

## 12.11.2017 Cherry Creek School District School Board Meeting Summary

### Black Forest Hills Elementary

#### For agenda, minutes and presentations:

<http://boe.cherrycreekschools.org/co/chcr/Board.nsf/Public>.

**Minutes/Agenda:** Approval of December 11 agenda; Approval of minutes for November 8 Special Board of Education Meeting and November 13 Special and Regular Board of Education meetings, and November 17 Special Board of Education Meeting

#### Summary of Communications from the Board of Education and Superintendent Bull:

- Have safe and happy holidays;
- Friday, the Board will have a study session on construction projects;
- Finals are next week. Therefore, no student leaders will provide reports today;
- Treasurer's Report: Expenditures and encumbrances are consistent with the financial plan;
- Update provided on the multi-district Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning;
- At the CCSD PASS meeting, a panel of admission counselors from Colorado colleges and universities provided insight and advice on college preparedness;
- Colorado Gives Day raised more than \$35K for the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation, thanks to generous sponsors; The Cherry Creek Schools Foundation Gala, Invest in Success, will be Thursday, March 8, 2018 at the Marriott DTC. See <https://ccsdfoundation.org/news-events/special-events/> for details.
- Next CCSF Community Days: Colorado Avalanche v. Minnesota Wild, Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Pepsi Center, Tickets start at \$25 and \$5 from every ticket purchased through the CCSF link will be donated to CCSF; Colorado Avalanche v. Nashville Predators, Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 1 p.m.;
- The Endeavor Academy graduation is December 21;
- Updates provided regarding last week's Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Convention, including professional development and idea sharing;
- Announcements of student athletic and philanthropic activities;
- Thanks to the Aurora Police Department School Resource Officer;
- Because of the revised school schedule, the first semester will be completed prior to the winter break!

**Special Report on Veterans Day Celebrations at all CCSD schools.** To access the uplifting presentation, go to <http://boe.cherrycreekschools.org/co/chcr/Board.nsf/Public>.

#### Public Comment

- The speaker, a nurse and parent of a five year old, provided an update regarding removal of the one-on-one registered nurse for her child necessitated by his medical issues. CCSD has since resumed providing this service so he can attend school. The speaker's complaint against CCSD with Colorado Department of Education resulted in findings of violation. She feels CCSD has done little to respond regarding an upcoming IEP deadline and education of CCSD personnel.

- The speaker expressed continuing concern about the shortage of paraprofessional educators, including no increase in staffing, no decrease in job vacancies, and disproportionate paraprofessional job openings compared to other districts. The speaker expressed concern that IEP requirements are not being met, paraprofessionals are burning out, and the pool of paraprofessionals is dwindling.
- The speaker, a teacher, expressed concern about the gap between talk and action. She encouraged closing this gap through equity pedagogy, addressed positive steps taken by the district, such as the Beyond Diversity training, and challenged the district to change things, to do more to help all children succeed, to better support marginalized students and minority teachers, and to address the underrepresentation of students of color in advanced coursework.
- The president of Cherry Creek Education Association encouraged a climate of positivity.

**Consent Agenda**, resolutions 271-17 to 291-17. The Board polled resolution 285-17, the mill levy approval, resolution 286-17, naming of Elementary School 44 as Altitude Elementary, and resolution 287-17, naming of Middle School 11 as Infinity Middle school. The resolutions polled carried unanimously. The balance of the consent agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

**Special Report #2: Student Achievement Services Report**, by Tony Poole, Special Education Services, and Rebecca Lopez, Coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Program. To access the presentation, go to <http://boe.cherrycreekschools.org/co/chcr/Board.nsf/Public>. Student Achievement Services consists of four departments: Metal Health, Health Services, Wellness and Special Education. Special Education provides services to children with special needs from birth to 21.

- CCSD has experienced a steady increase of enrollment to about 6900 special education students presently, a steady growth since 2009. Special Education programming categories are 1) early childhood (birth-age 5), in which multi-disciplinary teams perform Child Find Evaluations; 2) K-12 services; and 3) Transitions for special needs students ages 18-21.
- Federal law requires a full continuum of services – from specialist support in general education classrooms to home hospital services. The continuum ranges from the least to most restrictive. The K-12 continuum of services ranges includes mild to moderate services, such as consultation, co-teaching, paraprofessional support, and pull out. The district may use out of district placement if student needs cannot be met, but placement options are very limited. Home/Hospital Services is a highly specialized program for general and special education students who cannot attend school due to serious conditions. The Transitions Program is an optional program for special needs students ages 18 to 21 after completing high school to assist with development of skills for transitioning into adult life. The student population in the Transitions Program is not growing.
- Growth in the population of special education students results from people moving to Denver and CCSD as a destination district for families of students with disabilities. The severity of needs seems to be increasing even if numbers are not increasing, with more significant issues involving medical fragility, emotional disabilities, intellectual disabilities and mental illness and increasingly complex problems. The increasing student population with normal teacher turnover requires significant hiring in special education. Students with disabilities are struggling more as tests become more technologically complex.

- Seven percent of CCSD students participate in the Gifted and Talented Program (GT). GT offers a continuum of programming, including enrichment programs and projects, acceleration, flexible cluster grouping, pull out classes, AP, advanced, honors and International Baccalaureate and content differentiation. Content differentiation and pull out classes are used for GT students in elementary school. Middle school programming shifts to content differentiation and acceleration. High School programming shifts to AP, concurrent enrollment, IP, content differentiation and acceleration. Enrichment opportunities include Destination Imagination, District Chess Tournament, Inside Out and District Spelling Bee. The GT program includes twice exceptional students, those gifted students with disabilities, including those with 504 plans and IEPs. Enrollment in GT by race is relatively stable, with ongoing disproportionate representation of historically underrepresented student populations. New identification procedures and expanded programming options seek to narrow this opportunity gap.
- The Exceptional Children's Education Act, HB 14-1102, imposed additional requirements – administration and paper work - without additional funding. The few positives include authentic goal development tied to standards, consistent and equitable GT identification and practice, and differentiation and instructional development for teachers. There are new categories for identification of GT academic or talent aptitudes and greater efforts to identify students of color and underrepresented populations.

**Next meeting:** Monday, January 8, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Smoky Hill High School, 16100 East Smoky Hill Road, Aurora, CO 80015.