



## Parents' Council General Membership Meeting Minutes January 13, 2016

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Call to Order 9:30 am

### **Jennifer Melton, Parents' Council President:**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- General Announcements:
- Reminder that the Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the "Ask the Administrator Meeting" hosted by Dr. Harry Bull. Questions may be submitted in advance. Please stick to general topic questions and save personal questions for your school's administration.
- Vendor Fair – March 2<sup>nd</sup> at SARC 9:00 am – 1:00 pm all are welcome!
- The Parents' Council treasurer is stepping down. Jennifer apologized for an inconvenience this may have caused the other PTCOs. A new treasurer is being sought and any nominations from the community would be appreciated.
- January 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Communications Survey's forwarded earlier this school year. Parents' Council is encouraging all of the PTCOs in the district to participate.
- Every PTCO organization in the district will be required to provide Parents' Council with a generic email address for future communications.
- Parents' Council now has a Facebook page. The purpose of the page is for district PTCO's to be able to blog/share/comment on relevant topics and share information.
- The October 2015 General Meeting Minutes were approved.

### **Jill Henden of Cherry Creek Schools Foundation:**

- Jill invited all attendees to participate in the Battle on Blake Hockey fundraising event at the University of Denver on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:10 pm. For tickets and additional information email Reuben Donnelly at [reuben.donnelly@rockies.com](mailto:reuben.donnelly@rockies.com), see the CCSF website or try [www.ROCKIES.com/BOB](http://www.ROCKIES.com/BOB) using the promo code: BOBCCSD.
- Additionally, the foundation gala is planned again this spring. The event will be held in the evening and more information will be available soon. Jill shared that the CCSF had funded grants at each high school to support the unified sports teams.

### **Josephine Metoyer Moore and Ilana Spiegel from Cherry Creek Community Legislative Network:**

- Encouraged staff, parents and community members to attend a CCCLN event. Reminded people that because it is an election year representatives are listening and attending events.
- CCCLN is a valuable organization and they would like to have more involvement from the community at large.
- Shared that the state has imposed a great deal of red tape on the District regarding testing and funding that impacts our students at every level.
- They would like each PTCO to identify a representative to come to events and report back to their school groups.
- Of particular importance to our district is the negative factor and trying to find a way to address the districts ongoing funding needs.

- While introducing Dave Willman, Board of Education member, Jennifer Melton reminded the attendees that January was Board of Education Recognition month. On behalf of all parents and attendees she thanked Mr. Willman and the other board members for their service to our community.

#### **Dave Willman, CCSD Board of Education:**

- The new school board members have been certified and inducted. Randy Perlis is the new board president. The new board has hit the ground running. The recent audit has been completed.
- CCSD has some of the lowest property taxes in the state.
- Endeavor has graduated their first class of seniors in December of 2015.
- Mr. Willman pointed out that the Governor spoke about education being a priority during his “State of Colorado” speech but plans for how and when any changes will be made to school finance were not laid out. Mr. Willman feels now is the time to pull the fire alarm on school funding.
- Mr. Willman thanked the attendees for the participation and sent best wishes from the rest of the board.

#### **Dr. Harry Bull, CCSD Superintendent:**

- Dr. Bull wished everyone a Happy New Year!
- Snow Days: Media vs. Reality. Dr. Bull notes that prior to issuing a snow day, he and other staff check the road conditions and confer regarding the safety of the students. He points out that often the media attempt to usurp this step and lead people to believe that school will be cancelled prior to a snow event.
- Dr. Bull invited everyone to attend the upcoming Ask the Administrator meeting in February. He likes to have this interaction with parents and the community to directly respond to questions and concerns.
- Dr. Bull discussed the recent changes in Colorado testing moving from ACT to SAT. He indicated that this state board level change was surprising and somewhat unfair to the current juniors. He and his staff are awaiting further information about how the testing will now be implemented and noted that the state board could elect to change the testing again in the future. Dr. Bull states that it is CCSD’s goal to prepare all students for college success. Previously the ACT and related tests have been used to gauge student’s progress. Given these new changes, some shifts for future testing may be instituted. Dr. Bull says to those who complain that CCSD teaches to “the test” – that in this instance that may be true because students who take the ACT often use those scores when applying to college. It is in the district and the student’s best interest for higher scores on the ACT. If the ACT is a predictor of how well students are prepared to perform in college, then teaching students to do well on the ACT is not a bad thing. It looks like juniors will take the ACT and sophomores will take the P-SAT.
- Dr. Bull mirrored Mr. Willman’s concern about now being the time to pull the fire alarm on school finance. He added that CCSD is \$52 million dollars under-budget this year. Unfortunately, this is not the first year this level of underfunding has occurred. Dr. Bull is concerned that when the state cannot adequately fund school district, then a glaring equity issue may become an issue. Dr. Bull is aware that the legislators often throw up their hands because Tabor and other conflicting laws. At this time, one of the only avenues left for school funding is to do Mill Levy Overrides. However, CCSD is quickly approaching the cap on that funding option.

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- Dr. Bull shared that the bulk of the CCSD budget each year is spent on personnel. He reminded the group that talent costs money. Talented mathematicians, scientists and the like can make far more in the private sector. He also noted that DPS would have more math teacher openings next year than the number of math teachers graduating from all of Colorado colleges.
  - In mid-January the Littleton Public Schools will release the findings from the investigations into the Arapahoe High School shooting. CCSD will look closely at the report to see what can be learned from what happened and make changes as needed. Dr. Bull cautioned that in hindsight clarity is easier and that sometimes reports of this nature cause a media contagion and sensationalism.

**Dr. Scott Siegfried, Associate Superintendent, presented his report from the 2021 surveys and discussions:**

- After all of the community input and review of the legislative changes, the district is recommending that the new changes impact students in the seventh grade and younger.
- The focus as always will be to prepare students for college and the work force.
- A diploma is a culmination of 13 years of preparation and learning – it needs to mean something.
- The last update of this kind took place in 2005.
- Seventh graders must meet or exceed these new expectations in order to graduate. They must demonstrate a level of competency. All of this information will be provided to current sixth grade parents. The new requirements align with the state requirements and the goals of the district.
- Parent and community input was accepted along with working committees to guide the process. In addition, recent graduates were included in the information sharing process. Community members/Business leaders were also asked to share what they were looking for in future employees.
- There are 17 drafted recommendations to help prepare students. Shifting to a model of college prep and career prep.
- Historically the ACT and the accompanying third through tenth grade testing were used to provide a student's growth model.
- The district is considering ways to use Naviance to help fifth and sixth graders to identify areas of interest and passion in order to help with course pathways in future years.
- A district wide intervention model will be used to assist struggling students
- We will see increased articulation and rigor to make sure that students are taught "how" to learn. i.e. the Bridges math program. The district will be moving to a tradition schedule and away from year round schools.
- The district is looking at the feasibility of having a later high school start time.
- As colleges begin to increase their online learning opportunities, the district will explore ways to begin making online learning options more available to high school students to help them understand this manner of learning more fully.
- Career Focus- some of the high schools offer very popular career training programs. Curriculum should have a significant focus on problem solving and 21<sup>st</sup> century skill sets. Students should work on a variety of team projects and have opportunities to demonstrate their ability to use critical thinking. Students will have the opportunity to graduate with a diploma as well as a career level certification. Thinking CTE and beyond. The district is considering a

career-based campus using the proven models for this type of learning from other states/districts. Students could attend their home campus for core classes and then attend the career center campus for specific career certification course work.

**Questions from the audience:**

- There was concern that students are being asked to decide a career too early.
- Parents' voiced concerns that Naviance is a limited software program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Turner-Corwin (for Deidre Stapen who was absent)