



Durango 9-R Board of Education

MEETING RECAP – SPECIAL WORK SESSION

October 11, 2022

* What we discussed

- B/SR (Board/Superintendent Relations) policies were reviewed, and 4 policies were flagged for potential revisions
- Superintendent Cheser provided a report of indicators and compliance with OE (Operational Expectation) policies:
[OE-11 - Facilities](#)
[OE-03 - Community Stakeholder Relationships](#)
- CASB ballot initiatives for the upcoming delegate assembly vote were reviewed for consensus and questions
- Student Board Member Hunter Thompson suggested an innovative method for tracking survey results that will be investigated further

* What we heard from you

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No Public Comment at Work Sessions

* How we engaged with our community

- Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary students shared their Portrait of a Graduate work on the attribute of *Empathetic Collaborator*. Pre-K and 5th grade students worked together and shared a video of their presentation to the entire school about what being an Empathetic Collaborator looks like in practice. Six students were present to share their experience in working together on this presentation and how being an Empathetic Collaborator is a valuable in working with others in school and beyond.

* Actions we took

COMPLETED:

- Policy OE-02 Succession Plan monitoring report for the Superintendent who was found in compliance

AGREED TO:

- Make personal suggested edits to B/SR Policies to review at a future work session
- Review and strengthen the state's Safe Schools Proclamation at a future work session
- Refrain at this time from endorsing Colorado State Proposition FF (Healthy School Meals for All) on November's ballot until further information is known about the impact on FRL applications/funding if voters approve the initiative.
- Send any Thought Leaders meeting suggestions to Board President Smith by 10/13

* What we learned

- October is National Safe Schools month. This year, Safe Schools Week will be observed the 16th-22nd in Colorado Schools. The [official proclamation](#) was read and may be amended by the 9-R Board in the future. The intent by the state is to put a focus on school safety and educate the community.
- Director of Human Resources, Laura Galido, gave a [presentation on Free and Reduced Lunch \(FRL\) application trends](#), how FRL student funding is calculated and used, and the impact of these Title I, Title II, and At-Risk funds on school budgets.
- Superintendent Karen Cheser reviewed the District's recently developed Strategic Plan, highlighting the 1, 2, and 3 year plans and goals. A new addition will be quarterly reports to be made public to the community. One takeaway was that the current baseline shows 80% of 9-R students are currently being served with our core programming with interventions for all other kids.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

[REGULAR MEETING](#)
TUESDAY, October 25, 2022
5:30 PM
9-R Board Room
201 E. 12th Street

9-R Board of Education [\(contact us\)](#)

Kristin Smith, President
Erika Brown, Vice President
Rick Petersen, Treasurer
Andrea Parmenter, Secretary
Katie Stewart, Member

NEXT COFFEE CHAT

OCTOBER 18, 2022
Durango Public Library
1900 E. 3rd Avenue
5:00-6:00pm



Durango, Colorado 9-R Board of Education

RECAP of Scheduled Regular Meeting

October 25, 2022 ([replay meeting here](#))

* What we learned - RESULTS

Dr. Laurie Rossback presented the [Beginning of Year \(BOY\) testing data results](#). Highlights include

- LITERACY K-3: 65% at/above benchmark (+7% over 2019, and -4% of well below over 2019)
- READING K-5: 71% assessed domains show year over year increases, 33% have demonstrated mastery of CMAS not yet taught
- READING 6-12: 54% grades 9-12 and 49% grades 6-8 scored above benchmark (50%tile)
- MATH K-5: 62% of assessed domains had year over year increases
- MATH 9-12: 61% of 9-12 and 43% of students in 6-8 achieved benchmark (50%tile or above)

NOTED tests used: Acadience Reading (K-3 literacy), iReady Reading (K-5), Star Reading (6-12), iReady Math (K-5), Star Math (6-12)

* What we heard from you - PUBLIC COMMENT

- Request to focus on proficiency in student learning and to allow more parents, retired teachers and community members into the classroom to help
- Criticism of the District celebrating improved test scores (9-R students are in the top 20% of Colorado schools with scores improved over pre-COVID test results) because the bar is so low. The Superintendent responded to the comments in agreement that scores and proficiency are too low and 9-R's priority is that 100% of our students reach proficiency.

* How we engaged with our community

- Colorado Connections Academy (CCA) is the State's online public K-12 school program. Durango 9-R is one of several school districts that authorize the CCA program. Shanon Cox, CCA Director, [shared progress on test scores, graduation rates, successes, and challenges in the program](#). Some improvement on test scores and graduation rates was seen in 2021-22 compared to the prior 2 years of COVID interruptions, however the vast majority of students have opted out of testing leaving holes in the data. CCA is working to improve participation and scores.

* Actions we took

AGREED TO:

- Give TJS a list of documents needed to assess their charter re-authorization by 11/1

VOTED TO:

- Accept [OE-02](#) completed monitoring document with Board summary
- Accept the [OE-03](#) monitoring report and find the Superintendent in compliance
- Accept the [OE-11](#) monitoring report and find the Superintendent in compliance
- Increase the amount of the DEF Elizabeth Testa scholarship by \$500 for 4 years with the recent one time donation of \$2,000
- Adhere to policy and not make an exception in accepting Ascent Classical Academy of the Southwest's late application

* What we discussed

- Representatives of Jacobs and Anderson Mason Dale Architects gave their [final presentation of interior and exterior architectural design](#) of the CIC (Career Impact Center) bond project being built at DHS
- Representatives of Jacobs and RA&A architects gave their [final design presentation](#) on the bond project rebuild of Miller Middle School. Groundbreaking for Miller is scheduled for Jan 5, 2023
- The board discussed what documentation is needed for the upcoming Juniper School charter re-authorization and will formalize a list of requested documentation to provide TJS on November 1, 2022
- The board discussed a requested exception to policy regarding the charter application submitted by Ascent Classical Academy of the Southwest. The school missed a statutory application deadline following a legally agreed upon extension from 15 to 45 days.
- The board will be revising OE (Operational Expectations) policy indicators and interpretations with the Superintendent following each month's monitoring of specific OE's.
- How to use a one time increased donation to Durango Education Foundation's (DEF) scholarship monies for the Elizabeth Testa award

NEXT BOARD MEETING

WORKSESSION
Needham Elementary
2425 W. 3rd Avenue
TUESDAY, November 8th, 2022
5:30 PM

9-R Board of Education

[\(contact us\)](#)

Kristin Smith, President
Erika Brown, Vice President
Rick Petersen, Treasurer
Andrea Parmenter, Secretary
Katie Stewart, Member

NEXT COFFEE CHAT

November 2nd, 2022
5:30-6:30pm
ZOOM link [here](#)



Durango 9-R Board of Education MEETING RECAP – WORK SESSION

November 8, 2022

* What we discussed

- Suggested policy edits provided by Superintendent Cheser at the request of the Board for: **OE-11 (Facilities)** and **OE-03 (Community Stakeholder Relationships)**
- Superintendent Cheser submitted the monitoring report to the board for **OE-08 (Communication/Support of the Board)**
- Board members' suggested edits to all BC (Board Culture) policies BC 01-BC-08
- Academic Calendar planning and process including mandatory parameters set by the Board to be shared with the community for feedback
- The timeline and process for The Juniper School (TJS) charter re-authorization. The Board has requested documentation from THS to complete review of the application - to be discussed at a future meeting

* How we engaged with our community

- **The Durango Education Foundation (DEF) presented the District with a Bridge the Gap donation for \$100,000!!!** School District 9-R and The Durango 9-R Board of Education are extremely grateful for DEF and their year after year support of our students and District Mission.
- Needham Elementary Principal Riley Alderton and 5th grade students shared ways they are implementing Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) in the classroom and the opportunity PoG provides older students to act in leadership and mentoring roles with younger students. Art teacher Karen Patrum shared students' artistic creations inspired by the dispositions of Empathetic Collaborator and Resilient Risk Taker.
- Miller Middle School Principal Doug Geygan and students shared a video about how they are incorporating PoG learnings into their daily activities as well as new tactics such as the use of vertical learning spaces that promote collaborative learning in the classroom. Science teacher Kayln Knestrick's students shared an example of an extremely engaging and collaborative problem-solving activity centered around diagnosing a fictional patient from a handful of symptoms and finding the resources and data to support their conclusions.

* Actions we took

AGREED TO:

- Have the Superintendent keep investigating rental options for BPHS
- Revisit compiled edits to BC policies
- A stance on outstanding CASB (Colorado Association of School Board) Resolutions
- Review the FAMLI staff survey results for the mandatory future vote on optional participation in this state program
- Look into returning to the pre-Covid practice of creating the academic calendar two years at a time
- Due to low attendance this semester, Coffee Chats will now be held quarterly rather than monthly, beginning in Jan/Feb 2023.

* What we learned

- The long-range planning is underway with the formation of a committee and monthly targets around the process steps and subsequent district-wide evaluation, monitoring, and prioritized recommendations
- Director of Finance, Kira Horenn gave the Q4 of last calendar year and Q1 of this calendar year's financials as well as an update on the extension of the district audit
- A potential new home has been found for Big Picture High School (BPHS) at the Tech Center. The Superintendent will report back on lease details and get answers to Board members' questions prior to any signing

NEXT BOARD MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, November 29, 2022

5:30 PM

9-R Board Room
201 E. 12th Street

9-R Board of Education

schoolboard@durangoschools.org
Kristin Smith, President
Erika Brown, Vice President
Rick Petersen, Treasurer
Andrea Parmenter,
Secretary
Katie Stewart,
Member

NEXT COFFEE CHAT

WINTER 2023

Time and Date TBD



Durango, Colorado 9-R Board of Education

RECAP of Scheduled Regular Meeting

December 13, 2022 ([replay meeting here](#))

* What we learned - RESULTS

Dr. Dylan Connell shared results on Art, Music, Physical Education, World Language, & Career and Technical Skills

- Updates on current enrollment in these subjects can be [viewed here](#)
- Secondary school results on student aptitudes based on You Science results can be viewed [here](#)

Cricket Lewis of Durango High School shared information on the work-based learning internship program that junior and senior students have the opportunity to participate in - both during the school year and in the summer months. Four students shared their experiences and learning from their completed internships - including their challenges, successes and finding their own ikigai.

* Actions we took

APPROVED:

- Meeting minutes and HR consent agenda

VOTED TO:

- Accept an MOU with Pediatric Partners of the Southwest for their health center at DHS
- Accept the mill levy certification for the District
- Approve easement access to LPEA for the Miller Middle School renovation and DHS CTE building
- Sign a lease at 150 Tech Center for Big Picture High School's new home beginning in the 2023-24 school year
- Adopt the academic school year calendar for the 2023-24 school year based on community feedback

* What we heard from you

Four DHS students who have completed work-based internships shared their experiences and personal growth from participating in the program which included:

- networking, exposure to different viewpoints, working with a wide range of ages, experiencing the world in an authentic setting, being treated and held accountable like an adult, giving back to the community, seeing how their work makes a lasting difference/contribution, learning about long-term personal interests

* How we engaged with our community

- The Juniper School administration and board members gave a presentation in response to questions from the 9-R Board of Education regarding their upcoming re-authorization. They touched on academic growth, financial stability, board and school governance, strategic plan and goals, facilities, staffing, transportation, parent involvement, the "choice" this school provides the community, fundraising, parent satisfaction survey results, future plans, new hires, and current challenges. [View their presentation here.](#)

* What we discussed

- Bond Projects: quarterly update presented by Devon Merriman of Jacobs which can be [viewed here](#)
- Financial Audit: Director of Finance Kira Horenn provided an update on the annual audit: at this time 9-R has had to file an extension as The Juniper School did not submit necessary documents on time. It is hoped that the audit will be complete in the first months of 2023
- Housing Task Force: Based in part on the results of the housing survey sent to 9-R staff, the 9-R Board of Education will be forming a Housing Task Force to come up with creative ways to help 9-R staff find salary-appropriate solutions
- 2023-24 Academic Calendar: the board chose Option A which was the overwhelming favorite among staff and families based on survey results. The Board made one change which was to move one Professional Development day from May to January 2nd as a non-student-contact day. This change was made in response to feedback from the community around returning to school from the holiday break on January 2 (too early).

NEXT BOARD MEETING

WORKSESSION
Park Elementary
510 E. 5th Avenue
TUESDAY, January 9th, 2023
5:30 PM

9-R Board of Education

[\(contact us\)](#)

Kristin Smith, President
Erika Brown, Vice President
Rick Petersen, Treasurer
Andrea Parmenter, Secretary
Katie Stewart, Member

NEXT COFFEE CHAT

See you next year!

January or February 2023
time and date TBD



Durango 9-R Board of Education MEETING RECAP – WORK SESSION

January 10, 2023 held at Park Elementary School

* What we discussed

- Student Board Members Hazel Seashore-Botha and Hunter Osborn shared their ideas for impactful projects they will undertake this semester around effective communication and capturing the student voice as well as educating current 8th grade students about the opportunity to serve on the 9-R Board of Education
- Superintendent Cheser reviewed the monitoring report to the board for [OE-12 \(Technology\)](#). One current focus in the Technology Department is on disaster recovery and secure backup
- Board Members discussed enacting Board Member stipends for future elected members and the process to do so
- Board Members discussed pros and cons of moving to an all at-large district rather than the current districted seats

* How we engaged with our community

- Student Showcase from Park Elementary PAC (Principal Advisory Council) students: Lucy Dixon, Quinn Fenney, Riley Queen, Iris Foster, Sarah Peach, Ellie Maguire, and Lena Marie Kelly presented on what it means to be an EL school and shared their PoG (Portrait of a Graduate) work. Students were presented PoG awards from Principal Marie Voss-Patterson.
- Student Showcase from The Juniper School. Head of School Phillip Werline showed a video highlighting the school's Buddy program where older students are paired with younger students for reading and mentoring. The presentation focused on the positive confidence and growth in students as a result of working with their 'Buddies'.

* Future Steps

AGREED TO:

- Seek legal counsel on re-districting processes and compliance with demographic analysis requirements before proceeding with the discussion
- Continue research on statewide school board stipends and cost to the budget should stipends be enacted for future elected members of the 9-R Board of Education
- Formally write to the Board of Directors of The Juniper School to reach an agreement on a future date for voting on re-authorization with the Durango 9-R Board requesting a vote be held after the financial audit is complete and reviewed by the 9-R Board and District Staff

* What we learned

- Valerie Del Principe-Simpson of 9-R and the school leaders of Colorado Connections, Fort Lewis Elementary, Sunnyside Elementary, and The Juniper School presented their 2022-2021 UIPs (Unified Improvement Plans) prior to submission to the state. The Board learned about the overarching UIP process, what triggered these schools to be required to write an annual UIP plan rather than the typical 2-year plan. School leaders shared their data trends and improvement strategies. The UIPs and information about the process can be [viewed here](#).
- District Staff reviewed The Juniper School's reauthorization application and documentation and shared their findings with the Board. Staff recommended waiting to vote on re-authorization until after the mandatory 3-rd party audit is complete as there were issues with getting TJS' information submitted.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

[REGULAR MEETING](#)

TUESDAY, January 24, 2022

5:30 PM

9-R Board Room
201 E. 12th Street

9-R Board of Education

[\(contact us\)](#)

Kristin Smith, President
Erika Brown, Vice President
Rick Petersen, Treasurer
Andrea Parmenter, Secretary
Katie Stewart, Member

NEXT COFFEE CHAT

WINTER 2023

Time and Date TBD



Durango, Colorado 9-R Board of Education

RECAP of Scheduled Regular Meeting

January 24, 2023

* What we learned - RESULTS

Director of Technology, Kery Harrelson presented the findings of the [2022-23 Bright Bytes Technology Survey](#)

- Data has been collected since 9-R went 1:1 with the Chromebook initiative in 2020 with federal funding.
- There is improvement in student use and teacher integration of technology and mastery from last school year.
- Teachers may earn points for doing self-paced online training but only 2 teachers have taken this training to-date
- Going forward, a basic standard level of competency should be defined, and teachers should receive basic training on LMS platforms and tools (such as Google Classroom at the secondary level)

* Actions we took

APPROVED:

- Meeting minutes
- HR consent agenda
- Bond change orders

SCHEDULED

- The Juniper School audit review
- Superintendent Mid-year Evaluation

VOTED TO:

- Find the Superintendent in compliance with OE-12 (technology)
- Approve the lease from Durango Fire Protection District for the 9-R Administration building on 12th street. DFPD must give 9-R a 1 year notice to vacate

* What we heard from you

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- students from DHS and Animas High School spoke to the board about amending policy to allow students to carry the lifesaving drug NARCAN, an opiate antagonist that reverses the effects of a narcotic overdose. Current statute does not specifically allow for students to carry or administer the drug and these students seek to change that

* How we engaged with our community

- The board interacted with the students that came to advocate for NARCAN in school. All board members were impressed and proud of the students for organizing themselves to affect positive change in their schools.

* What we discussed

- Opioid antagonist policy as it relates to students being able to carry and administer NARCAN at school. The District is working with legal counsel on the feasibility of amending the policy, determining any liability, and a path forward. It is the responsibility of 9-R to mitigate risks even in the face of pros outweighing cons. Dr. Cheser will continue working with our legal counsel on next steps. If adopted into policy, Durango 9-R will be the first district in the State of Colorado to allow students to carry and administer NARCAN
- 2023-24 Budget Priorities and the use of excess fund balance. Because spending habits changed during the pandemic and federal assistance flowed freely to schools, this excess balance is not expected to continue. Priorities compiled with input from staff and classroom teachers amount to a spend of 5.9 million.
- 2nd Quarter Financial report - everything is on track with no surprised. The mandatory audit will be complete and presented to the board in February
- Facilities report: Dr. Cheser shared a document outlining all facility use and rentals over time. There is a 4-tiered fee structure for use of 9-R facilities by 3rd parties. There is no fee for school-related clubs and meetings and separate fees for non-profit organizations and for other users

NEXT BOARD MEETING

WORKSESSION
Durango High School
2390 Main Avenue
MONDAY, February 13th, 2023
5:30 PM

9-R Board of Education [\(contact us\)](#)

Kristin Smith, President
Erika Brown, Vice President
Rick Petersen, Treasurer
Andrea Parmenter, Secretary
Katie Stewart, Member

NEXT COFFEE CHAT

Time and Date TBD
~March 2023



Durango 9-R Board of Education MEETING RECAP – WORK SESSION

February 13, 2023 held at Durango High School

* What we discussed

- TJS (The Juniper School) Charter School [Reauthorization Resolution](#) which reauthorizes TJS for a period of 2 years with conditions
- Future steps on the subject of opioid antagonist use and District policy - a topic brought to the administration and Board's attention by DHS and AHS students at the January 2023 regular school board meeting
- Finalizing [Operational Expectation \(OE\) policy](#) monitoring of the Superintendent ([reports and coversheets](#)) for those OE's monitored by policy to-date this school year: OE-02, OE-03, OE-08, OE-11, and OE-12
- [BC \(Board Culture\) Policy](#) Review & Edits
- Board Self-Evaluation: board members rated and shared policy compliance

* Future Steps

THE BOARD COMMITTED TO:

- Send TJS Reauthorization Resolution with the Board's decision to TJS Board of Directors
- Support student board members in organizing a forum on opioid antagonist use and policy
- Execute completion of the finished OE' policy monitoring reports
- Compile all Board Director input for the Board Self-Evaluation report
- Work in sub-committee on drafting measurable Results Monitoring reports and identifying indicators and targets
- Review and provide input on the DAAC's (District Accountability Committee)'s annual Parent Satisfaction Survey

* How we engaged with our community

- **Student Showcase from Durango High School**
Engineering students in Jordan Englehart's classes demonstrated their robotics competition-winning robot. The students explained the project and the process of designing, testing, and refining while reflecting on the Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) competencies they learned and employed in their endeavors. The team, which includes students from Engineering III and Women in STEM will be taking their robot to the State competition this coming weekend in Fort Collins on the Colorado State University campus. This is the first year DHS students have competed in robotics at this level - and their accomplishment is impressive. Go Demons!

* What we learned

- Diane Doney presented best practices and processes in creating and implementing [Long Range Planning goals using the Littleton, CO school district](#) as a case study
- District staff presented the recently developed [Strategic Plan](#) for the District - highlighting overarching goals with short and long term impact, progress and process owners for each identified objective.
- 9-R Public Information Officer, Karla Sluis shared a detailed communication strategy in support of the Strategic Plan. and unveiled a multi-purpose graphic document designed for multiple stakeholder groups
- The Superintendent presented the monitoring report for [OE-07 Asset Protection](#) and indicators used in evaluation
- Superintendent, Dr. Karen Cheser presented possible JLCD-R policy revisions and/or new policy related to opioid antagonist protocol

NEXT BOARD MEETING

[REGULAR MEETING](#)

TUESDAY, February 24 2023
5:30 PM
9-R Board Room
201 E. 12th Street

9-R Board of Education [\(contact us\)](#)

Kristin Smith, President
Erika Brown, Vice President
Rick Petersen, Treasurer
Andrea Parmenter, Secretary
Katie Stewart, Member

NEXT BOARD WORKSESSION

TUESDAY,, March 14, 2023
5:30 PM
Animas Valley Elementary
373 Hermosa Meadows Rd.