📋 Board Meeting Highlights – October 16, 2025

Attended by: *Mary Parker, Danielle Varda, Paula Reed (left after public comment), Michelle Applegate, Erin Kenworthy*
Absent: *None*

TL;DR Recap

📋 Board of Education Highlights – Oct. 16, 2025

The Jeffco Board heard public comment that largely regarded the shooting at Evergreen High School, requesting immediate solutions to prevent future shootings, expressing concerns and praise regarding the response from the district and Board, and expressing concern that the District does not provide SROs for charter schools. Superintendent Dorland later clarified that SROs are provided to charter schools and proposed to change the language that caused the misunderstanding.

Regular business included:
✅ Approved and renewed contracts, conducted employment business, and recognized many national awareness events.
📊 Heard presentations regarding Board Ends 1.3 and 2.1
💬 Superintendent & Board members shared their interactions with the Evergreen community, expressed a need for community response to the issue of school violence, and praised the sustainability initiative which was adopted as a Board End.

Next meeting: **October 24th at 11:00 am - Executive Session**.

Board meetings are long, and not everyone can attend. For a more detailed, but easily digestible summary of this Board Meeting keep reading below. If you want to watch the full recorded meeting, find it here.

🔒 Executive Session Recap

The board convened a private session on October 8 to discuss District unified and school priority improvement plans, Budget Reduction Blueprint, and Charter school off-cycle waivers, etc. To learn more about these topics, the 10/8 recorded meeting is here.

📣 Proclamations – August/Sept/Oct - lots to recognize!

The board officially recognized:

- National Back to School Month (August)
- National Arts and Education Week (Sept 7-13)
- Alopecia Awareness Month (September)
- International Literacy Day (Sept 8)
- National Attendance Awareness Month (Sept)
- National Suicide Prevention Awareness Week (Sept 7-13)
- National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15-Oct 15)
- National Principles Month (October)
- Dyslexia Awareness Month (October)
- National Bullying Prevention (October)
- National Fire Prevention Week (Oct 5-11)
- Indigenous Peoples Day (Oct 13)
- National School Lunch Week (Oct 13-17)
- National Safe Schools Week (Oct 19-25)
- National School Bus Safety Week Oct 20-24)

🗣️ Public Comments – Begins at 22:35 in Live Recording

The Board approved motion to waive the time limit restriction on policy and allow three minutes per speaker and ten minutes per group. The Board also offered mental health staff at the meeting due to sensitivity of expected comments.

People shared their thoughts on the following topics:

🗣️ School safety concerns resulting from Evergreen shooting – many discussed a need to reestablish trust that children are safe in schools and trust in the Board to prevent and appropriately react to similar situations. Some commenters were unhappy with what they described as a disjointed response from the district.

🗣️Many commenters requested trained armed individuals in schools, voluntary armed staff, armed SROs.

🗣️Other commenters called for increased SEL, access to mental health services and greater conflict resolution training, metal detectors, and requesting immediate funding from legislators to make these types of safety changes.

🗣️ The importance of SROs in school safety was emphasized by speakers, including members of Charter School communities who expressed distress that SROs were not provided by the District to Charter Schools.

🗣️One public commenter expressed disagreement with calls to put armed individuals in schools. A rep from Be Smart offered partnership for safe gun storage training for community members.
🗣️Commenters called for a layered and immediate response to prevent gun violence in schools.
🗣️Three nurses provided uplifting stories regarding how they have helped Jeffco students in meaningful ways.

✅ Consent Agenda

The Board highlighted the sustainability initiative as a huge win for the District.

- The board approved:
  Past meeting minutes and monitoring reports
- Updated policies in alignment with SB25-065
- School Board representation on Wheat Ridge Urban Renewal Authority
- Building Use Agreement (Conifer HS site trails)
- Contract renewal with Republic Services
- Board Ends 4 – adopted a statement regarding sustainability
- Employment; Administrative Appointments/Resignations/Terminations
- Appointments to the District Accountability Committee (DAC)
- Contract approval with Storage Area Network
- Dismissal of non-probationary teacher

📊 Study Session Highlights

- **Presentation from Jeffco Chief Academic Officer Renee Nicothodes**
  - **Board Ends 1.3** – Every student will be taught using **evidence based instructional materials** that reflect the global diversity of the world they live in." Discussion re: high quality, uniform learning materials. Report located here.
  - **Board Ends 2.1** – "Educators will receive high quality professional development and engage in planning that impacts student outcomes" Report located here.
  - **Additional discussion among Board members regarding offering digital literacy teaching for students.**

👩💼 Leadership Reports

- Superintendent Dorland highlighted school visits, a Career EXPO, and retreat planned in December for high school 2.0 and the Magic of Middle School. This work is funded by the Markle Foundation. She described support and visits to Evergreen High School (students and teachers), increased mental health access to the community, and she honored the resilience of Evergreen High School community. Superintendent Dorland expressed a need, based on public comment, to clarify that Jeffco does support SROs in charter schools, and expressed regret for the miscommunication. She stated that a change to the language that caused the confusion is being proposed.
- Board members also expressed support for the Evergreen High School and ways that they were able to connect with the community. They shared updates from

school visits, committee meetings, and community events they attended. Some Board members acknowledged funding concerns and expressed gratitude for those who provided public comment at the meeting.

- Board member Kenworthy disagreed with many public commenters calling for armed individuals in schools, expressing concern that this makes many individuals feel less safe. She called for a community backed effort to solve the issue of school violence, iterating that this issue cannot be solved by schools alone.

🎉 **Adjourned**

The next Board meeting will be a **Study Session on November 5, 2025 at 4:30 p.m**.

Until next time, Jeffco! 🎓✨