

# ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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**ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING February 13, 2017 (Business Meeting)**

A Business Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, February 13, 2017 in the Board Room, District Office.

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Deb Spenceley called the Business Session BOE Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Carol Hinds  
Director Dee Lindsey  
Director Chris Richardson  
Director Richard Smith  
Director Deb Spenceley

Also present: Superintendent Douglas Bissonette  
Chief Finance Director Ron Patera  
Human Resources Director Kin Shuman  
Technology Director Marty Silva  
Communications Director Melissa Hoelting  
Frontier High School Principal Rob McMullen

### **3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Deb Spenceley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE**

#### **Frontier High School Education Showcase**

Frontier High School provides alternative learning options for students who have not experienced success in a traditional high school setting. All students must apply to attend and meet certain expectations to be enrolled. About 50 students are currently enrolled at Frontier High School and 13 students are expected to graduate from the school this spring.

At Frontier High School, students receive individualized learning through interactive curriculum. Students participate in vocational programs, team-building activities and community service learning. The school also offers experiential education opportunities through trips to places such as Mesa Verde, Bent's Fork, Mt. Rushmore, the Denver Zoo and ski resorts.

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Class sizes are small and the school has the ability to offer a variety of courses. This year Frontier High School added a coding class and the social studies teacher has a global crime class. The school's science teacher has a background in forensics and she's creating a crime scene for her class where students will learn the scientific process and techniques used in crime detection. The school hosted a haunted house in October that was attended by more than 150 community members. The haunted house came about as a project from the language arts instructor's Gothic literature unit.

Each student is expected to create a portfolio through the course of their time at Frontier High School that focuses on their experiences at the school and their personal and academic growth. The goal is to help students take more ownership of their education and their future plans. During the final quarter of their senior year, students complete their portfolio and present it to a board of teachers and other community members.

Out of 91 alternative learning campuses across the state, Frontier High School is ranked third and received an 86.26% on the Colorado Department of Education's 2016 Performance Frameworks.

Frontier High School has been working with the Opportunity Program more and has had some integration with staff and with students taking classes at FHS.

Principal McMullen mentioned he has seen an increased need for mental help support. Connections for Families will soon move their offices to the Frontier High School campus and will be more engaged with students and provide some support.

### **5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/BLANKET MOTION**

A motion was made to approve the amended agenda.

Motion moved by Director Hinds

Motion seconded by Director Richardson

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

### **6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6.1 A motion was made to approve the minutes from meeting January 23, 2017.

Motion Moved by Director Richardson

Motion Seconded by Director Lindsey

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

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## 7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

### 7.1 HR Update

HR Director Kin Shuman is preparing for annual job fairs that take place in March and April. He's also planning to provide contracts for the 2017-18 school year to certified and classified staff in late March or April. Being able to provide contracts a few months before the end of the school years help employees plan for the upcoming school year and it has a positive impact on staff retention.

Shuman posted the Running Creek Elementary office manager position to find a replacement for Cheri Sneth who is retiring at the end of the school year. A third-grade teaching position for Running Creek Elementary was also posted to replace a teacher who is leaving the district.

Shuman is working to update the employee handbook that will be distributed to new teachers this summer.

### 7.2 Technology Update

Technology Director Marty Silva shared an update on the technology investments that were made across the district in the 2015-16 school year. Larger investments included the phone system upgrade, shoring up the network and new Chromebooks. A complete list of investments can be found on technology fact sheet that's posted on the district website.

Silva is working with Elizabeth High School to recruit applicants for the Student Technology Professional (STP) program. The goal of the program is to "employ" an Elizabeth High School senior during one block time to give them hands-on experience in the tech field, and give them the opportunity to get an industry standard tech certification (A+) by the end of the school year.

Silva's team is preparing for CMAS and PARCC testing that begins March 27. The team has participated in technology readiness meetings with the Colorado Department of Education. Some software updates need to be made each prior to testing, which is typical.

Blackboard has been selected as the new vendor for the district and school websites. The district is currently in the final year of a three-year contract with its current provider. The new websites are scheduled to launch July 1, 2017.

### 7.2 Chief Finance Director Update

Chief Financial Director Ron Patera reviewed checks over \$5,000 and financial statements. In addition to the normal monthly expenditures, such as utilities, there were payments for design services of the Elizabeth High School roof, a couple of contractual special education services, final payment for the Singing Hills Elementary roofer and engineering services for the Singing Hills Elementary wastewater treatment system.

Patera reported that as of the end of December, which is 50% of the way through the district's fiscal year, general fund revenues after allocations were 34.70% and expenditures and transfers stood at 45.75% expended.

A routine audit of Elizabeth Schools' Food Services Department was conducted recently. Food Services was dinged for not serving a full two servings of grains in its hamburger buns at Elizabeth High School. The buns contained .01% non-creditable grains. Because of .01% non-creditable grains the total grains had to be rounded down to 1.75. To make up for the .01% non-creditable grains, Food Services will provide six whole-wheat goldfish or a whole-wheat graham cracker. The requirements are very particular; however, the district risks losing federal reimbursement if not adhered to, which would preclude the district from maintaining reasonable pricing.

Patera projects that for the 2017-18 school year Elizabeth Schools will be down about 108 students over the current year. Elizabeth Schools will receive less funding next school year due to the declining student enrollment and very modest new dollars from the state – less than the rate of inflation.



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The following are some observations from the Colorado Legislative Council Chief Economist Natalie Mullis' outlook on the state education budget. Mullis said funding for public schools is not keeping pace with the number of students or with inflation. State funding is currently 11.5% lower than what was to be provided to school districts under Amendment 23. She said the state's revenue problems likely won't be resolved before the next recession. Some of the state budget challenges impacting public schools include the following.

- Increased pressures on the state budget from transportation infrastructure needs
- Medicaid spending has increased 223% since 2001, and this does not include the newly eligible caseload under the Affordable Care Act
- The Residential Assessment Rate will be reduced from 7.96% to 6.85% in 2018 and then to 6.10% a few years later due to the Gallagher Amendment. Under the Gallagher Amendment, the ratio of non-residential to residential property taxes has to be 45% residential/55% non-residential. Currently it's a 75% residential/25% non-residential ratio. The decrease in revenue from residential property taxes will increase the burden on the state to make up the loss from other sources.
- Under the Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) the non-residential assessment rate can't be raised unless approved by a vote
- The State Education Fund is nearly depleted
- The economy is starting to lose steam

### 7.3 Superintendent Report

Superintendent Douglas Bissonette has participated in a number of meetings recently where School Finance Act modernization has been discussed. Bissonette continues to pose the question of how any changes would affect teacher salary equity.

Bissonette presented to the Colorado Education Policy Program participants and he participated in conversations with elected officials, builders, Habitat for Humanity, the Rural School Alliance and others to discuss options for affordable housing for teachers, especially in rural areas.

Bissonette also is participating in a working group to develop a plan for improving Colorado's educator pipelines. The group was convened by the Department of Higher Education in response to the passage of House Bill 17-1003 concerning a strategic action plan to address teacher shortages in Colorado.

### 7.5 Board of Education Update

Director Deb Spenceley is attending the CASB Legislative conference February 23-24. Days at the Capital will take place every Wednesday from February 15-April 19.

### 8.0 Public Participation

No public participation

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### 9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 9.1-9.4 and 9.6.

Motion Moved by Director Smith

Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

#### ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 9.5

Motion Moved by Director Hinds

Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

#### ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – Abstained

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 4-0

### 9.1 New Hires

Joanie Baird, Sped Para Attendant, SHE

Jennifer Timm, Teacher, RCE

### 9.2 Resignations/Terminations/Non-Renewals

Jeanette Ward, Health Technician, SHE

Susan Stevens, Manager of Food Services, Food Services

Deborah King, Sped Para Attendant, SHE

Gary Watson, Custodian, EHS

### 9.3 Extra Duty Assignments

Darby Brown, Wrestling Assistant, EHS

Aaron Hedman, Basketball Assistant, EHS

Cameron Dietz, Baseball Assistant, EHS

Rylan Neilsen, Wrestling Assistant, EMS

Randa Kelton, Extra Class, EHS

### 9.4 Monthly Financial Report

### 9.5 Disposition of District Property

### 9.6 Singing Hills Elementary Roof Contract

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### 10.0 Action Items

No Action Items

### 11.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### 11.1 2017-18 Budget Goals

The board agreed to move forward with the proposed 2107-18 budget goals as provided by Chief Finance Director Ron Patera.

#### 11.2 2017-18 BOE Calendar

The board agreed to the proposed 2017-18 BOE meeting calendar as presented by Communications Director Melissa Hoelting.

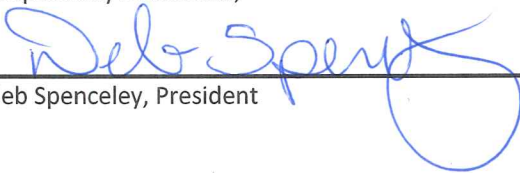
### 12.0 BOARD PLANNING

The next regular board meeting will be February 27, 2017.

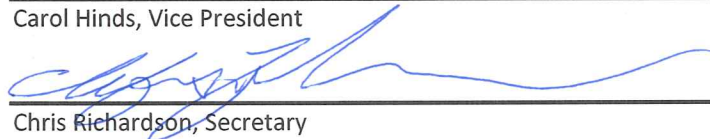
### 14.0 ADJOURNMENT

The regular board meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.


Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deb Spenceley, President

Carol Hinds, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Richardson, Secretary

Dee Lindsey, Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Smith, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Melissa Hoelting, Communications Director