

*Minutes Approved On:  
February 22, 2005*

MINUTES OF THE  
Special Meeting of the  
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch  
January 28, 2005  
1:00 p.m.

**UPDATE OF THE DCSD STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Committee Members Present:** Sharla Hales, Keith Roman, Janice Florey, Leigh Luce, Mark Van Voorst, Connie Wennhold, Sarah Zander, Marty Swisher, Cynthia Trigg, Carly Strauss, Cheryl Blomstrom, Nancy Bryant, Kathleen Barton, Teri Jamin

**Committee Members Absent:** John Louritt, Loren Orr, Marc Tompkins, Pete Shaw, and Lorraine Plymptom

**District Staff Present:** Roy Casey, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services and Strategic Planning Facilitator; John Soderman, Superintendent; Janice Florey, Director of Assessments, Grants, and Projects; Rich Alexander, Director of Human Resources; Lisa Fontana, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and Jan Keith, Director of Special Services.

Mr. Casey opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. He began by explaining his role as facilitator and the role of the committee members. Mr. Casey briefly described the purpose of the meeting and the process that would be followed in reviewing and updating the Strategic Plan. He then asked Superintendent John Soderman to welcome the group.

Mr. Soderman asked the group to introduce themselves. After introductions, Mr. Soderman welcomed everyone to the Strategic Planning Meeting and thanked the group for their participation. He provided a brief synopsis of the history the Strategic Plan and how the model that we use today originated. He provided an illustration of how the Strategic Plan, District Improvement Plan, and School Improvement Plans integrate into the District's goals. He also explained how Quality Indicators provide a means by which the progress towards goals is measured.

Mrs. Hales called for public comment at 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Kathleen Miller and Mrs. Marie Johnson commented to the committee that they applauded the efforts of the Douglas County School District to provide more challenging curriculum and supervised instruction to gifted students, and would also like to see something specific in the Strategic Plan geared towards the teaching of gifted students.

Mrs. Hales thanked Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Johnson for their comments.

Mr. Casey asked Mr. Soderman to proceed with the review of the Mission Statement. Mr. Soderman introduced several options to consider as changes to the Mission Statement and asked the committee to discuss the options and present their opinion to the group. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the group to change the mission statement as follows:

“The Douglas County School District, in partnership with parents and community, will ensure that all students are competent in the basic skill areas, demonstrate continuous achievement toward educational excellence, and reach their highest potential as productive, responsible citizens.”

Mr. Casey provided a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the Strategic Planning process. The presentation described how the Strategies provided the vision for the District and how Quality Indicators verify the progress made towards the objectives listed in the Action Steps of the Plan. He then described how the District Improvement Plan supports the Strategic Plan strategies. He also explained that the Communications, School Safety, and Family strategies have not been eliminated, but moved to Board Policy and Administrative Regulations.

Mr. Casey directed the committee to break into small groups as assigned and analyze the Quality Indicators in the Competency, Graduation, and Career Strategy at 2:45 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., the group reconvened as a whole and reported on their analysis of the Quality indicators of each strategy.

Mr. Casey asked that the committee again break into their assigned small group to review and discuss the action steps related to each strategy, which was facilitated by Mr. Soderman, and the transfer of the Communication, School Safety, and Family strategies to Board policy and regulations, which was facilitated by Mr. Casey.

At 5:20 p.m., Mr. Casey announced that the group would take a break from the meeting for dinner.

The meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Soderman, Mr. Swisher and Mrs. Bryant presented their group's proposed changes to the Competency, Graduation, and Career Strategy, respectively. After a brief discussion, the group accepted the proposed changes of each group.

Mr. Casey presented the proposed changes to Board Policy 226, “Parent and Family Involvement” and Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 901, “Communication with Parents and Community.” Mr. Alexander presented his group's changes to the Administrative Regulation No. 706(b), “School Safety” and reported that there were no changes to the proposed Board Policy 705, “School Safety.”

At 6:50, Mrs. Hales called for public comment. Hearing none, Mr. Casey asked that the committee give their opinion or suggestions on the format of the meeting for future reference. Each member stated that Mr. Casey did an excellent job facilitating the meeting, that the organization of the materials was commendable, and that the day had been very productive.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Rebecca Winter  
Secretary to the Superintendent and  
Board of Trustees

Approved:

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Clerk of the Board

Note: Upon approval by the Board of Trustees in a public meeting, these minutes become the official minutes of the meetings held on the above date. Board minutes are kept on a permanent basis and are available for public review in the office of the Superintendent.