



**Greeley-Evans**

**Weld County School District 6**

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OFFICE OF  
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RELATIONS

**Board of Education  
Community Engagement Meeting Summary Report  
Monday, Sept. 26, 2011  
6:30—8 p.m.  
Franklin Middle School, auxiliary gym**

- Board members in attendance: Linda Trimberger, Robert Stack, Mark Hinze, Bruce Broderius, and Julia Richard
- Board members absent: Judy Kron and Brett Reese

On Monday evening, September 26, 2011, the District 6 Board of Education held a community engagement session at Franklin Middle School. The purpose was to gather community members' thoughts, suggestions and questions about a variety of education topics.

Approximately 20 community members attended the meeting. Community members sat at five tables spread across the room, and one or two board members were at each table. Table groups ranged in size from six to twelve people. Participants were given the following questions to consider and talk about at their tables, although conversation was allowed to flow naturally.

- What do you like best about each of these areas, and what would you most like to change?
  - Elementary Schools
  - Middle Schools
  - High Schools
  - Support and management of student conduct
- Funding for K-12 education has been reduced over the last few years. However, at some point in the future, education funding will stabilize or increase, through a recovered economy, a better state/federal funding mechanism, or an MLO. If and when this happens, how would you use the additional funds? What programs or services would you want to see strengthened? What new programs or services would you want to begin offering?
- What else would you like to have me know, as a member of the Board of Education?

At each table, a district staff member recorded general notes on the major themes of conversation. These notes are shown below. Please keep in mind that individual community members at the tables sometimes had differing opinions on a particular topic; this explains why there are sometimes contradictory statements in the notes sections.

**Conversation at Ms. Trimberger's table group (Table #1)**

*notes taken by Mandy Hydock, finance director*

What do you like best, and what would you like to change?

- When, where and how are parent satisfaction surveys distributed? A Scott Elementary parent did not see the survey at her school last year.

- A parent who moved here from the Thompson School District is happy with how Greeley is handling her child's IEP. Her child's issues have been addressed. Their family likes Greeley schools better than the Thompson district schools.
- At the individual school level, the staff are trying their best to meet kids' needs. Needs to be more advocacy at the district administration level for special education services for students. Parent had to hire a lawyer in order to make sure child's needs were met.
- The new school food program is good.
- Family with a homebound child would like more information on rationale for not allowing child to participate in school activities.
- Would like to see more time devoted to science and social studies instruction for students in all schools. There is different delivery of science and social studies at Winograd K-8 School versus Scott Elementary School. Winograd has block scheduling, while Scott has shorter daily lessons.
- Can the literacy curriculum be made more flexible? My child has difficulty understanding the phonics instruction. Question about specific reading program being used for a specific child with an IEP.

If more education funding becomes available, what would you spend it on?

- Hire more teachers, to lower the student-teacher ratio
- Technology
- Improve teacher salaries
- Improve safety and security measures
- Improve ADA accessibility to schools, such as with doors and playgrounds
- The district should ask the entire community this question, then go for another MLO using the information gathered.
- Can we get any grants to pay for cameras in parking lots or ADA accessible doors?
- More "green" operations, such as composting, community gardens, etc.

What else would you like me to know?

- What are the policies for distributing fliers at schools?

### **Conversation at Mr. Stack's table group (Table #2)**

*notes taken by Stacie Datteri, exec director of learning services*

What do you like best, and what would you like to change?

- Like the arts program at Chappelow K-8 School. Students are in music and choir. Child likes school, likes music class. Would like to see these quality programs expanded.
- RLC program is making progress and collaborating more with other school programs and there is more integration with elective class programs.
- Children are doing well in reading, writing, and math. Child likes school.
- Would like to see more action-learning activities in kindergarten to stimulate brain development.
- Would like to see music started earlier than fifth grade, maybe in fourth grade. Would help with math.
- Like the reading program options for the higher-end students and would like to see more kids getting this so that the G/T kids aren't isolated.
- Like the integration of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students at Chappelow K-8 School.
- Like that teachers are welcoming.
- Would like to see more parents involved and getting into schools to help support education.
- Parents would like to have more opportunities to get good info about what's going on in schools.
- Would like to see a longer school year for students.
- Would like to see more science experiments/labs offered.

- Improve the support systems available for students who need help.
- Would like to have more books available for students to take home, especially at high schools.
- Would like to see the myth of “bad middle schools” go away. We need to promote our middle schools. They are good places for kids.

If more education funding becomes available, what would you spend it on?

- End the furlough days.
- Reduce class sizes.
- Books for all students, so they can take them home to study.
- More therapy sessions and technology assistance for special needs students.
- More Career and Technical Education classes and pathways for students.
- Use of netbooks, iPads and other e–reading devices.
- More hands-on, team based learning activities, project based.
- We need to go for another MLO, but with a 5–7 year sunset and more specifics no nhow funds would be used.
- Academics should take priority over athletics.
- More before and after school care.
- Ideas for more cost savings: reduce staff, reduce field days and sports, consider four-day week, push online learning options

What else would you like me to know?

- Develop more educational training sessions for parents, to help them be more involved.
- Books in Spanish.
- We need to talk more about the good things that are happening in this district. Don’t be shy about promoting our successes.
- Early childhood education is important, and has a high payoff down the road. A little expense in this area saves huge expenses later.

### **Conversation at Mr. Hinze’s and Dr. Broderius’ table group (table #3)**

*notes taken by Nancy Devine, chief academic officer*

What do you like best, and what would you like to change?

- Grandchildren have had a great experience in their schools.
- Like the emphasis on safety in our schools
- Like the AVID program
- Like the career pathways
- Like the Youth and Family Connections (JAC)
- We need newer school buses
- Like that the district approved Union Colony Elementary charter school and is assisting with finding a location. City of Evans would be willing to house a charter in its area.
  - Disagreement over whether district is helping find a location or not.
  - Charter schools are damaging the idea of equal school access for all.
- Martinez Elementary turned itself around through the hard work of the staff and the principal.
- Like the high school alternative programs, but would like to see an alternative middle school option for families

If more education funding becomes available, what would you spend it on?

- Parent education classes, particularly on how to deal with middle and high school age children.
- Create stronger after-school detention for students, to hold them accountable.
- Textbooks and technology.

- Go for another MLO, but have a sunset clause. Need to convince community that we are making enough progress to deserve more money.
- The district needs to live within its budget. Citizens aren't responsible for giving schools more money. The district may not be using the money they already have in the best way possible.
- MLO will affect small business owners more than homeowners.
- Why can Windsor and Eaton educate kids successfully with about the same amount of money?

What else would you like me to know?

- Is what we are hearing about lots of gangs in schools true?
- The start and end times for middle schools changed a few years ago. Do we know how this has affected student success, if at all?
- Strong leadership makes a big difference
- Do parents participate in parent-teacher conferences?
- It seems that our best students go to charter schools, leaving only struggling students in our neighborhood schools.
- Charter schools can't expand into the east side of town because of a lack of available property.
- For our schools to succeed, we need to stress that we speak English in our schools. Parents at home should be learning to speak English.
- District needs to do more to spread the good things about our schools.

### **Conversation at Dr. Richard's table group (table #5)**

*notes taken by Wayne Eads, chief operations officer, and Kathi VanSoest, exec director of grants*

What do you like best, and what would you like to change?

- Elementary schools are pretty good. Good staff. Safe.
- The district has great staff members.
- Need to be stronger against bullying behavior at all schools. Empower teachers to handle bullying issues. Need to hold students and parents more accountable. Bullies are given too much slack. Give students sterner consequences.
- Need to lower class sizes
- Need more administrators, such as the dean of students, principals and assistant principals. They are overworked. Maybe have two deans at each school? And more campus monitors.
- Need more training for teachers on classroom management.
- Parents need more understanding of math program, so they can help their kids at home.
- Charter schools are performing well.
- Two children were average students at McAuliffe and are now very proficient at Franklin.
- Need to have higher high school standards to prepare students for college. Must improve graduation rate. The bar is too low.
- Need to review homework policy at schools. Some kids never have homework, while others have homework every night.
- Elementary curriculum is too scripted. Has turned teachers into narrators, not educators.
- We should visit Severance schools and charter schools to study what they do right.

If more education funding becomes available, what would you spend it on?

- Lower the class sizes. Children need more one-on-one attention. Free up teachers' time.
- More middle school sports and extra-curriculars.
- More security, put cameras in the hallways
- AVID program for all students.
- Bring back home economics classes.

What else would you like me to know?

- The kids who are leaving the district for Severance are all high achievers.
- Some people are offended by the fact that we offer Spanish language interpretation at school functions and events. That drives them away to other districts.
- Offering English classes to parents is a good thing.

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