
Colorado State Board of Education

BOARD REPORT

Members of the Board

Jared Polis, Chairman, Member-at-Large

Randy DeHoff, Vice Chairman, 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 ♦ **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 November 11, 2004 Department of Education, Denver

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS IN NOVEMBER

By Commissioner William Moloney

STATE BOARD RENDERS DECISION ON COLE CONVERSION

At a special meeting November 22, 2004, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to select the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) to oversee the conversion of Denver's Cole Middle School to an independent charter school.

In doing so, the Board was meeting its statutory responsibility to choose from among four applicants who had submitted a proposal to win the contract to manage Cole. Cole is the first Colorado school to be subject to this law, owing to persistently low academic performance.

The Board's decision followed a three-month process which included forming a Review Committee, communicating with Denver Public Schools (DPS) authorities,

meeting with the Cole community, and finally, holding a public hearing on November 11th.

At this point, DPS and KIPP will negotiate a contract, with the help of Deputy Commissioner Roscoe Davidson, which will spell out the specifics of what the Cole program will look like next year and beyond.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP COMMISSION PRESENTS REPORT TO STATE BOARD

Bill de la Cruz, Chairman and member of the Colorado Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap, appeared at the November 10th Work Session of the State Board to formally present the Commission's Interim Report.

The report provided a comprehensive look at the causes of the Achievement Gap and reflected experience not just in Colorado but across the nation.

As per its authorizing statute, the report will be submitted to the House and

Senate Education Committees by December 1st. In its future meetings, the Commission will seek to identify specific action steps for addressing the achievement gap in Colorado. These will be incorporated in a final report due next year.

The Interim Report is available at http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_c-tag.htm.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING
FOCUS AT STATE BOARD HEARING**

Culminating several months' long consultative process with educators across Colorado, the State Board held a first hearing on the always complex subject of Special Education Rules. Central to the presentation and the testimony was the controversial topic of dividing state funding between a student's district of residence and district of attendance when the two are different.

The Board will hold a second hearing on this topic during the December 9 meeting.

ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA (approved by unanimous vote)

State Board / Commissioner

- Approved Grismore Treatment Center, Prairie View Treatment Center, Wilderness Program Treatment Center facilities to establish on-grounds schools
- Approved 2004 Administrative Procedures for Review of a State Board Grant of Exclusive Authority

Professional Services

- Approved the proposed teacher/principal/administrator induction program for The Brighton Charter Schools
- Approved the Douglas County Proposal for the preparation of teachers through the Teacher In Residence Program
- Approved the Type III Authorizations as follows:
Initial - 100
Renewal - 37
- Signified its 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. 215298 and an Application for a License Charge No. 2004EC27
- Instructed department staff to issue a notice of denial and appeal rights to the applicant pursuant to §24-4-104, C.R.S. concerning an Application for an Authorization Charge No. 2002EC59
- Instructed department staff to issue a notice of denial and appeal rights to the applicant pursuant to §24-4-104, C.R.S. concerning an Application for a License Charge No. 2004EC32

Special Services

- Approved the waiver request for a 5-year period ending June 30, 2008 for Jefferson County R-1 and Compass Montessori Secondary School as follows: 22-9-106; 22-32-126; 22-63-201, 203, 206, 302, & 402, C.R.S.
- Approved the waiver request for Weld County School District RE-4 and Windsor Charter Academy for a 29-day period ending December 9, 2004 as follows: 22-9-106; 22-32-109(1)(b)(f)(n)(t)(z); 22-32-109.7, 109.8 & 109.9; 22-32-110 (1)(i)(j)(k)(o)(w)(y)(ee); 22-32-119; 22-32-126; 22-33-104(4), 105 & 108; 22-63-201, 202, 203, 301, 302, 401, 402 & 403, C.R.S. and note that 22-32-109.7, 109.8 & 109.9 C.R.S. are delegation waivers
- Approved the waiver request for Greeley School District #6 and University Charter Schools for a 30-year period ending June 30, 2031 as follows: 22-9-106; 22-32-109(1)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)(n)(p)(t)(v)(z)(aa)(bb)(2); 22-32-109.1, 109.7, 109.8 & 109.9; 22-32-110(1)(h)(i)(j)(k)(r)(y)(ee); 22-32-119; 22-32-126; 22-33-104 & 105; 22-63-201, 202, 203, 301, 302, 401, 402, & 403, C.R.S., deny 22-9-107 and 22-32-109 (1)(a)(k)(l)(m)(q)(r)(w)(x), C.R.S. and note that 22-32-109.7, 109.8 & 109.9, C.R.S. are delegation waivers

Management, Budget and Planning

- The Rules for the Administration of the School District Capital Construction Assistance Program, 1 CCR 301-63 was postponed until the January 2005 Board meeting

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

State Board / Commissioner / Deputy Commissioner

- Conducted a hearing to consider amendments to the Rules for the Administration of the School Improvement Plan, 1 CCR 301-52. Closed the oral portion of the hearing and scheduled for consideration at the Board's December 9, 2004 meeting.
8-0 (The motion was carried unanimously.)
- Conducted a hearing to consider amendments to the Rules for the Administration of the Exceptional Children's Educational Act, 1 CCR 301-8. The hearing was continued to the next Board meeting, giving notice of time and date of the hearing and the date when a final version will be available for public inspection
8-0 (The motion was carried unanimously.)
- Conducted a hearing to hear public testimony and submit a referral to Denver Public Schools of an applicant with which to negotiate a charter contract to run Cole Middle

School in Denver. Directed staff to answer questions from the Board and scheduled a special meeting and teleconference on November 22, 2004

8-0 (The motion was carried unanimously.)

- Approved the waiver request for Denver Public Schools and The New America School, Inc., as follows: 22-9-106; 22-32-110(1)(h)(ee); 22-32-126 and all of Article 63 of Title 22, except 22-63-204 for a 3-year period from 9/04 to 9/07

6-0 (Mr. DeHoff, Mrs. Hudak, Mrs. Middleton, Mr. Munn, Mr. Orr and Mrs. Suckla concur. Mrs. Littleton was absent and Mr. Polis recused.)

- Reaffirmed Resolution: Principles of School Choice

7-0 (Mr. Polis, Mr. DeHoff, Mrs. Hudak, Mrs. Middleton, Mr. Munn, Mr. Orr, and Mrs. Suckla concur. Mrs. Littleton was absent.)

- Approved the 2005 meeting schedule for the Colorado State Board of Education

7-0 (The motion was carried unanimously, Peggy Littleton was absent.)

- Table the request for exclusive chartering authority received from Adams County District 50 and Boulder Valley School District, St. Vrain Valley RE1J School District, Poudre R-1 School District, and Adams-Arapahoe 28J for exclusive chartering authority pursuant to 22-30.5-504, C.R.S.

8-0 (The motion was carried unanimously.)

Professional Services

- Conducted a hearing to consider amendments to the Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991, 1 CCR 301-37. Closed the oral portion of the hearing, directed revisions, and scheduled for consideration at the Board's December 9, 2004 meeting

8-0 (The motion was carried unanimously.)

- Approved the proposed licensure preparation program content of Metropolitan State College, Denver, African American Studies, at the Secondary Social Studies level

8-0 (The motion was carried unanimously.)

Management, Budget and Planning

- Adopted the Rules for the Administration of Colorado Online Programs, 1 CCR 301-56

7-0 (The motion was carried unanimously, Peggy Littleton was absent.)

Final Disposition of State Board Disciplinary Action

Charge No.: 2004EC27
Authorization No.: 215298
License Applicant and Authorization Holder: Larry L. Sisson
Last Known Residence: Brighton, Colorado
Reason for Disciplinary Action: Larry L. Sisson engaged in sexual activity with a child and failed to disclose on his substitute authorization and alternative teacher license applications that he was involuntarily separated from the United States Air Force
Final Action of the State Board: Denial of the license application and revocation of the substitute authorization
Date of State Board Action: November 11, 2004

Final Disposition of State Board Disciplinary Action

Charge No.: 2004EC32
Applicant: Aubrey J. Lavizzo
Last Known Employment: Denver Public Schools
Last Known Residence: Denver, Colorado
Reason for Disciplinary Action: Aubrey J. Lavizzo pled guilty to one felony count of robbery by sudden snatching.
Final Action of the State Board: Denial of the application
Date of State Board Action: November 11, 2004

Final Disposition of State Board Disciplinary Action

Charge No.: 2002EC59
Applicant: Brian K. Stracher
Last Known Employment: Denver Public Schools
Last Known Residence: Westminster, Colorado
Reason for Disciplinary Action: Brian K. Stracher was convicted on one misdemeanor count of indecent exposure to a child under age 15 and failed to disclose the conviction for indecent exposure on his emergency authorization application
Final Action of the State Board: Denial of the application
Date of State Board Action: November 11, 2004

DECISION REGARDING COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL CONVERSION:

The following program was selected and recommended to the Denver Public Schools Board of Education and Superintendent to provide management of Cole Middle School beginning with the 2005-2006 school year: KIPP, Knowledge is Power Program, with 14 conditions. The conditions, which apply in particular to the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years, are:

1. The State Board of Education through the Commissioner's Office, as per statute, will facilitate contract negotiations between KIPP and DPS.
2. KIPP will be responsible as the primary contractor for Cole's 6 – 8 operations commencing with the 2005 – 2006 school year.
3. KIPP may subcontract with such additional partners as are deemed necessary.
4. KIPP will have the primary responsibility for hiring teachers for the coming year.
5. The Cole Program, commencing next year, will include extended day and extended year.
6. KIPP will work closely with the Cole parent and community groups to develop formal parent advisory and support bodies.
7. KIPP will begin efforts this year to implement a strong program of community outreach.
8. Commencing next year, KIPP's "Commitment to Excellence" contract should be a central feature of the school.
9. Absolutely central to the school's academic program should be a strong research-validated reading program, particularly geared to Cole's large population of English language learners.
10. There should be a strong program of professional development for teachers. As appropriate, this program should include such elements as Peer Tutoring and Team Teaching.
11. The school should have an effective honors program paralleling existing programs such as AVID.
12. To foster school spirit and discourage economic or other negative comparisons among students, the school should have a clear, uniform dress code.
13. Most careful efforts should be made to explain clearly school discipline and attendance policies to parents.
14. Parents should receive weekly academic progress reports.

Future Business :

2005 Schedule

January 12	Work Session
January 13	Regular Meeting
February 09	Work Session
February 10	Regular Meeting
February 11-12	Board Retreat – Off Site TBA
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

December 9, 2004 10:00 a.m.	Rules for the Administration of Waiver of Statute and Rule, 1 CCR 301-35
December 9, 2004 10:30 a.m.	Rules for the Administration of the School Improvement Plan, 1 CCR 301-52
January 13, 2005 10:15 a.m.	Rules for the Administration of the School District Capital Construction Assistance Program, 1 CCR 301-63

Charter School Appeal Hearings

January 12, 2005 3:00 p.m.	Mountain Peaks Montessori School vs. Jefferson County School District
January 12, 2005 4:30 p.m.	Teddy Roosevelt Academy vs. Jefferson County

February 9, 2005
3:00 p.m.

Madison Charter High School vs. Jefferson County

Exclusive Chartering Authority – Challenge

January 13, 2005
10:45 a.m.

Pinnacle Charter School vs. Adams 12 Five Star

January 13, 2005
1:00 p.m.

New Vision Charter School vs. Thompson Valley R-2J

January 13, 2005
1:45 p.m.

Leadership Preparatory Academy vs. Widefield

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