

DENVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the Denver Community School Board of Education was brought to order by President Krebsbach at 5:30 P.M. on the above date in the Middle School Commons located at 540 Lincoln Street, Denver, IA. Board members present: Scott Krebsbach, Pat Giesler, Ryan Sheridan, Jeff Schumacher. Absent: Prendergast. Staff members present: Taylor Anderson, Paul Gebel, Brad Laures, Josh Sinram, Becky Walters, and Rod Wolfensperger.

Note: To limit the exposure and spread of COVID-19, there was a conference line set up for the general public to participate, however, no one participated.

Sheridan/Schumacher to **approve the August 12, 2020 agenda**. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Krebsbach/Sheridan to approve the following **August 12, 2020 Consent Items**: August bills, July financial statements, July 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes, and August 3, 2020 special meeting minutes. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

There was nothing brought up under **Conflict of Interest**.

Under **Public Forum**, parent Aaron Leuders asked questions about students wearing masks and what the threshold temperature would need to be for early dismissal for hot days. Laures responded that there is no threshold, rather several factors combined determine early dismissals on hot days. Leuders also asked if plans would change for a new middle school/high school construction in the event sales tax revenues and housing values dropped substantially due to COVID. President Krebsbach responded that our financial consultant has predicted SAVE funds, which will in part finance the project, to remain stable due to the recent addition of internet sales being taxed. He added that Bond repayment comes from taxable assessed values rather than market value.

Krebsbach/Schumacher to approve **engagement letter with Piper Sandler** as placement agent concerning the issuance of School Infrastructure Sales, Service and Use Tax Revenue Bonds. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Schumacher/Sheridan to approve **engagement letter with Ahler & Cooney** as bond counsel concerning the issuance of School Infrastructure Sales, Service and Use Tax Revenue Bonds. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Krebsbach/Schumacher to open a **public hearing** at 5:36pm on the Proposed Issuance of Approximately \$12,000,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds. Parent Aaron Lueders asked how the proposed high school would be financed in the event state sales taxes receipts were cut in half or drastically reduced due to economic conditions associated with COVID-19. President Krebsbach responded that if those circumstances occurred, we would not proceed with the project. Krebsbach/Giesler to close the public hearing at 5:37pm. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Krebsbach/Giesler to approve **resolution supporting the proposed issuance** of approximately \$12,000,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds. Roll call vote: Ayes-Four. Motion carried. The resolution in its entirety is retained with the official copy of the minutes.

During **COVID-19 related action and discussion items**, new Athletic Director Nate Skaar introduced himself and reported that the NICK voted to require masks for indoor events and optional for outdoor sports such as football. There was a discussion on the implications of requiring masks for indoor events. It was the consensus of the Board to require facemask for indoor events.

Principal Sinram reported that all field trips are no longer available except the 5th grade EWALU trip. He added that he is currently exploring modifications to allow for social distancing so that this trip can proceed as planned. He reported that several parents have reached out to him in support of this trip. Board members Schumacher and Krebsbach stated that they would like to do everything within reason to make this trip possible.

Superintendent Lares asked the Board for guidance on allowing outside athletic student groups access school facilities. It was the consensus of the board to allow student groups consisting of Denver students access to outdoor facilities for practices, games, tournaments. For indoor use of facilities, the Board preferred to revisit on a monthly basis starting next month and was not in favor of indoor tournaments at this time.

Schumacher/Sheridan to approve resolution authorizing superintendent to negotiate the terms of a purchase agreement and lease agreement and authorizing the execution of said agreements. President Krebsbach explained that the Denver Baptist Church has offered to sell approximately 2.3 acres of land to the east of the church, which is adjacent to the school property. Another section of land next to the church would be leased to the school. The agreed price for the purchase would be \$90,000. Krebsbach recommended the purchase as the opportunities to purchase adjacent land doesn't come often. The said land could be used for a practice football field and to provide for additional construction space for future school boards to consider. The resolution in its entirety is retained with the official copy of the minutes. Roll call vote: Ayes-Four. Motion carried. The resolution in its entirety is retained with the official copy of the minutes.

REPORTS

Personnel

Under **Personnel Report**, Sheridan/Schumacher to approve the addition of an assistant football coach due to increased student participation and the supervision that goes with the sport. Giesler was opposed to the addition this year due to the uncertainty of the season associated with COVID-19 and the obligation to pay a coach regardless of the season occurring. The superintendent and Krebsbach acknowledged his concern, but stated that we should proceed based upon the current plan for a football season to be held. Ayes-three, Nay-Giesler. Motion carried.

Schumacher/Sheridan to approve the following **new hires**:

Jennifer Brotherson as full-time custodian, Isaac Barrett as assistant football coach, Zach Steger as middle school football coach, Cassandra Jakoubek as assistant wrestling coach, Isaac Shedenhelm as assistant wrestling coach, Blake Steege as assistant wrestling coach, Rod Wolfensperger as middle school wrestling coach, Chelsea Conner as para educator, Charlene Schmitz as para educator, Jacob Tomanka as para educator, and Paul Gebel as volunteer volleyball coach. Ayes-Four. Motion carried

There was nothing brought up under **Student Council Report**.

Under **Elementary Principal Report**, Mr. Sinram shared projected student counts by grade. There were 12 students planning to learn virtually instead of face-to-face learning. He estimated an increase of 26 elementary students for the upcoming year, but noted that these were unofficial counts. He stated that there would be no back to school night, but there would be an opportunity for kindergarten students to drop off supplies and meet their teachers prior to the first day during assigned times.

Under **Middle School Principal Report**, Mr. Gebel reported that the secondary school has six students signed up for virtual learning. He estimated student count to be stable going into the next school year, with an estimated increase of approximately 6 students. For middle school orientation, he would be bringing the 6th graders in the two weeks prior to school starting and would be in smaller groups. He also reported that laptops would be brought home in case of the need to move to virtual learning.

Under **High School Principal Report**, reported that all students enrolling in virtual learning and homeschool were contacted. He pointed out that homeschool credits don't count toward regular high school credits. He has been working with families to help find solutions given the situation with COVID-19. Later in the next couple of weeks, he would be sending information to families on how to enter the building and other procedures parents would need to know about. Board member Giesler asked what he would be doing for the agriculture classes held at Wapsi. Anderson responded that he is currently working out a plan where some of it may be virtual.

During **Superintendent Report**, Laures reported that in his recent parent survey, 93% of the 733 families who responded intend on sending their children back to school on a face-to-face basis. He thanked his admin team for their time and effort during this time.

There was nothing brought up during **Board President Report**.

There being no further discussion, Giesler/Sheridan to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Scott Krebsbach, President

Becky Walters, Board Secretary