

BOARD REPORT

Members of the Board

Jared Polis, Chairman, Member-at-Large

Randy DeHoff, Vice Chairman, 6th Congressional District

- ♦ **Christine Baca**, 7th Congressional District
- ♦ **Peggy Littleton**, 5th Congressional District
- ♦ **Evie Hudak**, 2nd Congressional District
- ♦ **Rico Munn**, 1st Congressional District
- ♦ **Clair Orr**, 4th Congressional District
- ♦ **Pamela Jo Suckla**, 3rd Congressional District

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

Karen A. Gerwitz, Director of State Board Relations

Board Actions – February 12, 2004
Department of Education, Denver

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LEARNS FROM STUDENTS IN FOUNTAIN-FT. CARSON

In a meeting with students on the evening of February 7, 2004, the State Board learned that Fountain-Ft. Carson High School's uniqueness spans far beyond no lockers in the school and few enclosed classrooms. Fountain-Ft. Carson High School is one of ten schools in the district led by Superintendent Dwight Jones, who along with his predecessor, Dale Gasser, effectively led the district into closing their achievement gap entirely and raising their graduation rate to 98 percent. For a district with a high rate of mobility, and students with backgrounds of 45% low income and 40% minority, this is no small feat.

The State Board of Education wanted to meet with the students in the district to learn their perspective on what rigorous standards, greater expectations and student achievement for all means to them. Some of the changes the district implemented were: 1) Increased length of the school year with added summer programs and school-year tutoring programs; 2) New graduation requirements that exceed

CCHE's newly adopted college admission standards – four years of math, science, language arts *and* social studies; 3) Revamped school day with an emphasis on literacy; and 4) Strategies to recruit, retain and train teachers. Additionally, to help at-risk students, the district offered personal counseling and parental outreach. To encourage high-achieving students, the district added advanced placement and college-level courses.

According to the students, the standards set by the district were not only attainable, but many had surpassed them and had already acquired two years worth of college credit as high school seniors. The State Board was also surprised to learn that the students had very little homework on average and were able to complete most of their work within their block schedules.

Principal James Calhoun led the Board on a tour of this very impressive school through the

multiple computer pods and their state-of-the-art auditorium. The Board would like to extend their gratitude to the students and administrators in the school and district for

taking their time on a Saturday evening in what was a valuable lesson from those that matter – the students.

STATE BOARD WELCOMES PEGGY LITTLETON



Peggy Littleton
5th Congressional District

New Board member Peggy Littleton was appointed by the Republican Party to fill the vacancy created by John Burnett on the State Board of Education. Representing the 5th Congressional District, Mrs. Littleton began her new role in a whirlwind. After being sworn in on Friday afternoon, February 6, she attended a retreat with the Board in Colorado Springs all weekend and attended her first Board meeting the following week.

"I am thrilled with the experience that Peggy Littleton brings to our board and her willingness to spend time on the State Board of Education," says Chairman of the Board Jared Polis. "I look forward to working with Peggy and continuing our Board's commitment to reform and improving our public schools."

Mrs. Littleton joins the Board with an impressive background in education. She home-schooled her three children for seven years while living in Missouri, and has taught in a charter school and a private school in Colorado Springs. She was appointed by Governor Owens to direct the GearUp Program at the Colorado Commission on Higher Education from 2000-2002, and now works as an educational consultant.

ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA (approved by unanimous vote)

Educational Services

- Approved the waiver request of Colorado Revised Statute 22-32-117 (2) (b) (II) for the St. Vrain Valley School District

Professional Services

- Approved the Type III Authorizations as follows:
 - Initial - 26
 - Renewal - 18
- 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 Authorization No. 178786, Charge No. 2003EC01
- Dismissed the charge concerning the following:
 - Application for a License, Charge No. 2003EC43
 - Application for an Authorization, Charge No. 2003EC49

- Instructed department staff and the attorney general's office to prepare the documents necessary to request a formal hearing for the suspension of the holder's license pursuant to §22-60.5-108, C.R.S., concerning License No. 257313, Charge No. 2003EC52
- Approved the proposed teacher induction program for Seven Oaks Academy of Longmont
- Approved the proposed principal/administrator induction program for Norwood Public Schools

Special Services

- Approved the waiver request for Montrose County School District RE-1J for the Vista Charter School for a 29-day period ending March 11, 2004 as follows:
22-9-106; 22-63-201, 206, 301, 302, 401, 402, C.R.S.

Management, Budget and Planning

- Approved payments for February through May 2004 in the monthly amount of \$218,726,776.49 payable to school districts for the Public School Finance Act of 1994 (as amended) state share of total program. The total amount over this time will be \$874,907,105.96

ITEMS NOT ON CONSENT, REQUIRING A VOTE OF THE MEMBERS
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- Conducted a hearing to consider Amendments to the Rules for the Administration of the Colorado Basic Literacy Act, 1 CCR 301-42. Board will continue the hearing at the March 11, 2004 meeting

(6-0 Mr. Polis, Mr. DeHoff, Mrs. Hudak, Mrs. Littleton, Mr. Munn, Mrs. Suckla concurred, Mrs. Baca and Mr. Orr were absent)
- Conducted a board only discussion and adopted amendments to the Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991, 1 CCR 301-37

(6-0 Mr. Polis, Mr. DeHoff, Mrs. Hudak, Mrs. Littleton, Mr. Munn and Mrs. Suckla concurred. Mrs. Baca and Mr. Orr were absent)
- Conducted a hearing to consider permanent rules for the Administration of the School Improvement Plan, 1 CCR 301-52. Board will continue the hearing at the March 12, 2004 meeting

(6-0 Mr. Polis, Mr. DeHoff, Mrs. Hudak, Mrs. Littleton, Mr. Munn and Mrs. Suckla concurred. Mrs. Baca and Mr. Orr were absent)

Final Disposition of State Board Disciplinary Action

Charge No.: 2003EC01
Authorization No. 178786
Applicant: Michael H. Guerrero
Last Known Residence: Denver, Colorado
Reason for Disciplinary Action: Michael H. Guerrero was convicted of one misdemeanor count of sexual assault.
Final Action of the State Board: Permanent revocation
Date of State Board Action: February 12, 2004

Future Business

March 10	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
March 11	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.
April 7	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
April 8	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.
May 12	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
May 13	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.
June 9 -10	RETREAT – Location TBA	
July 7	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
July 8	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.
August 11	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
August 12	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.
September 8	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
September 9	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.
October 13	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
October 14	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.
November 10	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
November 11	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.
December 8	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
December 9	Regular Meeting	9:00 a.m.

Future Hearings

March 11, 2004 10:30 a.m.	Proposed amended rules for the <u>Administration of the Colorado Basic Literacy Act</u> , 1 CCR 301-42
March 11, 2004 11:00 a.m.	Amended Rules for the <u>Administration of the School Improvement Plan and Grant Program</u> , 1 CCR 301-52

Charter School Appeal Hearings

April 7, 2004 1:30 p.m.	Community Leadership Academy Charter School v. Adams County School District 14
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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.

For additional information, contact:

Karen Gerwitz, Director of State Board Relations

Phone: 303.866.6817

FAX: 303.866.6938

Mail: Office of the State Board of Education, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203

E-mail: gerwitz_k@cde.state.co.us