
Colorado State Board of Education

BOARD REPORT

Members of the Board

Pamela Jo Suckla, Chairman, 3rd Congressional District

Jared Polis, Vice Chairman, Member-at-Large

- ♦ **Randy DeHoff, 6th Congressional District** ♦ **Evie Hudak, 2nd Congressional District**
- ♦ **Peggy Littleton, 5th Congressional District** ♦ **Karen Middleton, 7th Congressional District**
- ♦ **Rico Munn, 1st Congressional District** ♦ **Clair Orr, 4th Congressional District**

William J. Moloney, Commissioner of Education and Secretary to the State Board of Education

Karen A. Gerwitz, Director of State Board Relations

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Pamela Jo Suckla
January 2005

As the new chairman of the State Board of Education, I am looking forward to 2005 and the challenges that lie ahead for public education. We will all be facing an active legislative session in Colorado with the new Democratic controlled House and Senate. The State Board of Education plays a crucial role in setting state policies and rules that affect every element of a strong public education system, including educator licensing, transportation and our public library systems. The Board also makes budget recommendations to the legislature and governor. Our Board has employed staff to keep us abreast of proposed legislation and also to convey to legislators that they need to consider not only the projected costs of their bills, but also the affect that it could have on our school districts. We are all dedicated to providing the best education and educational choices that we can for all of Colorado's children.

As we begin a new year, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Board to review and update the State Board's Strategic Plan that will guide our actions and direction of the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Our Board will also continue our scheduled review of Colorado Model Content Standards. During the past year, we have been reviewing our math standards. It has been a very exciting time, but it has also showed us that we must work harder to ensure that all Colorado teachers know and understand our standards and their importance and relationship to the Colorado Student Assessment Program. Our very dedicated and talented staff at the Colorado Department of Education has provided schools and teachers with trainings statewide and newly developed documents that remind educators of the content standards and what students must know at each grade level to be proficient in the content area.

One of the other areas of great importance to our Board is Colorado's Accountability System. Our Board and CDE both work to ensure that districts are accountable for the education they are providing Colorado's students. The state's policy decisions on education accountability over the past decade

have helped the state and parents make an informed choice about the quality of education their children receive. School districts have partnered with the state to reach the common goal to help students while still allowing local decisions on instruction and curriculum. It is important to us that Colorado keeps its own plan and focus with as little intrusion from the federal government as possible. We can say this because Colorado is ahead of what the federal government is trying to do and they have used many of Colorado's programs to help other states improve their educational systems. As Colorado joins the other states in the nation in implementing accountability requirements in the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, state education policymakers will focus on how best to make this and state accountability requirements meaningful to parents, students, educators and administrators, while working to keep our system the highest quality possible for our Colorado students.

At the end of 2004, we received the Closing the Achievement Gap Commission Report and submitted the report to the legislature along with the input of the State Board. The State Board and CDE will be dedicating a great deal of time in the next year to develop proven strategies and programs to support school districts to close the gap among low income and minority Colorado students. We have lots of work to do in this area.

For the last three years, the State Board has put together a working group made up of State Board members and representatives from the Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado Association of School Executives, Colorado Education Association,

Colorado Parent –Teacher Association, Colorado State Treasurer's Office, and the Colorado State Land Board. This group has worked to develop a plan to not only educate the public on State School Trust Lands but also explore ways to increase the State School Permanent Trust Fund. The goal is to make the funds received from School Lands play a more important role in funding our educational systems. Our Board is very dedicated to this cause and will continue to work to achieve this goal knowing that this will take many years.

As the chairman of our Board, I will work very hard to guide the State Board to continue to develop strong working relationships with all of the education organizations, not only preK-12 but in higher education. It is very important to me that the State Board and CDE provide quality service to all 178 districts in our state. It is also of great importance that, as we face the many challenges and opportunities in public education, that the State Board of Education work with all educators and our communities to prepare our students for the world around them and become the next strong leaders of the United States.

As the State Board of Education continues its work, we, and especially I, welcome any input and suggestions that you might have as the year goes along. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, the Commissioner, the entire Colorado Department of Education and staff, all of the education organizations, teachers, administrators, and librarians for their dedication to Colorado and our students.

**Board Actions January 13, 2005
Department of Education, Denver**

ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA (approved by unanimous vote)

State Board / Commissioner

- Approved the facilities to establish on-grounds schools for Shiloh Home, Adams Campus and Lost and Found Inc., Arvada
- Approved the recommended appointment of 4-year Academic Library Representative, Rick Brian Foresman

State Library

- Approved the expenditure of \$45,000 from the Mary Jones Trust Fund

Professional Services

- Approved the proposed licensure preparation program content of the programs at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs – Special Education Generalist program and University of Colorado at Denver – Special Education Generalist program
- Approved the Type III Authorizations as follows:
 - Initial - 39
 - Renewal - 7
- Concerning License No. 168507, Charge No. 2003EC50, instructed department staff and the attorney general's office to prepare the documents necessary to request a formal hearing for the revocation of the holder's license pursuant to §22-60.5-108, C.R.S.
- Concerning License No. 191103, Charge No. 2004EC01, signified acceptance and approval of the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement by directing the commissioner to sign the original copy of the agreement
- Concerning Application for an Authorization, Charge No. 2004EC46, dismiss the charge
- Scheduled a hearing for the Board's April 14, 2005 meeting to consider amendments to the Rules for the Administration of Educator Licensing Act of 1991, 1 CCR 301-37, regarding Principal Authorization

Special Services

- Approved waiver request for a 29-day period ending Feb. 10, 2005 as follows: 22-9-106 (4); 22-32-109(1)(f)(t); 22-32-110(1)(h); 22-32-126; 22-63-201, 203, 206, 301, 302, 401 & 403, C.R.S. for West End School District RE2 and West End Learning Center Charter School

- Approved waiver request for a 3-year period ending June 30, 2007 as follows: 22-9-106; 22-32-109(1)(x); 22-32-110(1)(h)(i)(k)(z)(ee); 22-32-126; 22-63-201, 301, 302, 401, & 402, C.R.S. for Moffat County School District RE1 and Dinosaur Charter School

Management, Budget and Planning

- Approved amended payments to school districts for the Public School Finance Act of state share of total program for December 2004
- Approved \$228,475,999.64 to school districts for the Public School Finance Act of 1994 (as amended) state share of total program for January 2005.

Challenge Hearing – Pinnacle Charter School re: Granting Exclusive Chartering Authority to Adams 12 Five Star School District

- Approved the stipulated motion filed by both parties to defer action concerning a challenge to exclusive chartering authority

*** CORRECTION * The following Board Agenda item results were inadvertently left off the December 9, 2004 Board Report. We apologize for any inconvenience that may have occurred**

- Dismissed the charge concerning Application for an Authorization, Charge No. 2004EC44

ITEMS **NOT** ON CONSENT, REQUIRING A VOTE OF THE MEMBERS

State Board / Commissioner

- Approved the amended Rules for the Administration of the Exceptional Children's Educational Act, 1 CCR 301-8

(8-0) The motion was carried unanimously

Special Services

- Adoption of the Rules for the Administration of the Waiver of Statute and Rule, 1 CCR 301-35 with the following amendments:

- Remove proposed rules 2217-R-3.06 (H), concerning Section 22-63-204, C.R.S. and (I), concerning Section 22-63-205, C.R.S.

(7-1) Mrs. Suckla, Mr. DeHoff, Mrs. Hudak, Mrs. Littleton, Mrs. Middleton, Mr. Munn and Mr. Orr concur. Mr. Polis dissents)

Management, Budget & Planning

- Conducted a hearing at the January 13, 2005 State Board meeting on the proposed minor rule changes for the Administration of the School District Capital Construction Assistance Program, 1 CCR 301-63. Closed the oral portion of the hearing, directed revisions, and scheduled for Board-only discussion at the next meeting

(8-0) The motion was carried unanimously

Final Disposition of State Board Disciplinary Action

Charge No.:	2004EC01
License Holder:	Michella A. Burton
License Number:	191103
Last Known Employment:	Boulder Valley School District No. RE-2
Last Known Residence:	Louisville, Colorado
Reason for Disciplinary Action:	Michella A. Burton pled guilty to one felony count of fraud by check, one felony count of unlawful use of a schedule II controlled substance, and one misdemeanor count of child abuse
Final Action of the State Board:	Revocation
Date of State Board Action:	January 13, 2005

Future Business

February 09	Work Session	
February 10	Regular Meeting	
February 11-12	Board Retreat –	Off Site, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Co Springs
March 09	Work Session	
March 10	Regular Meeting	
April 13	Work Session	
April 14	Regular Meeting	
May 11	Work Session	
May 12	Regular Meeting	
June 8-9	Board Retreat -	Off Site / TBA
July 13	Work Session	
July 14	Regular Meeting	
August 10	Work Session -	Off-site / TBA
August 11	Regular Meeting -	Off Site / TBA
September 14	Work Session	
September 15	Regular Meeting	
October 5	Work Session	
October 6	Regular Meeting	
November 09	Work Session	
November 10	Regular Meeting	
December 7	Work Session	
December 8	Regular Meeting	

Future Hearings

RULE HEARINGS:

April 14, 2005
09:45 a.m. Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act 2 CCR
301-37 Alternative Principal Authorization

CHARTER SCHOOL HEARINGS:

February 9, 2005
3:00 p.m. Madison Charter High School vs. Jefferson County School District

February 9, 2005
4:30 p.m. Colorado Arts & Achievement Academy vs. Jefferson County
School District

February 10, 2005
10:30 a.m. College Prep High School vs. Jefferson County School District

March 9, 2005
1:30 p.m. Lotus School for Excellence vs. Adams Arapahoe 28J School
District

March 9, 2005
3:00 p.m. Centennial Charter School vs. Centennial School District

March 10, 2005
10:00 a.m. New Vision Charter School vs. Thompson School District

March 10, 2005,
1:00 p.m. Zenith Academy of Sciences, Arts and Mathematics vs. Boulder
Valley School District

EXCLUSIVE CHARTERING AUTHORITY - CHALLENGE

April 14, 2005
10:00 a.m. Colorado League of Charter Schools re: Exclusive Chartering
Authority for Adams-Arapahoe 28J School District

April 14, 2005
11:00 a.m. Jefferson County Parents for School Choice re: Exclusive
Chartering Authority for Jefferson County School District

Board Report provides a monthly summary of Colorado State Board of Education business to the Department of Education, Colorado school districts, education-related agencies, and concerned citizens.

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