

**MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14  
MANITOU SPRINGS, CO**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR Monday, September 26, 2011**

Regular monthly Board of Education Meeting, present for the informal dinner were: Anna Lord, Jennifer Farmer, Gino Mendoza, Molly Stevens and Jennifer Farmer. Staff members present for the dinner were: Ed Longfield, Tim Miller, Pat Urban, Glenn Hard, Chris Burr, Russ Vogel and Chris Briggs-Hale.

President Farmer called the meeting to order at 7:03 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Present for the Board of Education meeting: Jennifer Farmer, Anna Lord, Gino Mendoza and Molly Stevens.

Absent: Glenn Noufer

Staff members present were: Ed Longfield, Melissa McElhaney, Pat Urban and Tim Miller.

Guests included: Joe and Kim Morin  
Angelita Surage, Casey Morris and Kimme Tanabe

**A. AGENDA**

092611.01                    Mrs. Lord moved to approve the Agenda for September 26, 2011 as presented.

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

**B. MINUTES**

Mrs. Farmer questioned the minutes regarding the Executive Session. It was agreed that there is not to be any explanation about the session in the minutes.

092611.02                    Mrs. Lord moved to approve the Minutes from August 22, 2011 with the following corrections.

Page 3: 2 Board of Education Reports  
Molly Stevens – Molly was misspelled with 3 l's.

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

**C. RECURRENT**

1. Identification of members of the audience who are not listed on the agenda wishing to make a comment to the Board of Education.

At this time students, Kimme Tanabe and Casey Morris addressed the Board with their request to move forward with adding solar panels to roof tops. They have been members of the WORRMS club for sometime and this project is very important to them and the club. They will get a written document with all the information to Mr. Miller with the facts and he will review the plan.

Mr. Morin, parent addressed the Board with his concerns regarding the iPad content filter. His concerns will be taken into consideration. Mr. Morin will email his notes to Mr. Longfield.

2. Receive and or Act on Correspondence.

Homecoming Tailgate Party – Friday, September 30, 2011 – 4:30pm everyone is invited.

3. Payment of Expenditures for the month ending July 31, 2011

092611.03                      Mrs. Stevens moved to approve the Payment of Expenditures for the month ending July 31, 2011.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

**D. REPORTS**

1. Superintendent

Mr. Longfield thanked the Board for attending the CASB Conf. On October 11<sup>th</sup> we will host the “Governor's Energy Office" kickoff . The High School Jazz Band will perform. The celebration will take place out on Mustang Plaza.

The Restorative Justice Task Force will be soon gearing up again, Pete Lee and Ken Jaray will both be leaders for this group.

2. Board of Education

- a. Board of Cooperative Education Services . . . . Glenn Noufer and Molly Stevens

Report not available.

- b. Community Relations. . . . Jennifer Farmer and Molly Stevens

Ute Pass Elementary School is in the process of changing their BAC to PTO. A pep-rally was held to inform parents and the community of the change.

- c. Governmental Relations. . . . Anna Lord

**Looking ahead to the next legislative session.**

Gov. Hickenlooper seems to be focused more on business than on education. This could be a positive thing in that it could provide a break from new initiatives. However, it could also mean less protection for education funding. We will likely see a focus on early literacy, continued progress on SB 191 and closing the achievement gap.

The cost of new assessment program to revamp CSAP is considered too costly to fund at this time but SB 191, Cap4kids rest on good assessment data.

**LOBATO lawsuit**

The trial before Denver District Court is completed and waiting for judgment. Both sides have 45 days to submit written conclusions. The actual ruling may not be out until 2012. Ken Delay and many others believe that the plaintiff will win. The next stage will be political. There will be an appeal to put more time on the clock. However, the legislature will have to put together a plan to put in front of the voters. State has spent \$1M on legal costs defending and won't spend much more.

**Report from the State Board of Education**

Angelica Schroeder from SBE reported on the request for a NCLB wavier allowing Colorado to streamline some requirements making the state plan = federal plan. The SBE has also requested a wavier to allow Colo. To use approx. \$25M Title II money (teacher development) to be used for educator evaluation.

There are currently 3 lawsuits with SBE as defendant, Lobato, Douglas County. Appeal and CEA parental notification.

SBE looking for ways to bring assessments as on-line rather than paper and pencil.  
Schedule has science first in line.

### **CASB calendar**

CASB Annual Convention Thur. 12/8 - Sun. 12/11  
Oct. 14 & 15, Fall Conf. & Delegate Assembly, would be great if we had someone attend  
who will still be on MSSD BOE in November.

### **TABOR lawsuit**

Kerr v. State of Education makes the argument that TABOR is unconstitutional under  
Article IV, S. 4 of the US Constitution...representative gov't, "republican form of  
government" right of taxation etc. State has filed a motion to dismiss. The plaintiffs  
response is due Oct. 10th.

### **Prop. 103**

Prop 103, is on ballot. If successful, Prop. 103 will restore income tax rate and sales tax  
rate to 1990s rates. These rates would will take effect in Jan. 1, 2012. Increase to K12 &  
higher Ed. (\$800M) instead of another \$250M cut to K12 this next year. This will be a  
short term fix 2.9B over five years but might bridge the gap while Lobato, Kerr, etc.,  
work their way through the system. CASB is requesting Boards resolutions in favor of  
Prop. 103, letters to the editor etc.

DU study called "Financing Colorado's Future" concluded that K12, Medicare &  
corrections will be all that we can fund by 2024-25. There is no way out by simply belt  
tightening and cutting.

### **AARA**

CASB asked for and received \$25K of AARA funds to design and deliver training and  
resources for Colo. School boards to increase their understanding of state and school  
district accountability requirements and of the data and information school districts use to  
govern effectively.

d. Pikes Peak Alliance . . . . Pat Urban

Major initiatives at the state level include the Educator Effectiveness Task Force, the  
Education Success Tack Force, School Finance Partnership, School Discipline Task  
Force, and Governor's Education Leadership Council.

The School Finance Partnership is a group of stakeholders with very little school  
representation. This group has no clear agenda at this time, but could influence  
legislation due to the make up of the group – lots of "heavy hitters".

The School discipline Task Force has the potential to add a significant number of bills to the legislative session, but right now, all they agree on is to eliminate “zero tolerance” from school discipline policies.

The Education Success Task Force also had the possibility of adding multiple pieces of legislation this session. There seems to be traction to support legislation that mandates 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention for students who do not meet minimal competency standards – mirroring legislation from Florida. Educators are trying to weigh in on this, to keep it educationally sound. Also, Sen. Keith King is trying to get rid of high school CSAP/TCAPs altogether in favor of using other measures like: epass system from ACT (Plan, Explore, ACT) and/or Accuplacer.

- e. District Accountability Advisory . . . Gino Mendoza

No Report

3. Staff

- a. Assistant Superintendent . . . Tim Miller

Mr. Miller reported on the following enrollment numbers and out Free and reduced numbers have gone up. Student count day will be Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

- b) Director of Instructional and Special Programs . . . Pat Urban

In an effort to align with the Colorado Department of Education’s new expectations regarding accreditation of schools, we are hoping to alter our cycle in the district. The CDE guidance is that school boards will accredit schools by Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> each year, after school performance data is compiled at the state. School Boards are then expected make their determination based on school performance plans and any other relevant information the district wishes to put forth as evidence. We chose to have an outside evaluator help us gather the data and make recommendations for that part of the process (NCA). Additionally, School Boards are expected to use the same type of language as is found on the School Performance Plan when making their recommendations.

Our proposal is that, beginning this year, the school board will accredit schools on this new cycle. There will be a special board meeting on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> to fulfill this task.

You will each be provided several electronic documents by Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, to help in the determination:

- A copy of the most current NCA report for each building
- AYP determinations for each building
- School Performance Plans for each building

During the September 26<sup>th</sup> board meeting we will examine the documents to ensure you have all the information you need to make your determinations.

#### 4. Principal/School Reports

#### **Ute Pass Elementary School:**

##### **Relationships:**

- **The Start of School:** It has been a pleasure to watch teachers being so intentional about building quality relationships with and between students during the first weeks of school. They have emphasized those procedures that bring consistency and focus to their classrooms and that allow all children to not just learn together, but also learn from and with each other.
- **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC):** We have started the year by getting to know each other and by sharing our Best Hopes/Worst Fears for UPES. In addition, we are engaging in questions such as
  - What does meaningful parent/community involvement at Ute Pass look like?
  - What are the specific areas of excellence we should be known for in the future?
  - What are best ways communities and parents can maximize learning at Ute Pass?
  - What are the work habits and interpersonal skills we want taught, supported, and measured with children?

Our goal here will be to find the best structures for maximize community involvement and building opportunities for student learning in and out of school

- **Intervention Team (IT):** Created in August by the special education, Title, GATE, Para-educators, and Ute Pass BOCES staff and teachers, this group has been meeting weekly to find best ways to ensure *flexibility in service delivery* and to *maximize high quality communication* between departments and the community. The goal of this team is to make sure that all who provide learning services in and out of the classroom know what other departments are doing *on a weekly basis* and can adjust and support more quickly than ever in the past.

- **Student Ambassadors:** Twelve students from fourth and fifth grade volunteered this summer to help me learn a little about our school. They will continue to meet this fall to add a dimension to the student leadership and service opportunities that already exist here at UPES. Currently, they are brainstorming ways that can support healthy behaviors on the playground and hallways. One idea currently being floated is the “Warm and Fuzzy Squad.” This rotating group of students would circulate around the playground to offer compliments when kids are being kind, considerate, and safe.

While some students were not “officially” on in this group, many, many have behaved as if they were. One girl recently gave me a picture to put on my office door. When I told her that it really made me feel welcome, she replied, “That’s how you are supposed to feel here.”

### **Rigor & Opportunity:**

- **IPad Implementation:** Mr. DiFiore has completed a week of teaching students basic procedures, safety protocols, and introducing learning software. I have been impressed, so far, with the levels of student focus on intriguing educational software. My monitoring of the effectiveness of this implementation at UPES has focused so far on the development of the following three questions:
  - Do iPad use in instruction increase curricular coherence within and across grades? How will we know?
  - Does the use of iPads deepen/extend teacher conversations about high quality instruction? How will we know?
  - Does iPad use increase authentic literacy (reading, writing, reflection, discourse) in all subject areas? Does data reflect this effectiveness?
- **Professional Learning Communities:** Years and years of educational research has been coalescing into a realization across the nation that the best professional development for teachers is “on the job.” While it may seem like common sense to some, the research is overwhelming that we learn at the highest levels by “doing the work” inside a structure of constant feedback and support. Toward this end, the teachers at UPES will spend the fall building the structures for examining student data, being collaboratively reflective about the effectiveness of specific instructional strategies, and for taking new, targeted action for students who need it. We will begin by
  - Examining *current reality* and our *preferred future* through examination of student performance data
  - Develop understanding of *spheres of influence* to narrow our focus on student learning
  - Create a specific vision, plan, norms and procedural agreements to guide the formation of PLCs for a single-round school. Our initial structures

will emphasize effective instruction across grade bands before we move to content level questions.

The goal for us is to develop those weekly systems that inspire us to be “collaboratively curious” about our students’ learning. Professional Learning Communities are incredibly rigorous, and, in my personal experience, deeply inspiring and motivating.

## **MANITOU SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### RELATIONSHIPS

- Our Dad Corps’ inaugural event was a two-day project in June replacing the pea gravel in the entire south end of the play park with special playground wood chips. Our Parent Action Committee funded the project. Dad Corps dudes are already volunteering out front mornings and with our extra custodial to-do items.
- Our Tech Teacher and resident airbrush artist, Jon Orr, has painted the dark old Heritage Hall restrooms with cuddly animal characters to make the rooms more welcoming for our shyest little Mustangs, who have been afraid of ‘ghosts’ in past years.
- We have invited a new group of families of younger students to join us for the Incredible Years program again this year, a parenting-skills class that also creates community through inter-family bonds. We are working on starting the related Dinosaur School program in Kindergarten. It is a social skills, emotional awareness, and behavior curriculum for little ones delivered via puppet dialogs. Both programs have grown from our new connections with AspenPointe.

### RIGOR

- We have effectively tripled the technology available in support of student learning at MSES this year. We have replaced the outdated eMacs in the original lab and redesigned it; we have added a second computer lab in the library, and we have successfully rolled out the iPad program in three fully redesigned fifth-grade classrooms. We will held our second parent night on 9/14—a coffeehouse format with parents and students working together to learn their iPads at school.
- The STAR Math Assessment was administered as a pre-assessment to all students in Grades 2–5 and now the data is being used in PLC’s to inform classroom instruction about students’ strengths and challenges and to place students in the Accelerated Math skills-practice program, available in classroom computers, in the new labs, and at home.

- We are fine-tuning the functional structures in our PLC program this year and focusing on a data cycle related to differentiation of EL pre-assessment data, particularly in Math.
- We are initiated use of the Handwriting Without Tears program in our Kindergarten classrooms. This widely respected program teaches students to form letters in a much more kid-friendly and cursive-friendly way.

#### OPPORTUNITY

- We have launched out initial TAP classes for the year with a soccer program, a yoga class, a Lego's/engineering/robotics class, and Einstein Math. Also, sign-ups are this week for our new Astronomy Club.
- Final preparations are underway for this year's Fifth-Grade Camp, which will be held Oct. 5-7 at the YMCA's Camp Shadybrook, near Deckers.

### **Manitou Springs Middle School**

#### **Relationships:**

Manitou Middle School students and staff are gearing up for our Mustang Marathon Challenge. We are challenging all students and staff to walk/run a marathon distance during Prime Time over the course of about 13 weeks. Joleen and Annie are the building representatives for Coordinated School Health and the district's Wellness Committee.

The Marathon Challenge will be a part of our school's SHIP this year (fitness goal/participation). We are hoping our kick off will be really dynamic and motivate the kids and teachers to participate. We have speakers, video clips, and an event up at the track and around our grounds that afternoon. We have a great committee planning this event and know Mustang spirit will prevail as students and staff come together to kick off the year with a healthy bang.

We are excited to kick this event off on Sept. 20 by running a special schedule for the entire middle school. We will follow the shortened schedule that ends at noon.

#### **Rigor:**

The start of this school year has been filled with excitement and enthusiasm not ever experienced before at Manitou Springs Middle School. Students were handed a learning tool, called an iPad, on the second day of school and they are not looking back! Students are exploring, blogging, creating, calculating, reading - and that's only at Prime Time!

Teachers and students alike are just skimming the surface of the vast learning opportunities these devices will provide. Much more to come....

## **Opportunity:**

In the first few weeks of school I have spoke with two excited 6th grade parents regarding opportunities we have here for 6th graders to play sports. In the last few years we have slowly built up 6th grade athletics from zero offerings to now a full array of sports including cross country, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, and track and field.

Providing opportunities for 6th grade participation in athletics is something parents have been asking for years. It is a great opportunity for students to try out different sports, learn the fundamentals and introduce them to middle school athletics. We hope the long-term effects are seen as these young athletes move up through the middle school on to the high school.

## **Manitou Springs High School**

The 2011-2012 school year has started with much enthusiasm and a little apprehension. We've begun the process of implementing many new ideas and programs we developed throughout last year and at first glance they seem to be very well received.

The most notable of such programs is Advisory, which was initiated in response to much feedback from students, parents, and staff members. It became well understood that the traditional "Prime Time" needed to be changed, and that it must be utilized as academic time. Below is a bullet overview of the current program.

### **Advisory Overview:**

- Each student is assigned an advisor
- Each advisor works with 15-17 students
- Monday and Friday- provide opportunities for clubs to meet, following the traditional Prime Time format
- Tuesday and Thursday- Mandatory Study Hall for 9-12th grade, with a system to sign out and get help from specific teachers.
- Wednesday –Advisory curriculum with 4 primary themes
  - Health/Wellness
  - Service
  - Future /Academic Planning (ICAP)
  - 21st Century skills
- The curriculum and lessons for each category are determined by grade specific advisors and content is prepared for the entire semester.

In addition, we're thrilled with the addition of several new teachers to the high school team.

Steven Blocher teaches math, Amantha Hordagoda and, Lisa Steck-Gillen teach English, Kolin Campbell co-facilitates the SMARTE course, Sean McCune is a welcome addition to the Social Studies Department, Kevin Benson is teaching Technology courses, Joy Vernon started a Yoga program, and Tom Bruszewski rounds out the Band department.

Lastly, we're excited to continue the fine Manitou Springs High School and Community tradition of Homecoming. The festivities are kicked off with a Movie night on Saturday, 9/24, Powder Puff Football on Monday 9/26, Volleyball and Soccer home games on Tuesday, 9/27, home Volleyball and Bon fire on Thursday, 9/29, Parade, Football game and Tailgate Party on Friday, 9/30, and the Dance on Saturday 10/1.

Break – 8:25pm

### **E. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

092611.04 Mrs. Lord moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:30 pm to include the Board of Education Members, Mr. Longfield and Mr. Miller under C.R.S. 24-6-402: 4 (Personnel)

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

092611 Mrs. . Lord moved to exit Executive Session at 8:34 pm.

Mr. Mendoza seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

### **F. ROUTINE/ CONSENSUS ITEMS**

092611.05 Mrs. Lord moved to approve the following Routine/Consensus Items.

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

1. Resignations/Leave of Absence/Retirement/Transitional Retirement/Maternity Leave
  - a. **Certified**
  - b. **Classified**

Rebecca Streblow – Food Service - Resignation

EXHIBIT E

Jerry Zimmerman – Dir. of Buildings and Grounds - Termination

2. Employment

a. **Certified**

c. **Classified**

- Lonnie Glover – MSMS – Custodian

EXHIBIT E

3. Substitutes

Thomas Christison - Certified

Gail Iida - Certified

Jo Baum – Classified

Judy Fitzgerald – Classified

Lance Cowan – Certified

Jann White – Classified

Makenzi Emmons – Classified

James Rentschler - Certified

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

**G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- POLICY GBL – Retaliation

092611.06 Mrs. Lord moved to approve Policy GBL as amended on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading.

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

- POLICY GBEB – Staff Conduct

092611.07 Mrs. Lord moved to approve Policy GBEB on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading.

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

- POLICY JICDE – Bullying Prevention & Education

092611.08 Mrs. Stevens moved to approve Policy JICDE on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

- Candidate Open House/Community Forum: Discussion

Dates that are open for this event October 12, 2011 or the 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:00pm.

- Policy BBD – Governance Process

Policy BBD moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

- Policy GD – Classified Employees Defined

092611.09 Mrs. Lord moved to approve Policy GD with changes.

Mr. Mendoza seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

092611.10 Mrs. Stevens moved to adjourn from the meeting at 9:07 pm.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, Mr. Mendoza voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Gino Mendoza  
Secretary