

**Facility Schools Board
Minutes of Meeting June 5, 2009
Warren Tech, Founder's Room
13300 W. 2nd Place, Lakewood**

In attendance:

Board Members: Kay Cessna, David Molineux, Brian Parks, Steven Ramirez, Brad Schultz,
Barb Taylor, Laura Writebol
Staff: Ellen Hunter, Brittney Darensburg, Kama Linscome
Members of the public

1. Call to Order

Chairman Kay Cessna called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

A draft of the minutes was e-mailed to Board members and copies were available at the meeting. A correction is needed – under Approval of Minutes – the first sentence should read “The minutes from the **March 6**, 2009 board meeting....

A motion was made by Steven Ramirez and seconded by Barb Taylor to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Staff offered one amendment to the agenda – Barb Palmer will not be able to attend. A motion was made by Barb Taylor and seconded by Steven Ramirez to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report

Student Data System –

Wyant Data Systems was selected as the vendor for the development of the student data system for approved facility schools. This company has developed a student data system for the Adult Ed unit at CDE and many of the components of that system are applicable for what facilities need. We are in the process of identifying the data fields that need to be included and we are trying to think forward and assure that our system will be compatible with other systems that may be needed in the future.

Staff positions –

The general consultant position has been filled. Brittney Darensburg joined the unit at the end of April. The special education position has been posted and again and will closes today. The student records position will be delayed due to budget issues. Ellen Hunter has accepted a position with a school district and while we will miss her greatly, we wish her well in her new role. The curriculum specialist position will be posted to fill Ellen's position.

Highly Qualified Requirements –

A training was offered June 2, 2009 by Title I staff at CDE regarding the Highly Qualified requirements for content area teachers. The plan is to begin collecting the information regarding qualifications in the December 1 '09 count and to develop plans with each facility to address how individual staff members will meet those requirements for the content areas that they teach as well as how each facility will address content areas for which they do not have qualified teachers. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, H.Q. issues will be called out of compliance in monitoring visits with a timeline for corrective action. Eventual impact on the approval process and/or an accountability – accreditation process will involve future decisions by the board.

5. **Distinguished Guests**

State Senator Evie Hudak who, while a member of the State Board of Education, created and chaired the task force which resulted in H.B. 08-1204, was in attendance at the meeting. She introduced herself, and spoke briefly to the board and members of the public.

6. **Big Picture High School**

Michelle Brown, principal, and other staff members, presented regarding the philosophy and approach of Big Picture High School. The school serves approximately 100 students and had a 70% graduation rate this year. Important components of the school include a focus on postsecondary options, internships and project based learning. The key concepts of their mission statement are Relationships, Rigor and Relevance. A learning plan is developed for each student and grades are assigned as follows: E = Exceeds expectations, M = Meets expectations, A = Approaching expectations, and I = Insufficient evidence. Credit toward graduation is given for Meets or Exceeds expectations. Science courses are conducted through Urban Farm.

Mentors from the community work with students in selected areas.

7. **Colorado's Finest Alternative High School**

Dr. Bobbi Skaggs and Janelle Smith presented on Colorado's Finest Alternative High School – part of the Englewood school district.

The school serves approximately 430 students in their morning and afternoon/evening programs.

Special education students are staffed out prior to placement. Courses are structured in 6 week sessions. If at all possible, students begin at the start of a new 6 week session.

The curriculum is aligned with Englewood High School and there is an expectation that students perform at the 80% level, so they generally only accept students who have at least a 6th – 7th grade skill level.

Graduation is based on a point system. Points are earned both through demonstrating proficiencies and earning credits. Credits for basic skills classes count as electives. A point sheet is used so that students have a visual representation of their progress toward a diploma and to help with planning coursework and keeping track of credits earned.

If a student wants to take a foreign language, they can do so through the community college.

8. Board Discussion

Big Picture High School - Interesting ideas include:

- Project system
- Internship and mentoring – although doing background checks on mentors would be an involved process, might want some sort of clearinghouse of approved people
- Learning plan for all students
- Focus on deliverables using rubrics – helps students stay focused
- Kids having real life experiences – although cost could be prohibitive
- Some very intriguing ideas, but this type of model is a very sophisticated approach – it takes a very skilled teacher to coordinate projects aligned with student interests, standards, credits toward graduation, etc.
- We may want to do some further research regarding Big Picture High School philosophy – there are some core elements of the national approach, but each school is individual in the way they implement those concepts – would some of the core concepts be applicable to facility settings?

Colorado's Finest – Interesting ideas include:

- Focus on proficiencies and giving credit for proficiencies
- Concept of staggered schedules – students attend 5 consecutive hours, but it could be morning, afternoon or evening
- Points and box sheet – adding up points and proficiencies so the student sees their own progress and can transfer from one facility to another
- Both schools attending to relationships – difficult to do when kids are moving so frequently
- Homework

Both programs focus on relationships – this is difficult to do with kids in facilities moving so frequently.

Meeting Adjourned