



Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2010
Falcon Bluffs Middle School, Jefferson County

Jim Baker welcomed everyone to Jeffco and to Falcon Bluffs Middle School. He introduced the principal of Falcon Bluffs who in turn introduced the 8th grade choral group. The group performed several selections for us.

Deb McGee welcomed all to today's meeting and asked for the minutes from the Feb. 19th CASPA meeting to be approved. The motion for minutes to be approved was made and seconded.

June meeting...the CASPA Board asked the group if they would be open to a social instead of a business meeting in June. The group approved of that change. Littleton Public Schools will select a venue for the social, where we can honor retirees, and catch up on other personnel changes within our ranks. **(Note: an important change to this decision occurs later in the minutes.)**

CASPA "STARS"... Jeanne Gilbert presented a CASPA *STAR* to Barb Allen of CDE. Barb is retiring and CASPA wanted to recognize her for her valuable contributions to our organization over the course of many years. Thank you, Barb! Debbie McGee presented a *STAR* to Jeanne Gilbert for her work on the FRISK training. Congratulations to Barb and Jeanne☺

Negotiations updates...the following districts were represented: Cherry Creek, Littleton Public Schools, Westminster, DPS, Garfield RE-2, Poudre, Ft. Collins, Adams 12, Boulder Valley, Brighton, Mapleton, Jeffco, Canon City, Douglas County, (legal rep for Englewood, Eagle/Vail, St. Vrain), Mesa, Fountain/Ft. Carson, and Weld RE-8.

Report from the CDE...Jami Goetz, Director of Professional Services and Educator Licensing, was present. She shared information regarding licensure issues and changes. She provided two handouts (see attached) which indicate that the cycle time for the processing of licensures has improved over the time period June, 2009-February, 2010. The area of "special causes" tends to be where hang ups in processing occur. Special causes can be concerns with fingerprinting, background investigations, old arrests/convictions, frozen licenses, etc. CDE is still working with a dated technology system and there are minimal to no resources to make significant changes. Jami indicated that since October, 2009, when the on-line payment system was rolled out, only two complaints have surfaced. She is still working on the on-line application system. A TENTATIVE roll out of that system is set for September, 2010. CDE should also be able to receive transcripts electronically from all colleges and universities in Colorado when that system is up and running. CBI is still working on its electronic processing improvements (heavy sigh!)

Jami spoke about the roll out of the Educator Identifier Project (see handout). The purpose of the Educator Identifier system is to improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning by linking student achievement data to a variety of conditions including building leadership, the student's teacher, preparation of teachers, etc. The project has been divided into three phases, each contingent upon funding. Phase I, the generation and dissemination of unique identifiers, will roll out at the end of June,

2010. Social Security numbers will NOT be used. **Because of the many questions around this project, it was determined that the June, 2010, CASPA meeting will involve training around Phase I of this Project.** CASPA members are asked to bring the ITS folks from their districts who are involved in this Project to the June meeting in Littleton.

Barb Allen is retiring from CDE and Theresa Marin will be the primary contact now at CDE for general licensure questions. Jami provided a handout (see attached) that includes the names and contact information for key people at the licensure dept. at CDE.

Jami talked a bit more about the security measures taken with all mail that comes to CDE. Deb Blake covered this at the Feb., 2010 CASPA meeting. Once Colorado colleges and universities can send transcripts directly to CDE electronically, the licensure approval process should speed up considerably.

CASE...Bruce Caughey talked about the Educator Effectiveness bill. CASE's position is: The Educator Effectiveness bill still needs some improvements, but CASE supports the strategic direction of this effort (see attached summary of bill prepared by Tonette Salazar). CASE officially is in an "amend" position, and will work to get to a support position on the bill with amendments. CASE believes that the concept of tying teacher and leader evaluations to student performance is here to stay. If evaluations and tenure do not change this year, this matter will come up again and again. CASE wants to see changes done in ways that help school leaders. CASE believes that our principals need all the tools at their sides to improve student achievement. CASE also believes that the time commitment by principals and resources to do this right add to the difficulty of implementation. CASE will continue to work with the sponsors of SB 191 to draft amendments that make sense. CASE cannot support the bill fully until the language satisfies member concerns in key areas. CASE leadership has had special communication with the CAESP and CASSP Boards, regional superintendent group discussions, and input from the CASPA department. As a result of the dialog, CASE cannot automatically put its stamp on a bill that raises significant and real concerns about timelines, resources, local decision making, responsibilities and the like. Senator Johnston has already crafted seven potential amendments that take care of many primary CASE concerns. CASE will work hard to put this language into the bill in the Senate Education Committee. The bill has a good shot of success in the Senate due to bipartisan sponsorship, a spectrum of organizational support (including the unanimous support of the State Board of Education) and a national push for change, alongside Colorado's second round application for Race to the Top funding.

At the State Board of Education hearing on April 14, Bruce testified with significant concerns about new, proposed State Board of Education rules that require **parental notification within 24 hours of the arrest of a school employee for certain offenses.** The State Board heard testimony against the bill from CASE and CEA, and delayed its decision until the State Board's May meeting. Bruce said CASE was offering its testimony provided with the insights of CASSLEO (the Colorado Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers) and that both organizations had as a top priority keeping schools safe places. CASE is not advocating for the continued school employment of persons who have been convicted of offenses that would show that they are a danger to students or staff. Nor is CASE suggesting that personnel who have been arrested for certain offenses not be temporarily removed from the educational environment until the disposition of the case against them. It should be noted that persons are sometimes arrested based upon erroneous or fabricated information. CASE fears that the blanket notification of parents within 24 hours of an arrest may lead to otherwise good employees having their reputation tarnished, or worse becoming for all practical purposes unemployable. Would districts be liable for harm (physical, mental or financial) arising out of notifications over and above what is required by state statute? CASE would prefer that police officials and school officials engage in a dialogue about the case to make a reasoned determination if suspension with or without pay is warranted, continued employment is desirable or practical, and if parental notification is necessary.

Differences in the Senate and House versions of the **School Finance Act (HB 1369)** have been hammered out. CASE had worked on two major provisions of the bill that came out of the committee as hoped. 1) Seven districts that do not receive state funding for their total program funding will need to "buy back" their categorical funding prior to being able to keep any residual funds. This puts them more in line with the other 171 districts that will have a 6.35 percent cut and does not force the reduction in their mill levy overrides to achieve the cut. 2) CASE worked to strip out the very troublesome amendment that was tacked onto the bill on second reading in the Senate by Senate Minority Leader Josh Penry. The amendment would have forced school districts to provide a report on the "financial benefits of consolidating the central administrative functions of multiple school districts within individual counties." **HB 1171** seeks to implement the recommendations of the Education Data Advisory Committee (EDAC) to eliminate duplicative, obsolete or unnecessary data requirements. The bill was turned sideways when CEA lobbied hard to force the continuation of a **budget report called the CDE-18**. This report is not used by the state in any way, but is used by CEA for negotiations. We are pleased that the Conference Committee voted to eliminate the CDE-18 along with other unnecessary reports, but the work is not finished until the full House and Senate accept the report.

CASE Convention-July 28-30, 2010.

A survey is coming out from AAEE. Todd Fukai and Mike Gradoz ask that we give the survey attention so that accurate data can be reported to AAEE. Thank you.

Final CASPA meeting for the year: June 18, 2010—Littleton Public Schools

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Kinney
Secretary, CASPA