. They hope to make this an annual event.
 - There were some concerns from the public regarding the 4th of July picnic at Belleview Park. There was quite a bit of alcohol and drunkenness at this event. People would like to see officers on bikes patrolling through the park, which they did at one time.
- Ms. Thompson provided the following update on the Englewood Education Foundation:
 - The foundation is in its rebuilding phase, which is going well. She believes they have the right people involved and momentum is starting to turn around. Mr. Bob Simpson, Economic Development Director for City of Englewood, has been recruited as a member. Ms. Thompson noted that this was a great move and that Mr. Simpson has already become an active member. Dr. McCabe added that the difference between the Foundation between last year and this year is amazing.
 - Upcoming fundraisers include a car raffle and the Fall Fling, which is planned for November 11, with a USO theme.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. McCabe reported the following:

- The District Financial Advisory Committee will submit it's recommendation to Dr. McCabe next week. Dr. McCabe will come to the Board on August 15th with his recommendation. They will discuss next steps at this meeting. Dr. McCabe said the committee did a great job.
- Yesterday, the District received the first draft of the CDE audit of the student count for 2004, 2005, and 2006. The audit results show the District owing \$977,219.93. Dr. McCabe explained that the District is audited on student count every three years. Three years ago, CDE told the District they were doing the count correctly, but this year, because of a new group of auditors and a different interpretation, there is this large discrepancy. This is not a final amount. The process involves verifying data and the option of multiple appeals. The District needs to review data for 256 kids.
- The CDE Accreditation On-Site Review was done on July 31 at the administration building with Ms. Mary Vedra as the presenter. The review was very positive and they received good feedback from CDE.
- Qualistat Early Learning has rated Englewood's Early Childhood program as a 4-star preschool, which is the highest rating available.

- Due to a new interpretation by the state, the District needed to redo schedules for secondary schools so they meet the required 1056 hours of teacher-pupil contact time.
- Dr. McCabe will be out of the office for the next three days. He will be attending the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) conference.

Ms. Hunt asked how the Strategic Planning process was going. Dr. McCabe replied that all action teams are meeting. They will need more time than originally planned to complete their work. Once the action teams are finished, the original Strategic Planning Team will meet again and create the Strategic Plan document, which goes to the Board for approval, then becomes operational.

IX. ACTION/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Current Recess Practices

Ms. LaPlante provided the Board with information on current recess practices from each of the District schools. Next year, three elementary schools and one middle school will offer recess before lunch. Last year, two elementary schools offered this schedule and it worked well. Students do not rush through eating to go outside and having lunch after recess provides students the opportunity to settle down before going back to the classroom.

Ms. Thompson asked what the cons would be if elementary schools offered a 15 minute recess separate from the lunch/recess period. She said that she has heard from many parents that they would like to see an additional recess time offered. Ms. Vedra replied that the biggest con is loss of instructional time. She explained that research shows that what works is “time on task” and additional recess time would take away from “time from task”. Additional concerns include possible reductions in planning time, which there is not enough of now, and questions about who would supervise during an additional recess break. Mrs. Scaggiari suggested that another option might be offering shorter stretch breaks throughout the day. Ms. Harrington, Maddox Principal, who was in the audience, said that kids are not just sitting during instructional time. There is movement during instruction. Ms. Vedra added that three of the elementary schools are PEAK schools, which includes movement as part of the learning environment. It was suggested that Board members visit the schools to see the type of activity that is currently going on.

There was discussion around whether additional recess time helped or hurt student achievement as there seems to be research supporting both sides. Ms. Hunt suggested that the Board/administration survey the elementary schools—teachers, principals, and parent committees—to gather their input regarding additional recess time. Dr. McCabe agreed this was a good idea and something they should pursue once school has been back in session for a while.

2. Consensus Items

Mr. Gorksy moved, and Mrs. Scaggiari seconded, to approve the consensus items as follows:

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Gorsky, Aye
Ms. Hunt, Aye
Ms. Miller, Aye

Mrs. Scaggiari, Aye
Ms. Thompson, Aye
Motion Carried, 5-0

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Ms. Karen Miller, President
Board of Education

Jill Rogers, Secretary to the
Board of Education

Date Approved