



Colorado State Board of Education

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE  
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSION  
DENVER, COLORADO  
April 14, 2016, Part 1

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT on April 14, 2016, the  
above-entitled meeting was conducted at the Colorado  
Department of Education, before the following Board Members:

Steven Durham (R), Chairman  
Angelika Schroeder (D), Vice Chairman  
Valentina (Val) Flores (D)  
Jane Goff (D)  
Pam Mazanec (R)  
Joyce Rankin (R)  
Debora Scheffel (R)



1 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Good morning. The State  
2 Board of Education will please come back to order. And Ms.  
3 Burdsall, why don't you call the roll call for it, please?

4 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Flores.

5 MS. FLORES: Here.

6 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Goff. Goff?

7 MS. GOFF: Here.

8 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Mazanec.

9 MS. MAZANEC: Here.

10 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Rankin.

11 MS. RANKIN: Here.

12 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Scheffel.

13 MS. SCHEFFEL: Here.

14 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Schroeder.

15 MS. SCHROEDER: Here.

16 MS. BURDSALL: Chairman Durham.

17 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Here. Quorum is present.

18 Now, first item is our Lieutenant Governor's update. Mr.  
19 Garcia, Lieutenant Governor Garcia.

20 MR. GARCIA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a  
21 pleasure to be here. Hello, Commissioner. Okay. I hope  
22 everybody can hear me. I just have a very brief update. I  
23 just want to, of course, as I always do, try to let you know  
24 what's going on at the Department of Higher Ed, what's going



1 on within the administration that relates to the important  
2 work that you do.

3 I want to mention, you've all heard about the  
4 Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. It's now  
5 approved 24 local scholarship programs. And the idea is to  
6 take a limited amount of state money and to leverage it with  
7 local communities by saying we will match money you raise to  
8 help you provide scholarships to students from your -- from  
9 your city, from your county. And what we've seen is we're -  
10 - or we've already released over \$4.3 million, and the goal  
11 is to take \$7 million of state money and convert that  
12 through this leveraging into \$14 million of additional  
13 support for students who are going on to college.

14 We also, within COSI, the Colorado  
15 Opportunity Scholarship Initiative, had created a catalog,  
16 essentially an online catalog of all the student support  
17 programs around the state that are intended to help students  
18 complete high school and make the transition successfully  
19 into college. We've identified over 300 such programs, but  
20 many of them are largely invisible to the students and  
21 families who most need them and would take advantage of  
22 them. So we've put those all online and continue to catalog  
23 every new program we can find because the worst thing, of  
24 course, is for people to start programs and have resources  
25 that students aren't able to take advantage of.



1                   We also continue to -- continue to work with  
2 our college and university partners to strengthen our prior  
3 learning assessment programs. We know a lot of students  
4 come to college with knowledge and skills that should be  
5 converted in and accepted as college credit so that they can  
6 more quickly complete a degree, and whether they have --  
7 whether that comes through concurrent enrollment or military  
8 service or a whole range of other things, these are things  
9 that students have already worked hard to learn, and they  
10 should be able to get credit for it. We need to figure out  
11 how to make sure that we have a consistent way of doing that  
12 around the state.

13                   I also wanna introduce somebody very  
14 important. It's a new hire at the Colorado Department of  
15 Higher Ed. I'm gonna ask him to stand back here, Dr.  
16 Timothy Flanagan. And Dr. Flanagan has joined our staff as  
17 the Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer. So  
18 that's the most important kind of high level director  
19 position within the department that works with students in  
20 improving the opportunity for students to move into higher  
21 education.

22                   He has a strong background working in a lot  
23 of colleges and universities that really focused on, at  
24 least historically, on teacher preparation programs. They  
25 were -- all of the colleges he's worked at, all the



1 universities, were what -- originally called normal schools,  
2 the schools where we send young men and women to learn how  
3 to become educators. He also has been a university provost,  
4 the university president -- president most recently in  
5 Illinois, but he's also worked in Texas, in Massachusetts.  
6 And around the country. We think he's gonna bring a great  
7 deal of very important experience to -- to the -- to the  
8 department, and he's going to be able to work well with all  
9 of our college and university presidents.

10 He had actually retired a couple of years ago  
11 and moved to Colorado and found that retirement just didn't  
12 agree with him because he had too much to offer. And we were  
13 very fortunate when we were trying to hire for this position  
14 that we were able to find someone with that level of  
15 experience. So just really happy to -- to -- to introduce  
16 him to you.

17 I also want to mention Dr. Robert Mitchell.  
18 Of course, he's been working with department of -- this  
19 department and all folks around teacher preparation  
20 programs. We -- he will be continuing to work with the  
21 department and working with Dr. Flanagan, again, to improve  
22 the quality of our teacher prep programs.

23 And that's the issue you guys recognize as  
24 very important. And Commissioner Randall, I wanna commend  
25 for his recent efforts to go out to Arizona State University



1 and to talk to students who are still enrolled in programs  
2 about the idea of teaching in Colorado. We know that we  
3 have a couple of challenges here, significant challenges,  
4 and one is ensuring that we have high-quality teachers, but  
5 also ensuring that we have an adequate quantity of teachers  
6 entering the profession, especially in our rural areas. So  
7 I really wanna commend the Commissioner and all of you for  
8 staying focused on that.

9 I was in a rural community yesterday, I was  
10 in Limon as part of our One Book for Colorado tour and was  
11 able to visit an outstanding Early Childhood Education  
12 Center but also to talk with other educators about the  
13 challenge of attracting and retaining high-quality  
14 educators. And that's one of the most important things we  
15 can do. And I just again, want to thank you for continuing  
16 to focus on that. It's not an issue that's gonna be easily  
17 resolved. We just have a growing demand, and it's becoming  
18 more and more of a challenge to get high-performing students  
19 to choose teaching as a profession. It's long hours. The  
20 pay isn't terribly great. It's incredibly high pressure, and  
21 we continue to put pressure on our teachers, and some of  
22 that, of course, is warranted. We want our teachers to be  
23 high performing because we want our students to be able to  
24 perform at a high level when they graduate.



1                   So yesterday or rather on Monday, I was in  
2 Washington, D.C. with Lumina Foundation at the National  
3 Press Club, where they were issuing the 2016 report called A  
4 Stronger Nation that is really focused on understanding the  
5 challenges we face as a nation if we don't educate enough of  
6 our young people. Lumina has set a broad national goal to  
7 hit 60 percent post-secondary attainment by 2025. As a  
8 nation, we're far from that. In Colorado, we've set even a  
9 higher goal because frankly, we are already ahead of our  
10 peer states. So we set a goal of 66 percent. That doesn't  
11 mean 66 percent of our population with a bachelor's degree  
12 necessarily, but a bachelors and associates degree, or a  
13 post-secondary certificate that will help students get a  
14 living wage job. That is really critically important  
15 especially as we look to the future of Colorado where we  
16 know that three-fourths of all new jobs by 2020 will require  
17 post-secondary credential.

18                   So I wanna just leave you with that  
19 challenge. This is the last time I will be presenting to  
20 you. It's been an honor to work with not just this  
21 Commissioner but his predecessor, many of your predecessors.  
22 I know that what you do here is about the most important job  
23 in the state. This is a body that isn't -- is not well-  
24 known by the public, and yet what you do, no one could  
25 argue, is the most important thing we do as a state, and



1 that is try to ensure that all of our young people  
2 throughout the state have access to a high-quality  
3 education.

4                   And I would encourage you to do what I've  
5 seen you do, which is to listen not just to the loudest  
6 voices but the most important voices, and that's the voices  
7 of those children and families for whom getting a quality  
8 education is their only hope. Nothing could be more  
9 important to them. So keep that in mind as you continue to  
10 do your work every day. It's so critically important, and  
11 it's what's gonna set Colorado apart. If we continue to  
12 provide for every student, in every school, in every  
13 community, the opportunity to get a high-quality education  
14 so they can, if they choose, move on successfully to post-  
15 secondary education. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chair.

17                   (Applause)

18                   CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Don't run off.

19                   MR. GARCIA: Okay.

20                   CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Are there any questions or  
21 comments for the Lieutenant Governor? Yes, we did -- we  
22 understand that as a parting gift, you wanted a prepaid trip  
23 to Sturgis. We -- we don't have that. But Dr. Schroeder  
24 has something she'd like to read, and I would just like to  
25 say before we start that I appreciate the attention that





1 you've given, the support, and -- and the issues that face  
2 us, just on a personal note, so --

3 MR. GARCIA: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: -- Dr. Schroeder.

5 MS. SCHROEDER: Well, and I would add that I  
6 hope this is not the last time that you come to us, just  
7 only in your present position. But I'd like to read -- read  
8 a resolution recognizing the contribution Lieutenant  
9 Governor Joe Garcia has made to the education in Colorado.

10 In honor of Lieutenant Governor Joseph  
11 Garcia, on the occasion of his final update to the Colorado  
12 Board of Education, on April 14, 2016, whereas, Lieutenant  
13 Governor Joseph Garcia has been an invaluable partner with  
14 the Colorado State Board of Education and the Colorado  
15 Department of Education in our efforts to prepare all  
16 students for college or careers since he was sworn into  
17 office of Lieutenant Governor in 2011.

18 And whereas, Joe is uniquely experienced and  
19 knowledgeable about the role Higher Education plays in  
20 Colorado as Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on  
21 Higher Education, as well as being past president of  
22 Colorado State University Pueblo and serving as a past  
23 president of the second largest community college in  
24 Colorado, Pikes Peak Community College.



1                   And whereas, Joe has fought tirelessly for  
2 the education of all children in Colorado, understanding the  
3 importance of building a cohesive education system from  
4 preschool through college and advocating for strong literacy  
5 programs. And whereas, when he was not riding his  
6 motorcycle, Joe has given selflessly to the education of  
7 Colorado students and the future of children.

8                   And whereas, Joe has pushed for fighting  
9 regional solutions to higher education, battling for  
10 expanding access to higher education for all students in  
11 Colorado, especially students of color and first-generation  
12 college students because he knows that a highly educated  
13 workforce is critical to the future of our entire state.

14                   Whereas, Joe has been a tireless advocate for  
15 the Colorado Native American and Latino students and a  
16 relentless supporter of raising expectations for all  
17 students and ensuring that all students have access to a  
18 world-class education.

19                   Whereas, we congratulate Joe on his  
20 acceptance of a position as President of Western Interstate  
21 Commission for Higher Education, where he will continue to  
22 work collaboratively to expand education access and  
23 excellence for all citizens of the West.

24                   Now therefore be it resolved, the Colorado  
25 State Board of Education formally commends Lieutenant



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1 Governor Joseph Garcia for his outstanding service as our  
2 Lieutenant Governor, his commitment to continually improving  
3 education for the children of Colorado, and his enduring  
4 dedication to making sure all children receive a world-class  
5 education and are prepared to enter college or the  
6 workforce.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: We do have a copy of the  
10 resolution. I don't know if we one of those fancy expensive  
11 folders. But if -- if we don't, we have to retrieve it  
12 first. So we'll just take a short recess.

13 (Meeting adjourned)



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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberly C. McCright, Certified Vendor and Notary, do hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter occurred as hereinbefore set out.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such were reported by me or under my supervision, later reduced to typewritten form under my supervision and control and that the foregoing pages are a full, true and correct transcription of the original notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of October, 2018.

/s/ Kimberly C. McCright  
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