

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUEBLO SCHOOL DISTRICT 60

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 (5:30 PM)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Pannunzio called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Brian Cisneros

Kathy DeNiro

Dennis Maes

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Richard E. Bump, Attorney

2.0 CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Board Member Maes inquired as to whether or not the Board President would be making an announcement about a conversation held between the President and Vice President in regards to limiting the questions following the finalist interviews. Board Member Maes asked for point of privilege to make a statement informing the public about the discussion that occurred between the two board members and moved to amend the agenda to allow an opportunity to give the statement.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Dennis Maes)** Moved, Member **(William Thiebaut, Jr.)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board of Education grant permission to Board Member Maes to provide a public statement. The motion was withdrawn by Board Member Maes..

Attorney Bump asked for clarification of the request by Board Member Maes stating that a unanimous vote would be necessary to amend the agenda. Board Member Maes stated that the community has called into question the transparency in which the Board is proceeding with regard to the superintendent search. An email had been sent by Board Member Maes to the Board and Attorney Bump had provided a response to the email.

Board Member Thiebaut voiced his opinion that a motion was not required and stated that courtesy is extended to members on the question of privilege and requested that the privilege be granted by the Board President. Board Chair Pannunzio expressed a desire to proceed with the agenda and suggested that discussion be placed following the finalist interviews.

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation: It is requested that the Board of Education adopts the agenda for April 24, 2024 as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Dennis Maes)** Moved, Member **(William Thiebaut Jr.)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'It is requested that the Board of Education adopts the agenda for April 24, 2024 as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

2024 Superintendent Finalists Interviews

The Board of Education conducted interviews of the two finalists for the position of Pueblo School District No. 60 Superintendent. The interviews were open to the public. The superintendent finalists interviewed were Dr. Shon Hocker, Superintendent of Coeur d'Alene School District #271, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Dr. Barbara Kimzey, Chief Schools Officer of Norfolk Public Schools, Norfolk, Virginia.

Following the finalist interviews, Board Member Maes made a statement regarding the transparency of the superintendent search process and a decision made to shut down the community comment portal without advance notice to the public. Board Member Maes expressed a concern that, despite the commitment to transparency, neither President Pannunzio nor Dr. DeNiro informed Board Member Maes of the conversation nor sought his opinion. Board Member Maes asked on what authority was given to close the link and clearly stated that he had not delegated his responsibilities as a school board member to anyone to make those decisions on his behalf.

Attorney Bump responded to Judge Maes' email stating that the suggested procedure to end comments via the link ten minutes after the last interview was suggested by the search firm Hazard, Young & Attea only to give the board members time to review comments on their computers in the boardroom before going into executive session to prioritize the finalists.

RECESS

The Board of Education called a recess to provide time for the Board to read any comments that may have been submitted this evening via the link on the district website.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Susan Pannunzio)** Moved, Member **(Kathy DeNiro)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board of Education will take a recess'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

After a brief recess, the Board of Education reconvened in Open Session and motioned to meet in executive session.

9:17 PM - EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recommendation: The Board of Education will meet in executive session. Having conducted and completed interviews with each of the finalists in a forum open to the public, the Board will meet with and instruct the district's legal counsel and our superintendent search consultants in order to prioritize, for purposes of negotiation, one or more finalists and to initiate contract negotiations concerning the terms of an employment contract with

one or more finalists for the position of superintendent, pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(i)(I) and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(i)(III)-72 minutes.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Susan Pannunzio)** Moved, Member **(Kathy DeNiro)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board of Education will reconvene and consider a motion to move into executive session'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

10:29 PM – The Board reconvened in Open Session.

12.0 ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent Search and Selection Process

The Board of Education engaged in a discussion regarding the 2024 superintendent search process and took action to select Dr. Barbara Kimzey as the sole finalist and delegated authority to the Board President and legal counsel to negotiate an employment contract for consideration by the Board of Education in a subsequent public meeting.

Recommendation: The Board of Education selects Dr. Barbara Kimzey as the sole finalist for the position of superintendent and delegates authority to the Board President and legal counsel to negotiate an employment contract for consideration by the Board of Education in a subsequent public meeting as presented in the April 24, 2024 Board materials.

SUBSTITUTE - Motion

Member Thiebaut moved a substitute motion for the Board of Education to reject the two finalists, Dr. Shon Hocker and Dr. Barbara Kimzey, and that the Board resume the search process with our search consultants Hazard, Young & Attea and pending that search process and its completion, set a process in motion to appoint an acting superintendent until such time as the superintendent is selected. The motion received no second; therefore, the motion died.

SUBSTITUTE - Motion

Member Dennis Maes Moved, Member William Thiebaut, Jr. Seconded to approve the **SUBSTITUTE motion** 'The Board of Education invites the other two finalists from the tier one group of candidates that initially applied, and have them go through the same process that the candidates that the Board had here today, and, subsequent to that, then, make a decision as to who, if anyone should become the superintendent of District 60.' . Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **2** Nay: **3**. The motion **Failed. 3-2**, Ayes: Dennis Maes, William Thiebaut; Nos: Brian Cisneros, Kathy DeNiro, Susan Pannunzio

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Kathy DeNiro)** Moved, Member **(Brian Cisneros)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board of Education selects Dr. Barbara Kimzey as the sole finalist for the position of superintendent and delegates authority to the Board President and legal counsel to negotiate an employment contract for consideration by the Board of Education in a subsequent public meeting as presented in the April 24, 2024 Board materials'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **3** Nay: **2**. The motion **Carried. 3-2**; Ayes: Brian Cisneros, Kathy DeNiro, Susan Pannunzio; Nos: Dennis Maes, William Thiebaut, Jr.

Prior to the adjournment, Board President Pannunzio announced that the special school board meeting noticed for April 25, 2024 had been cancelled.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Kathy DeNiro)** Moved, Member **(Brian Cisneros)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 pm'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**