



AGENDA
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah
February 13, 2024
4:30 p.m.

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Technology Director Jeremy Cox.

Present from Hildale City: Mayor Donia Jessop, City Manager Eric Duthie, and Councilmember Terrill Musser.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Board Member Hutchinson.

WORK SESSION

Hildale City

Mayor Jessop mentioned there is a lot going on in Hildale with the building of the new Vocational Building and football field at the high school, and new businesses and homes being built in the community. She said that Village Capital Mortgage Company has a big project they are doing. The city has annexed out to Apple Valley, which adds about 2,250 acres of raw land. They are working on water solutions for all of that area. She mentioned that they also have a big developer coming for a housing development that has included a couple of school sites in the project. It will quadruple the population of the city. The developer is also helping with water solutions for the development. She said there is a lot of great things happening. The developers coming in are including spaces for parks, churches, and schools. She said that the Utah Mountain Biking Team would like to make Hildale their headquarters. They will be developing trails in the area. She reported that they have opened the airport as a free trade airport which will help develop businesses in that area. Mayor Jessop shared that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has approved an LDS chapel in the Hildale community. They are ready to break ground on it. There are over 800 members in the community. The currently attend in the Apple Valley Chapel. The building of the church is extremely exciting for the community. Mayor Jessop said they worked to capture as many as possible with the What's Up Down South event and plan to possibly do some changes to have more attendance at the regional luncheon. Eric Duthie said they are looking to get all of the decision makers in attendance to discuss needs. This year 85 individuals were able to attend. Mayor Jessop mentioned the airport location is in Colorado Center on Centennial Park Road. The Village Capital Building will have a beautiful building with a big conference room. She also mentioned that they have received a grant from the Governor's Economic Development. The Innovation Center will be a good place for tourism. Mayor Jessop said the Legacy Center is being turned into an art center and will offer many opportunities for the community. Board President Becky Dunn mentioned the NESS funding bill (HB 533). Brent Bills explained the bill and the loss of funding for our rural schools. It will now be determined by District and county size instead of school size. Right now, Water Canyon receives almost \$1,000,000 a year in NESS funding. Losing the funding would be catastrophic to what we are doing now. He has been talking with legislators but has made no progress. He explained Amendment G and looking to cover the cuts with the inflationary increase. We need the NESS money in the schools. We can be in a big District and still have needs for the smaller schools. It costs more to provide the same kind of course offerings

that you are providing in other places. He has tried to explain that to the legislators. Superintendent Richard Holmes also mentioned that he has tried to explain that NESS funding is necessary and has been used for 30 plus years to support and sustain smaller schools such as Enterprise. Because they are smaller their students don't have the same opportunities as a Dixie High student because of economy of scale. They are far enough away that we are not going to bus them to St. George. That school was established over 100 years ago. There has been a shift in thinking that we need to help rural school districts more than these other schools. They feel Washington County is big enough they can absorb and take care of these small schools. He feels that they have missed the boat. Yes, rural districts do need additional money, but there are still unusually situated schools like ours with outlying schools that are rural. It would be devastating to not address the financial needs of Water Canyon, Enterprise, and Springdale. They are leaving out that piece of taking care of small schools in remote locations. Mayor Jessop said it would devastate the community to lose the school. Superintendent Richard Holmes agrees the rural districts need help, but also feels we can't ignore the little schools as well. He mentioned that the adjustment of money would give one district 3,000,000 more. Mayor Jessop mentioned she would bring up the concerns in your state committee meetings. It was mentioned that Governor Cox is in favor of the bill but does not see what it will do to the smaller schools. Superintendent Richard Holmes said we had NESS funding to help open the school. Hildale City leaders said the economic impact would be great. Hildale City does not have the tax base to do anything different and Water Canyon has changed everyone's life. Parents and students are engaged, and the school is helping them. Hildale has a voice and is on the same page with concerns. They mentioned some of the state leaders who have visited the school. The school is a must have. Mayor Jessop said they will continue to grow and need the funding.

CTE Parade of Homes Tour

The Board toured the parade home built by students in the CTE Building Construction Program.

Board Member Cox presented a motion to go into a closed session at 2:07 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Property
Personnel

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Personnel

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Personnel

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 4:01 p.m. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Board PLC Training – Steve Gregoire

The Board PLC Training was postponed.

School Spend Plans and Fee Schedule – Brent Bills

Brent Bills briefly reviewed the proposed changes to the Spend Plans and Fee Schedule.

Literacy Curriculum Adoption for 2024-2025 – Kathy Hall

Kathy Hall reviewed the Literacy Curriculum adoption for 2024-2025. She said that SB127 requires districts to adopt a program by Fall of 2024. The core list of programs came from the State of Utah. The list included Wonders 2023, Into Reading, and CLKA Second Edition. The programs will need phonics and/or phonological awareness programs. She said the District has reviewed SB127 and our policy to make sure they are being followed correctly. The District sent out a request to see who would be interested in serving on the committee. They had a large response that included teachers, board members, technology, administration, Special Education, and others. A survey was sent to teachers to find out what components they felt were most important. There were many teachers who came to review the program. They also held a parent open house with about 40 parents attending. Twenty-two parents completed the survey. She mentioned that PTA representatives also came to review the program. The program information is also available on the website for review. Two open houses were held for teachers to come and review the program. She shared the teacher feedback on the programs. The Into Reading Program was the highest scored selection. It is the program that will be recommended. The program will need a phonological program. We are currently using Heggerty in the District and the teachers and students like the program. LaRene Cox shared an email from a teacher on the Into Reading program. Kathy Hall said most of the larger districts are going with Wonders, while the other districts are going with Into Reading.

2025-2026 Calendar – Cheri Stevenson and Nate Esplin

There was no discussion on the 2025-2026 Calendar.

Insurance Plan Renewals and Changes – Tammara Robinson

Tammara Robinson shared the insurance renewal information. The committee recommendation is to keep the medical insurance plan as it is. The committee can explore plan changes as needed in the future. The committee Dental insurance would remain the same also. The committee is recommending bundling the Life Insurance with Lincoln Financial, our short-term and long-term disability provider, which would save money. The committee recommendation for the Vision plan is to change to the EMI supplemental vision plan. It will allow in-network at larger stores such as Costco, Target, or Walmart. The committee is recommending no changes to the Health Savings. Brent Bills said our claims were bad at the beginning of the year but have been coming in really low the last few months. We will be able to look at trend numbers for another month to see where we are. The high deductible plan will need to go up in the near future. When it does, the committee would like to look at increasing the match to provide an incentive. They will have actual rate information for the meeting on March 5th.

Priorities and Five-Year Plan – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said the general maintenance has historically had a \$500,000 budget they tap into. They are asking for \$600,000 next year. This is for when a school calls with a maintenance request of something they need fixed such as emergency repairs. Those types of things come from a discretionary budget. Brent Bill said one thing that have come up are other expenses that get bounced around with no one being willing to pay for it from their budget. Brent Bills said he has talked with Superintendent Holmes about having an “oh crap” budget that can be used to pay for those types of things. He has included \$1,000,000 in the budget for that. He said if we don’t need to spend it, it will just roll over to the next year, so it is still there. It will be managed through Brent and Superintendent Holmes. Brent Bills shared other budgets that are contracted out. He shared the information on the spreadsheet showing capital revenue, capital expenses, bond payments, priority projects, and bond projects. He said we need a big balance because we get the money in December, so we need money

going into the next year. He shared that \$5,354,418 is basically property projects that have already been brought to the Board. In the five-year plan for next year there are \$50,000,000 worth of projects, but the money for next year won't show up until December so he will roll it over from this year to cover the first half of the year. That is why he will need that \$39,000,000 rollover to pick up all the things I need in the first half of the year. Then he will have the new money for the second half of the year. He explained that every year the Board will see the capital budget show a roll-over of about \$30,000,000. It will build-up so we have enough to add on bigger projects later. He mentioned some projects like roofing and HVAC happen on a regular basis and have to be taken care of. He showed the current five-year plan projects including Snow Canyon Middle School, the Dixie High Vocational Building, a new elementary school, and a high school property purchase. He also showed how the amount drops over time. He mentioned additional projects that could be needed over time. As we are saving up, things that we have had to bond for in the past will work withing the capital budget. He shared the list of priority projects included in the board packet. Some items are included in the five-year plan already. Some items also include another funding source for the project. He said he is asking the Board to approve the priority projects in the meeting today.

Legislative Update – Superintendent Richard Holmes and Brent Bills

There was no discussion on Legislative updates.

Water Conservancy Board – Superintendent Richard Holmes

There was no discussion on the Water Conservancy Board.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Board Committee Discussions

The Board Committee discussions were postponed.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

- 1. Enrollment**
- 2. Safe Schools**
- 3. GRAMA Requests**
- 4. Department Reports**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Washington County School District was held after due, legal, and timely notice being given to all members and interested parties. Board President Becky Dunn called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were David Stirland, Craig Seegmiller, LaRene Cox, Terry Hutchinson, Burke Staheli, and Nannette Simmons. Staff members present were Superintendent Richard Holmes and Business Administrator Brent Bills.

OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

Reverence – Board Member Staheli

Welcome – Board President Dunn

Pledge of Allegiance – Board Member Simmons

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes**
 - a. January 9, 2024 Meeting of the Board of Education**
 - b. January 22, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**
- 2. Financial Report**
- 3. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items**
- 4. Business Administrator Contract**
- 5. Sandstone Elementary TSSA and School LAND Trust Plan Changes**
- 6. Horizon Elementary School LAND Trust Plan Changes**
- 7. Dixie High School LAND Trust Plan Changes**
- 8. Crimson View Elementary School LAND Trust Plan Changes**
- 9. Snow Canyon High School LAND Trust Plan Changes**
- 10. Riverside Elementary School LAND Trust Plan Changes**
- 11. LaVerkin Elementary School LAND Trust Plan Changes**

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items excluding the Personnel and LEA Specific License Items (#3). Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board President Becky Dunn said it has been recommended to move Steve Showalter from Water Canyon High School to Crimson Cliffs Middle School and to move Jonathan Howell from Fossil Ridge Intermediate to Water Canyon High School.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the recommendation to move Steve Showalter from Water Canyon High School to Crimson Cliffs Middle School and to move Jonathan Howell from Fossil Ridge Intermediate to Water Canyon High School. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the LEA Specific License Items. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSD SCHOOLS

Washington Elementary – Principal Kelly Mitchell

The report from Washington Elementary was postponed until next month.

Sunrise Ridge Intermediate School – Principal Mandie Luce

The report from Sunrise Ridge Intermediate was postponed until next month.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – ELEMENTARY K-5 LITERACY CURRICULUM ADOPTION

The Washington County School District will hold a Public Hearing on February 13, 2024 at 4:45 p.m. to receive public comments on the proposed Elementary Literacy Curriculum adoption for grades K-5 beginning in the 24-25 school year.

Kathy Hall said the committee recommendation would be to select Into Reading for the Literacy Curriculum beginning in 2024. Board President Becky Dunn said there has been a lot of input from teachers and parents in the process and she appreciates the vetting that has happened.

No public comments were given.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – LAVERKIN/HURRICANE ELEMENTARY BOUNDARY CHANGE

The Washington County School District will hold a Public Hearing on February 13, 2024 at 4:55 p.m. to receive public comments on the proposed elementary boundary change between Hurricane Elementary and LaVerkin Elementary schools. The proposed change would be to move students who reside in Toquerville to LaVerkin Elementary beginning the 2024-25 school year.

Nate Esplin shared the proposed boundary change to move students who reside in Toquerville from Hurricane Elementary to LaVerkin Elementary for the 2024-2025 school year. Students in the Dual Immersion program can continue in the program at Hurricane Elementary, but parents will need to provide their own transportation to and from the school. David Stirland mentioned that students have been bused past LaVerkin Elementary to Hurricane Elementary which has been full. This was a natural decision to make. The District is still making dual immersion available and has been working with the principals to make this happen. It will be bus travel time for students.

No public comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEM

LaVerkin Elementary/Hurricane Elementary Boundary Change – Nate Esplin

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the LaVerkin Elementary/Hurricane Elementary Boundary Change. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – CORAL CLIFFS/PARADISE CANYON/RED MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY BOUNDARY CHANGE

Washington County School District will hold a Public Hearing on February 13, 2024 at 5:05 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed boundary change for Coral Cliffs Elementary students. The Board of Education is considering that Coral Cliffs Elementary be closed and students transferred to Red Mountain and Paradise Canyon Elementary schools beginning the 2024-25 school year. Families that live east of North Dixie Downs Drive would be in the Paradise Canyon boundary, while those living west of North Dixie Downs Drive would be in the Red Mountain boundary.

Nate Esplin reviewed the proposal for the Coral Cliffs Professional Development School. The consideration for what to do with the school stems from declining enrollment. Enrollment has been declining in every elementary school in that area of Saint George Santa Clara and in Ivins. This trend began more than six years ago when Coral Cliffs was created. He said that the declining enrollment has brought us to this point and the need to find a solution for the decrease in elementary students in this area. He said it has become fiscally challenging to maintain Coral Cliffs Elementary in its current form. As a secondary consideration, he mentioned the District is seeing growth with our special needs students attending Post High School. As the District dug deeper into different proposals, we considered many different possibilities with the hope of finding a solution with positive result for both issues. Some of the proposed solutions included adjusting boundaries for all schools in the area to balance enrollment, moving all Post High students to Coral Cliffs with the Coral Cliffs students, move only some of the Post High students to Coral Cliffs with the Coral Cliffs students, place Post High students at the high schools, use the professional development side of Coral Cliffs for Post High students and maintain Coral Cliffs Elementary while finding a new home for the professional development employees, and adjusting the schedule for Post High students. He said as the District has considered each of these different options, the logistics and additional costs of each option has proven to be very expensive and beyond what we would feel comfortable recommending to the Board. He said we need to keep the focus on the foundational problem we're dealing with which is a declining enrollment in every school in the area. Each of the mentioned options did not address the main problem. Nate Esplin said the final recommendation to the Board of Education, which addresses our foundational challenge of declining enrollment in the area, is that Coral Cliff Elementary be closed and students transferred to Red Mountain Elementary and Paradise Canyon Elementary schools beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Families that live east of North Dixie Downs Drive would be in the Paradise Canyon Elementary boundary while those living west of North Dixie Downs Drive would be in the Red Mountain Elementary boundary. In addition, he said the District is working with the Boys and Girls Club to address moving the program to Red Mountain Elementary School if this boundary proposal was approved. The District will have positions available for faculty members of Coral Cliffs at other schools in the District.

Becky Dunn recognized and introduced the principals of Red Mountain Elementary, Jennifer Leavitt, and Paradise Canyon Elementary, Susan Harrah. She also recognized Principal Steve Eves from Coral Cliffs Elementary in attendance.

Public Comments:

Kristen Bringham said she would urge each one to look at the parents and children to see the love they have for the school. She feels that what is happening to disrupt these children is not fair. She said she does not care about the numbers. These are elementary school children are at an age where disrupting is not okay. She said plenty of other options have been given. She asked the Board to find it in their heart to care about these children and the faculty who is amazing. She asked the Board to think before deciding and to look at the children tell them you care.

Autumn Galdamez said she did not want the school to shut down. She said she has attended the school since kindergarten. Her teacher is an awesome teacher. The college student from Utah Tech is good at teaching stuff and teaching her math.

John Sims said he appreciates the Board listening. Since he last attended the last meeting, he has done a little research and talked with parents at Paradise Canyon and Red Mountain. He said he has seen that a majority of the parents, more so with Paradise Canyon, say there is bullying and a lack of communication between the public and the school. Parents still think Coral Cliffs is a private school. He asked how anybody could even enroll their student in a school they think it's private. He suggested the District open up the boundaries and put it out there to let parents know that Coral Cliffs exists before making definite answers. He said he tucks his boy in at night and that is their time. He said when his boy is in tears and doesn't know about his friends or what tomorrow will hold, that's frightening for an eight-year-old. As a dad, all he can do is hug him and

hope it gets better. Sometimes there are things in life that we can't change. He said if we put the better foot forward and put on our big boy pants we can get to the next rodeo. He said no matter how much it hurts we still move on.

Kathy Willden-Fryer said she is now a member of Washington County School District working as an English Language Learning Paraprofessional at Coral Cliffs Elementary. She knew how big of a change this was making in her child's life, and now she is feeling that impact as well. She asked the Board to consider leaving Coral Cliffs for at least one more year to keep the momentum going. She understands it is not an easy task for the Board but asked that they consider the lives they are changing. She said the Coral Cliffs shirt says, "The strength of the pack is the coyote, and the strength of the coyote is the pack." That was something she found while serving as the PTA Treasurer and she carries that saying with her in her heart every day because that is what they are, a pack. They are all here fighting together to keep Coral Cliffs open. She hopes the Board will give them more than just another year but said at this point they will take just about anything they can get. She requested that if the Board chose to close the school each of them come and explain their vote to the students. She thanked the Coral Cliffs faculty and staff for everything they do and feels they have made a world of difference.

Mandie Shelton, parent and media specialist at Coral Cliffs Elementary, said they have continually been assured that no decision has been made and that their voices would be heard. She feels that may not be the truth. She feels that the District has taken so many preliminary steps to prepare Coral Cliffs for closure while assuring everyone that no decision had been made. She said that the Boys and Girls Club grant has been moved to another school meaning if the Board were to decide to keep Coral Cliffs open, they would no longer have the Boys and Girls afterschool program. She said 50% of the students at their school attend the afterschool program every day. It is a vital piece of their community. She also mentioned that Human Resource representatives came to the school to help teachers find their new place in the District. She said these things have left her to conclude that the closure has already been decided before the Board had a chance to vote. The disruption has been really hard not knowing which way things are going to go. They have been assured that they still have time to speak and will be heard all while this stuff is going on around them. She said they kind of feel that they are on a sinking ship. She understands that it is a balancing act, and it is hard to make everyone happy. She hopes that the Board will listen to how much they love the school and how much they need it.

Rayden Benally did not address the Board.

Tiffany Benally said for the past few months the community has shown how much they have loved the school. They have gone through all these board meetings, and they have done everything they were told to do to try and sway the Board's vote. They have come up with alternative solutions, have sent countless emails, and talked to board members individually holding on to their hope. She said they now stand feeling pretty beaten down after some have rolled some have rolled eyes at us when we talk or verbally told us we are wrong and don't matter because we are not in your voting district and don't vote for you. She feels that there is not much to say at this point aside from the fact that tonight when she looks at her son, she can say she tried her best. She said as a mom she has always done everything in her power to shield him from sadness in life and sometimes feels she has done miracles for him. She said she has loved this school because every single one of these people have loved her son just as much as she does. She said if the Board closes the school, it will just be the beginning as the parents in other schools don't want this and the post high parents don't want this. If the Board passes this, you lose everyone's faith in the public education system because you put money and numbers in front of children. She shared that the school got almost \$3000 in their book fair for their little school. They were able to get every single child a book from donations because people at the school raised enough money for each kid. She mentioned when she was younger, she was never able to get books from the book fair. Her son and the other kids at his school will never have to experience that feeling. She said she witnessed teachers paying out of their own pocket to get books for kids because they care. She feels that teachers in the other schools these kids will go to would not do the same for their students or students in other grades. She said these are the kids they are really fighting for. The ones that will be lost and forgotten such as the kids who lost their mom and have their dad taking care of all six of them or the child whose mom got cancer, and even the kids with behavior problems that come to the school and are loved and accepted. The school is special. She knows these kids matter, the staff matters, and the school matters. If Coral Cliffs closes, she knows it will just be the beginning.

Kyle Fryer said his teacher Mrs. Fay has taught him about the Zodiac animals as they have learned about the Chinese New Year. Most of the class was born within two years. He was born in the year of the sheep. One trait that stood out to him was tender hearted. He feels it doesn't matter what your zodiac animal is. He feels you don't have to be a sheep to be emotional and tender hearted about this.

Board President closed the public hearing and opened it up for Board discussion.

Craig Seegmiller said the Board has been agonizing on this for about six or seven years now. About six years ago Coral Cliffs was created in the fashion it is now. At that point there was about 120-130 local students that went to the school. We are now down to about 55-60 local students that attend the school. We have capacity at the other elementary schools in that area, and the schools on the West side are shrinking. His heart does not want to do this, but it would be hard to go to the moms at Legacy and say that the students at Coral Cliffs are more special and get \$3000 more per student than their child does. The schools on the west side just keep shrinking. It is not about the numbers, but the Board has to look at numbers and declining enrollment. He said has never had to do that before and it is agonizing, but the numbers on the west side just keep shrinking. He can't justify that to the other 15,000-17,000 students at the other schools who are also special. He said it is painful and awful, but it might be necessary.

David Stirland said the Board has not made the decision, which is why they have been having this conversation for the past four or five months. He is hopeful that all will believe the Board when they say this is a very difficult decision. He said the Board has all thought about it and thought about all the potential opportunities or ways they could maybe solve some of these issues. It comes down to how we justify to our constituents how we pay for this. He said that is probably one of the biggest things for him. He has children and grandchildren in Washington County School District and wants them to have the best opportunity. So much has been said about the quality of education at Coral Cliffs and he is so grateful for the amazing work of teachers and administrators. He feels that to have that kind of loyalty and support speaks volumes to those individuals. He would have everyone consider and understand what the teachers and administrators of these other schools are like. He pointed out a couple of principals mentioned earlier. He feels they are just as good as anybody we have in administration in elementary in this District. They are wonderful individuals, and their teachers are great. To say that you are going to get less opportunity in these other schools, I think you need to give them a chance to prove to you how incredible they are. He said every elementary school in the Washington County School District is doing their very best to give the best opportunities for students to succeed, whether it's Coral Cliffs, Sunset, or Paradise Canyon or any of the schools. They are all going to do their best. He said parents should believe that your children are going to succeed because they're going to be given the best opportunity for success in any school.

Nannette Simmons said she has four children and nine grandchildren. She also has gone through hard times and has had to be the parent to support them. She wants the parents, teachers, and principal to know that I'm so grateful that you are the advocate for the children. She feels that it is always important in life to advocate for your children no matter what age and no matter what is happening in their lives. She appreciates that parents and teachers are here for them, and she appreciates the students that have had the courage to come up and speak to the Board and tell the Board what they want and what they're feeling. She said she went into education because she loves children. No matter what grade she was teaching, she knew every single one of her students, took care of them, and did the best she could. She said they will be in good hands if Coral Cliffs is closed. She thanked the teachers for being there and for what they have done. She has seen the goodness that is happening at Coral Cliffs and thanked the staff. She suggested that whatever happens with the vote tonight that parents remember they are the role models for their children. How parents take this and how they handle it can change the life of their children as well. She said that the Board does care, and they have been listening.

Burke Staheli expressed appreciation for comments given. He mentioned that there are a couple of misconceptions to clear up about the Boys and Girls Club. At the first meeting those attending had been asked about the Boys and Girls Club. Many expressed that they needed the club. If the school stays open the Boys and Girls Club will stay at Coral Cliffs and not be moved. He talked about the leadership skills of Superintendent Holmes and how his character set him apart when he was hired. Following the first meeting at Coral Cliffs, Superintendent Holmes said we need to look at possible solutions. He said the District has not been sitting around but has been doing things to find solutions. He has been listening to everything to consider how to vote. He said there is not a member of the council that would say the school doesn't matter because it is not in their voting district. He shared his reason for wanting to be on the School Board and his career in

education. He mentioned that he would not expect anything different from parents and teachers fighting to keep the school open. He said if it was his school or kids, he would do the same. He said the Board is trying to do what they are supposed to do. He has been to the school two or three times. He said the idea that that they have already have their vote is not correct. They have been gathering all the information and preparing to be able to make a vote.

LaRene Cox shared that when her kids were growing up, every time there was a boundary change her children were the ones that got changed. She said she learned that each time they got changed a new principal, a new teacher, or somebody else loved them. They loved them just as much as the last person. She really thinks that these new principles, if the change is approved to close the school, are going to love these children. It will not be that different. They will look out for them and take good care of them. She said she went through school changes with her children probably three or four times and lived in the same house. She said you love the next person that you come in contact with. She appreciates all who attended and that they love their children.

Terry Hutchinson said he has loved every minute on the school board. The Board has had to make some tough decisions. He mentioned some of the decisions during COVID that were hard. As much as he hated it, the students had to have masks to keep the schools from being closed. He did not like doing that and felt it was harmful to the children, but it was the choice so the Governor would not keep us out of school. He said that he does not represent Coral Cliffs and they are not in his District. He is on the other end of the county, but said he went to every meeting at the school. He has listened to the children and has been able to get to know that community. He has appreciated all that he has heard and feels emotions for the feelings they have for the teachers and administration. He said we do need to have balance. The west side is shrinking overall, and the east side has been growing. He said we do not have the resource to transfer and bus students. He said this is an easy decision for him and it's not based on votes as he is not running again. His decision is based on what is best for everybody after balancing all of the factors including the students. He said he agrees with what's been said and he thinks the students will be fine. When he first went to the school for the first meeting, he knew what the numbers were, but was really surprised and impressed by how much the school had changed since it was established. That is what made the decision more painful. It had grown into something that was very powerful, but he has never been one to be real tender hearted as that is not the nature of his profession. He said this decision has been painful, but we are going to move on.

Becky Dunn said she appreciated all the kids being here and has appreciated seeing and interacting with everyone over the past few months. She appreciates the passion and love for the school. She said we want students to love their school and to love their faculty and staff. She is grateful for the Coral Cliffs staff who devoted their hearts and energy to the school. She has thought about the parents a lot and what she would do if it was her child. She came to the meeting today with thoughts rolling through her mind including thoughts of the kids she has seen at Coral Cliffs, kids that have been at the meetings, and thoughts of her own children. She is feeling very tender-hearted today. She has tried to do her best to study out the pros and cons of each proposal that they have been given, each possibility that has come to them, and the different ideas that they have brainstormed over. They have been working on this for a number of months and it keeps coming back to what is best for kids, what is the best decision for the District, and what is most financially responsible for all students. She goes along with what a lot of the board members have already said that they have to think about what is best for all students and what is fair and equal for all of them. She said that she will ultimately be voting in favor of the proposal that the District has presented based on all of that information, but wanted to express her gratitude for all who came and shared their stories with the Board.

Craig Seegmiller said depending on how this vote goes, he knows that the principals are here to wrap their arms around you and their staff is waiting to wrap their arms around you and make you part of their family just like you've been a family at Coral Cliffs. There are other really awesome wonderful educators with big hearts who are ready to pull you in the love you. He said the Board has confidence in them and in all of the schools and the way they are run.

Terry Hutchinson again thanked everyone for coming. He said that this is public discourse allowing the public to speak. The Board welcomes your input. When the room is full, and people are commenting the Board is able to come to the best decision.

BOARD ACTION ITEM

Coral Cliffs Elementary/Paradise Canyon Elementary/Red Mountain Elementary Boundary Change – Nate Esplin

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the boundary changes and the school closure of Coral Cliffs with students being transferred to Paradise Canyon and Red Mountain elementaries. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion.

Member Simmons voted yes
Member Seegmiller voted yes
Member Stirland voted yes
Member Cox voted yes
Member Staheli voted yes
Member Hutchinson voted yes
Member Dunn voted yes

The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No comments were given on Board Action Items.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

2025-2026 Calendar – Cheri Stevenson and Nate Esplin

Nate Esplin reviewed the recommendation for the proposed 2025-2026 Calendar. Calendar option #2 is the recommendation. School would begin on August 8th with teachers starting on August 1st. The Teacher Prep day scheduled for the last day of school will be moved to February 17th. Burke Staheli explained that the Board had considered a Teacher Prep Day on the last day of school for teachers to attend graduations. Nate Esplin said principal will work to accommodate teachers needing to attend their child's graduation. Craig Seegmiller pointed out that the calendar ends the semester before Christmas and the school year before Memorial Day.

2024-2025 Calendar Change – Cheri Stevenson

Nate Esplin said a 2024-2025 calendar change is needed to move the Teacher Prep Day on the last day of school to February 17th.

Board Member Staheli presented a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Calendar and the 2024-2025 Calendar change. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Priorities and Five-Year Plan – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said every year we have to approve our Capital Plans. This is for next year's budget but need to approve the projects to get design work done. With our new Capital Plan, we are no longer bonding so all of the projects that normally would have been on a bond are part of our long-term plan. He said we have \$4,079,000 worth of projects on the spreadsheet that we would like to get approved today. He said Stan DeMille and Bryan Dyer went out and met with every school and the District buildings. They talked with the principals to get the wish list of things they felt were needed at their school. The District has gone through the list and between the Capital Plan and priority items we will be taking care of most of the items. The items we are not able to get to this year will be looked at again next year. Brent Bills said we need the Board to approve the priorities projects today. He would like to spend a little bit more time to go over the five-year plan and get buy in from the Board on the projects included in the plan. He said most of the projects in the five-year plan are really big projects that the Board has already approved. He briefly reviewed some of the projects listed. Terry Hutchinson suggested calling the five-year plan by another name. Brent Bills suggested Strategic Capital Plan.

Board Member Simmons presented a motion to approve the Priorities Projects. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-2023 Final School LAND Trust Plan Review – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said the schools are required to submit their final plan from the previous year to the Board for review. It is just a review for the Board of how they spent the money and does not require approval.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Richard Holmes shared that last week was National School Counselor week. He took a moment to recognize them for the most amazing work they do in our schools. He said we are so grateful for our counselors and said that they make a very significant impact on our students as well as our teachers and support staff and administration. He also recognized Lee Ann Parkinson and Brittney Nelson with our Preschool program. Data from last year shows that Washington County School District leads the state in the preschool entry and exit assessment profile for literacy and numeracy. Lee Ann Parkinson said there are 997 students in the program. Superintendent Richard Holmes thanked them for their work. Superintendent Richard Holmes mentioned that Brian Stevenson who was recently selected as the new director of teaching and learning, was selected as the Utah's Middle School Principal of the Year.

Board

No reports were given.

Association

Annette Croucher, WCEA vice president, shared that some of their teachers have had the opportunity to attend the Educator Day on the Hill at the Capitol Building and meet with representatives to discuss things that are important and share their stories. She said that they are grateful for that opportunity. They are excited about HB 221 and about the stipends for future educators so that student teaching isn't so costly. Student teachers do not get paid. She said they are excited about the new principal appointments and mentioned that there are some nerves and that come with that but hope there is learning as well.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

Kim McKone shared some of the things the school PTA groups are doing. Dixie high is spreading some Valentine love and has students helping to put together Valentine boxes for the teachers. They have also been working with the counselor's office to refill the needs box with discrete packets of personal care products for students who may need them. South Mesa Elementary did their Raise Craze activity with so many acts of kindness. She said it is amazing what one act of kindness can do. It is good to have kids out there doing some service. Desert Canyons Elementary just finished their food drive and was able to donate 3572 items to the local food bank. Snow Canyon is starting their White Ribbon Week as a cone site. The theme is "Look up" so they are encouraging parents and families to look up from devices and spend time together. Crimson Cliffs Middle School had a great Valentine Day dance last Friday and they loved seeing the middle school kids rally around each other and participate. Paradise Canyon has been focused on reading this month. They have their little jump house. In January they had 170 kids that earned time. The kids are asked to read 20 minutes a day. If they read more, they qualify to earn a bracelet for time in the bounce house. They also had a family appreciation week and are trying to get kids more involved in being together with their family. Horizon Elementary celebrated the Chinese New Year and had over 750 in attendance at their event. They did 15 different stations with activities. She shared some pictures from the event. She said that there are some good things happening in the schools and the PTA appreciates their time and the schools. She also mentioned in a couple of PTA meetings there have been PTA members who have expressed willingness to write legislators about any bills if needed and to please let her know.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

Maddison Smith – Did not address the Board.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT