

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUEBLO SCHOOL DISTRICT 60

Thursday, April 6, 2023 (2:00 PM)

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#### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board President Thomas Farrell called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Barbara Clementi

Thomas Farrell

Kathy DeNiro

Anthony Perko

Soledad Sandoval Tafoya (attended remotely via audio)

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

#### 2.0 CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Board Vice President DeNiro asked the Board to consider adding Communications to the agenda. Board Member Clementi asked for clarification as to whether the request would be for discussion or a resolution. Board Vice President DeNiro clarified that the Attorney General is seeking a response or comments from the individuals regarding mental health concerns in Pueblo County. Attorney Bump reviewed the procedure for adding an agenda item.

#### ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Kathy DeNiro**) Moved, Member (**Soledad Sandoval Tafoya**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board of Education amends the agenda for April 6, 2023 as modified'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

#### 3.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

##### Adoption of Agenda

**Recommendation:** It is requested that the Board of Education adopts the agenda for April 6, 2023 as modified.

#### ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Anthony Perko**) Moved, Member (**Thomas Farrell**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'It is requested that the Board of Education adopts the agenda for April 6, 2023 as modified'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

#### WORK SESSION

##### Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority (PURA) Presentation on the Potential Collaboration on the Sale of District Surplus Property

Mr. Jerry Pacheco, Executive Director of Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority, presented information on how the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority (PURA) can collaborate with the District in the potential marketing, sale and redevelopment of Carlile and Strack. Mr. Pacheco stated that CS

Winds announced a new expansion project. The school district does have surplus properties and PURA is examining whether the properties are in the Urban Renewal District. The Authority works for the redevelopment and to maximize the return for the District, which is also a benefit to the taxpayers. The conversation is a first step discussion of exploring a pilot project such as teacher workforce housing. With respect to Carlile Elementary School, it is a historic asset and also been respectful to the property. Mr. Pacheco proposed through the Authority to facilitate a master proposal to identify a redevelopment category that is acceptable. Executive Director Robert Lawson stated that the District originally sold Strack Center, but it was deeded back to the District. The building is approximately 10,000 square feet in an area that could benefit from economic development. Board Member Perko asked if PURA was involved with revitalization of the Edison School building. Mr. Pacheco stated that Edison School was a Pueblo Housing Authority project. It is the hope that the project would not include state and federal funding. Mr. Pacheco spoke to the Historic Preservation component of the Carlile redevelopment project. Attorney Bump stated that a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted and approved by the PURA legal counsel.

### **FY 2021-2022 Annual Financial Report**

Tom Sistare of Hoelting and Company, Inc., Certified Public Accountants, provided an overview of the District's FY 2021-2022 financial report. The audit was designed on the results of the examination of financial examination completed over three days. The completion of the audit was delayed due to the delay of financial reporting by the charter schools. Chavez Huerta Preparatory Academy (CHPA) audit was completed in February and Pueblo School for the Arts and Sciences (PSAS) audit was presented in March. Within the financial statements were fund statements and government-wide statements. There were no Internal Controls findings. Federal awards were Title I and ESSER. The overall recommendation was to work with charter schools to complete the charter school audits on time.

### **Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Adoption Report .**

Kim McLaughlin, Secondary Literacy and Social Studies Specialist, reviewed the curriculum adoption process. The Task Force was comprised of 24 members that included District and school staff (middle school and high school). The Social Studies course adoptions were selected for middle and high school. The middle school recommendation was McGraw Hill Learning for Grades 6-8. The high school recommendation was McGraw Hill Learning; Bedford, Freeman & Worth; and Gale in Context (supplemental materials in digital only). Ryan Putnam, Roncalli STEM Academy 6th grade social studies teacher, participated in the Social Studies Task Force. Mr. Putnman provided a perspective of the McGraw Hill curriculum and recommendation the adoption of the McGraw Hill curriculum. Ann Fadenrecht, Centennial High School Social Studies Department Chair, discussed the new resources of McGraw Hill. The budget for the social studies adoption for five years for McGraw Hill (middle & high school resources) \$672,576/82; Bedford, Freeman and Worth (High School AP and Psychology) \$76,284.60; National Geographic Learning/Cengage (High School Resources) \$24,409.88; 1 to 1 Digital Access, Supplements all proposed adopted curriculum, PD Gale in Context \$421,700.00. The total amounted to \$1,194,971.30.

### **District 60 Purchasing Policies and Procedures Report**

Executive Director Robert Lawson provided information regarding the District's purchasing policies and practices that the district currently utilizes and also responded to the questions presented by the Board at its March 14th meeting. In response to Board Member Perko's question

on the purchasing threshold requirement for Board approval, it was strongly recommended that the current levels established by the Board policy remain at \$250,000 before the Board approval is required. Mr. Lawson added that \$250,000 should be the minimum level to ensure that the district can function without interruption or delay delaying procurements by lowering the purchasing limit under this threshold and requiring board approval for what have become routine purchases and services can and will likely have significant negative repercussions on district operations. Lowering the purchasing limit will cause disruptions for the district in resolving issues like building repairs and other urgent purchasing needs while waiting 2 to 4 weeks or more for Board approval as was previously reported.

Mr. Lawson reported that inflationary increases over the past seven years and the unprecedented escalation in the cost of almost everything since 2021 has resulted in the majority of procurements for gypsum facilities department alone now being over \$50,000.

In response to President Farrell's question about the types of procurement practices district utilizes, purchases is greater than \$25,000 must be better quoted using either formal or informal bid procedures. Formal documented bids and quotes are required for purchases over \$100,000. Purchases of less than \$25,000 can be directly selected from vendors, but obtaining multiple quotes whenever possible always encouraged.

The request for proposals or RFP type of procurement, which is probably the most commonly used type of solicitation that we use in the district. This type of procurement requires vendors to submit their qualifications along with cost proposals. Another type of procurement used by the district is a request for quotes. This is a lower level type of a purchasing solicitation or semi-formal in nature. This is what is often used for those procurements under \$100,000.

Lastly, the contracts for purchasing and obtaining various services were created by the District legal counsel. These contracts are another layer to help protect the district and ensure that all forms of procurement are legally documented.

### **FY 2023 -2024 Proposed Budget Update**

Chief Financial Officer David Horner reported that the District ended the year in a sound position and will begin the new fiscal year in a sound position. The cutoff for spending for the FY2022-2023 is April 21, 2023. It is projected that school districts will receive reduced state funding. The Long Bill does not have any budget stabilization. CFO Horner stated the District is a declining enrollment district and ESSER II funding will end. Board Member Clementi voiced concern and stated that the District may be closer to the 'fiscal cliff' than anticipated. She suggested that we contact our legislators. CFO Horner added that the District has been financially responsible. Board President Farrell suggested that we communicate with Tracy Rainey of the Colorado School Finance Project. Board member Clementi added that the Board will need to be prepared to take action, if needed. Board Member Sandoval encouraged individuals to call or email legislators with concerns. The School Finance Act is expected to drop on April 10, 2023.

## **11.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board of Education was asked to approve the Consent Agenda Items 2-9.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda Items 2-9 as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Barbara Clementi)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Perko)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda Items 2-9 as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

## **2. Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Adoption Recommendation**

The Board of Education was asked to approve the recommendation of the Secondary Social Studies Adoption Task Force to adopt Cengage Learning, Inc. (National Geographic Learning), Macmillan Holdings LLC (Bedford, Freeman & Worth), McGraw Hill LLC, and Cengage Learning, Inc. (Gale) curriculum.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the recommendation of the Secondary Social Studies Adoption Task Force to adopt Cengage Learning, Inc. (National Geographic Learning), Macmillan Holdings LLC (Bedford, Freeman & Worth), McGraw Hill LLC, and Cengage Learning, Inc. (Gale) curriculum as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

## **3. Contracts and Agreements: Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum Between Macmillan Holdings LLC (Bedford, Freeman & Worth) and Pueblo School District No. 60**

The Board of Education was asked to approve the Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum between Macmillan Holdings LLC (Bedford, Freeman & Worth) and Pueblo School District No. 60 in the amount of \$76,284.60 for the purchase of the new AP 9th-12th grade Social Studies curriculum.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum between Macmillan Holdings LLC (Bedford, Freeman & Worth) and Pueblo School District No. 60 in the amount of \$76,284.60 for the purchase of the new AP 9th-12th grade Social Studies curriculum as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

## **4. Contracts and Agreements: Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum Between Cengage Learning, Inc. (National Geographic Learning) and Pueblo School District No. 60**

The Board of Education was asked to approve the Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum between Cengage Learning, Inc. (National Geographic Learning) and Pueblo School District No. 60 in the amount of \$24,409.88 for the purchase of the new 9th-12th grade Social Studies curriculum.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum between Cengage Learning, Inc. (National Geographic Learning) and Pueblo School District No. 60 in the amount of \$24,409.88 for the purchase of the new 9th-12th grade Social Studies curriculum as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

## **5. Contracts and Agreements: Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum Between Cengage Learning, Inc. (Gale) and Pueblo School District No. 60**

The Board of Education was asked to approve the Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum between Cengage Learning, Inc. (Gale) and Pueblo School District No. 60 in the amount of \$421,700.00 for the purchase of the new 6th-12th grade Supplemental Digital Social Studies curriculum.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum Between Cengage Learning, Inc. (Gale) and Pueblo School District No. 60 in the amount of \$421,700.00 for the purchase of the new 6th-12th grade Supplemental Digital Social Studies curriculum as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

## **6. Contracts and Agreements: Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum Between McGraw Hill LLC and Pueblo School District No. 60**

The Board of Education was asked to approve the Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum between McGraw Hill LLC and Pueblo School District No. 60 in the amount of \$672,576.82 for the purchase of the new 6th-12th grade Social Studies curriculum.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the Independent Consulting Agreement and Addendum between McGraw Hill LLC and Pueblo School District No. 60 in the amount of

\$672,576.82 for the purchase of the new 6th-12th grade Social Studies curriculum as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

**7. Contracts and Agreements: Memorandum of Understanding between Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County and Pueblo School District No. 60**

The Board of Education was asked to accept the agreement between Pueblo District 60 and the Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County. This agreement covers the East Side (Risley) Clubhouse and a proposed new clubhouse site at Pueblo Academy of Arts for Middle School Students (pending grant approval). Pueblo D60 and the Boys and Girls Club have a long and productive history that provides after school and Friday programming for students including Academic Support, Career development, Healthy Lifestyles, and Student Leadership.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County and Pueblo School District No. 60 as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

**8. 2023-2028 Magnet Schools Assistance Program Resolution**

The Board of Education was asked to adopt the 2023-2028 Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) Resolution.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education adopts the 2023-2028 Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) Resolution as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

**9. 2022-2023 CDE Accreditation Contract**

The Board of Education was asked to approve the Colorado Board of Education Accreditation Contract for Pueblo School District No. 60 as accredited with an Improvement Plan.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the accreditation contract between Pueblo School District 60 and the Colorado Department of Education as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

**12.0 ACTION ITEMS**

**Administrative Leadership Appointment/Reassignment**

The Board of Education was asked to approve the superintendent's recommendation for administrative leadership appointment/reassignment of Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning.

1. Theodore Johnson from Executive Director of Continuous Improvement and Innovation to Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning effective July 1, 2023.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the superintendent's recommendation for administrative appointment/reassignment of Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials.

**Comments by Board Member DeNiro prior to roll call vote:** Yes, I do have some items I want to discuss respectfully. First of all, I want to take this opportunity to clarify my vote today for this position. First of all, I want to make it clear that this is not directed to any individual or individuals, but to a financial responsibility to the community.

For months now, this Board has received information regarding the ESSER cliff in 2024, and we continue to have budget conversations at most meetings. Budget issues are not new to this district as we have seen and felt it many times. I have seen this throughout my career and service on the Board. Because of budget cuts, I was a reduction in force or RIF as a teacher. Because of budget cuts, as a building principal, I had the unpleasant duty of handing out termination notifications to teachers and other staff members. Because of budget cuts, as a central administrator, I saw many of my colleagues lose their positions because of department cuts. Because of budget cuts, as a Board member, I saw firsthand the agony of school closures. When I look at reductions, I look at farthest from the classroom. Those that can give, those that can be given a moratorium on filling, which this district has done before. Secondly, some months ago, I



asked... I was asked by community members to look at the numbers of staff located at the administrative center.

In turn, I asked for an organization in salary chart of the Administrative Center. All board members were given the information as well as teacher salaries for all buildings. When looking at the spreadsheet specifically for this building, I calculated the salary amount for the administrative building of over \$5.8 million. In turn, when I looked at the code for one of our larger high schools, it was \$3.8 million. \$5.8 million versus \$3.8 million, a large difference with those at a building level in direct contact with children each day of the year.

Let me be clear. I am not suggesting that the administration staff is cut completely. However, in times of budget crisis, it is reasonable to consider holding positions or reorganizing positions and to redistribute those funds closer to the classroom. Finally, I do not support a multi-year contract in this particular position. Previously, the position was similar to a site administrator position, which is an at will position.

The argument might be that these positions are hard to fill or to find people. Based on the number of people applying for admin administrative positions now, I don't believe that is the case. I believe teacher positions are hard to fill. As with all decisions made by the Board, I will respectfully move forward with the majority decision. Thank you.

**Comments by Board Member Perko prior to roll call vote:** In relation to Dr. DeNiro's comments, some of what she said has registered me as well, but I will be voting to support this measure as I said I would back when they first came up for us in February 21st. I think that some of the concerns that she raises are valid and something that this Board should be keeping an eye on in the future discussions. That won't affect my vote this afternoon, however.

**Comments by Board Member Clementi prior to roll call vote:** I have to agree that we need to take an overall look at the district. I think right sizing is the term that's used. But I do want to point out that the positions in the ad building support the classrooms and the buildings. And if it wasn't very long ago that we had a state winner...several state winners with Minnequa and several others who were very clear that their success was directly due to the support they received, both from the assistant superintendent, which this position is and the Director of what are you now? Yeah, I can't remember. I'm sorry. And so I think we need to take that into consideration. The success that the district has had over the last six or eight years is due to the hard work of everyone, every single person. And I think that's enough for now.

**Comments by Board Member Sandoval Tafoya prior to roll call vote:** So, while I realize that I am just one vote and, you know, I kind of share a lot of the sentiments that Dr. De Niro shared. You know, I truly stand in solidarity with the staff and the educators who are currently having to work more than one more job, more than one job. And I relate because I have to work more than one job to provide for my family. And so with us being this concerned about budget cuts and everything, it's something that I'm going to take into account as we move forward with this.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Thomas Thomas Farrell)** Moved, Member **(Barbara Clementi)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board of Education approves the superintendent's recommendation for administrative appointment/reassignment of Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning as presented in the April 6, 2023 Board materials'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **3** (Barbara Clementi, Thomas Farrell, Anthony Perko) Nay: **2** (Kathy DeNiro, Soledad Sandoval Tafoya). The motion **(CARRIED)**. **3 - 2**

#### 4:06 PM - EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Recommendation:** The Board of Education will meet in executive session to discuss developing the strategy of the School District for negotiations relating to collective bargaining contracts with PEA; PESPA; PPEA; ACME; Executive and Accounting Assistants; Document Services Employees; Schedule B Specialized Support Employees; and Schedule C Administrative, Professional, and Technical Exempt Employees, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e)(III).

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Barbara Clementi)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Perko)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board of Education will meet in executive session to discuss developing the strategy of the School District for negotiations relating to collective bargaining contracts with PEA; PESPA; PPEA; ACME; Executive and Accounting Assistants; Document Services Employees; Schedule B Specialized Support Employees; and Schedule C Administrative, Professional, and Technical Exempt Employees, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e)(III)'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**; The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

The Board of Education met in executive session to discuss developing the strategy of the School District for negotiations relating to collective bargaining contracts with PEA; PESPA; PPEA; ACME; Executive and Accounting Assistants; Document Services Employees; Schedule B Specialized Support Employees; and Schedule C Administrative, Professional, and Technical Exempt Employees, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e)(III).

Board Member Sandoval Tafoya left the meeting prior to adjournment.

#### 15.0 ADJOURNMENT

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Anthony Perko)** Moved, Member **(Barbara Clementi)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm '. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**; Absent: Soledad Sandoval Tafoya. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**