

February 27th, 2024 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meeting (Tuesday, February 27, 2024)

Generated by Stacey Moore on Friday, March 1, 2024

A. Study Session*Members present:*

Board President, Tyler Bluth

Board Vice President, Kimberly Dickerson

Board Member, Marianne B. Allen

Board Member, Tom Hansen

Board Member, Cory Holmes

Superintendent, Paul Sweat

Excused:

Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by Board President Tyler Bluth

A. Study Session- 5:00 p.m.**Discussion, Information: 1. Guest Presenter JW Davies**

Lane House, WCSSD Lead Teacher for the Transition College started the presentation with background on the program's structure and impact. The Transition College is a community-based program designed for students who have completed high school but may still be eligible for special education services until the age of 22. House highlighted the program's flexibility, allowing students to customize their schedules based on their needs, including work opportunities and additional skills training. The program focuses on employment skills through work-based learning experiences in local businesses, as well as independent living skills and continuing education. Admission to the program is determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Mrs. House discussed enrollment numbers, indicating growth in the program over the years, and mentioned plans for future expansion. She emphasized the program's inclusivity, with students joining from various educational backgrounds and the community at large. Additionally, House mentioned efforts to maintain connections with alumni and promote social activities within the community. The program operates within the high school schedule, with buses facilitating transportation for students. Overall, House portrayed the Transition College as a valuable resource for students transitioning to adulthood, offering support, skills development, and community integration.

JW Davies, a community member, presented a proposal to the Board of Education regarding the Heber Valley Center for Learning. Davies expressed his passion for the project, citing personal experience with his child and friends. He praised Wasatch High School's inclusive education system but noted a gap in services for older individuals with special needs. The Heber Valley Center for Learning aims to address this gap by providing continued education for individuals post-transition college. Davies outlined the current state of the Transition College and proposed plans for the new center, emphasizing the need for a top-notch educational facility. He presented architectural plans and highlighted features such as a gymnasium, housing for special needs individuals, and a swimming pool. Davies discussed funding sources, including government funding for individuals with disabilities and private donations. In response to questions from the Board, Davies clarified the operational structure of the proposed center and addressed concerns about legal and financial aspects. He emphasized the potential benefits of the project for the school district and the community, urging the Board to consider the proposal seriously. The Board expressed appreciation for Davies's initiative and promised to further discuss the proposal in the future.

Discussion Information: 2. Wasatch High School Math Pilot Program - Tod Johnson, Director of Curriculum

Mr. Johnson began by explaining that there's a lot of excitement and enthusiasm around the Wasatch High School Math Pilot Program, especially regarding its potential to benefit students. Mr. Johnson's key points included:

Background and Purpose: The program aims to address issues with the current math curriculum in Utah schools, where many students were not meeting the standards required for college math courses. The presentation highlighted the district's history with similar successful initiatives and the aspiration to exceed previous achievements.

Current Situation: The standard progression for math in Utah involves three secondary math courses followed by a college math readiness course (Math 1010) or achieving a specific score on the ACT. However, a significant portion of students were not meeting the ACT score requirement, indicating a need for improvement.

Proposed Transition: The proposal suggests replacing Secondary Math 3 with Concurrent Enrollment Math 1010. This would allow students who successfully complete Math 1010 with a grade of C or higher to transition directly into first-year college math during their senior year.

Benefits and Justification: The program aims to better prepare students for college math, potentially saving them time and money by bypassing remedial courses. It draws from successful historical data within the district and aims to provide universal benefits across majors.

Implementation Challenges: While there is enthusiasm for the program, there are also challenges to overcome. These include ensuring teachers are adequately supported to deliver the new curriculum effectively and encouraging all eligible students to take advantage of the opportunity.

Future Plans: The district plans to expand the program's scope beyond Math 1010 and potentially incorporate other math courses into the pathway, aligning with both student needs and college requirements.

Community Engagement: There's recognition of the importance of effectively communicating the benefits of the program to students and parents, as well as generating broader community support.

Overall, there is optimism that the program will not only address existing challenges but also pave the way for a more effective and beneficial math education system in the district

Discussion Information: 3. Policy Updates - Dr. Eric Campbell, Director of Student Support

Dr. Eric Campbell presented on policies related to medication administration, specifically regarding the consolidation of policies to streamline the policy manual, such as:

Policy Clean-up: The district aims to simplify its policy manual to make it more accessible for parents and staff. As part of this effort, they identified redundancies in the medication administration policies.

Consolidation: Currently, there are three policies related to medication administration. The proposal is to retire the policy specifically addressing opioid overdose, as its content is now incorporated into the broader medication administration policy. Additionally, the district plans to retire the older of the two remaining medication administration policies, leaving only one policy in place.

Rationale: The consolidation aims to avoid confusion and streamline procedures related to medication administration within the district. By having a single comprehensive policy, it will be easier for stakeholders to understand and comply with the guidelines.

Feedback: The presentation likely included an opportunity for board members to ask questions or provide feedback on the proposed changes, ensuring transparency and collaboration in the policy-making process.

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Overall, the goal is to enhance efficiency and clarity in medication administration procedures while ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and best practices.

B. Board of Education Meeting

Call To Order

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome by Board President, Tyler Bluth

1. Roll Call of Members

Members present:

Board President, Tyler Bluth

Board Vice President, Kimberly Dickerson

Board Member, Marianne B. Allen

Board Member, Tom Hansen

Board Member, Cory Holmes

Superintendent, Paul Sweat

Excused:

Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Offered by Board Member Tom Hansen

C. Community Comment

Discussion, Information: 1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

No community comment offered

D. Consent Items

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tyler Bluth, Tom Hansen

Action (Consent): 1. Consideration of Consent Items

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tyler Bluth, Tom Hansen

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. School Board Meeting Minutes - January 23, 2024

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tyler Bluth, Tom Hansen

Action (Consent): 3. Employee Separations

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tyler Bluth, Tom Hansen

Action (Consent): 4. Employee New Hires

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tyler Bluth, Tom Hansen

Action (Consent): 5. Financials

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tyler Bluth, Tom Hansen

Action (Consent): 6. Home School Affidavits

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tyler Bluth, Tom Hansen

Action (Consent): 7. Staff or Student Travel

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tyler Bluth, Tom Hansen

F. Action Items**Action: 1. Consideration to Approve Capital Projects List FY '25 - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor**

Maintenance Supervisor Zach Bredsguard presented the Board of Education with the proposed Capital Projects List for Fiscal Year 2025. Here's a breakdown of the key points discussed:

Overview of the Process: Mr. Bredsguard explained that the proposed projects were the result of collaboration between school administrators, custodians, and the maintenance team. Each school submitted their needs, and after discussions, priorities were set based on available funds.

Secure Entry at Midway Elementary: One of the projects highlighted was the installation of secure entry doors at Midway Elementary to improve safety by channeling visitors directly to the main office upon entry.

Walk-Off Mats at the High School: Another project mentioned was the extension of weather-resistant carpeting in the vestibule area of the high school to improve traction and safety, especially during inclement weather.

Questions and Clarifications: Board members asked questions for clarification on various projects, such as the purpose of walk-off mats and the details of specific upgrades.

Approval Request: Mr. Bredsguard proposed that the Board accept the proposed Capital Projects List for Fiscal Year 2025, totaling \$1,049,000, as presented.

Overall, the presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the planned capital projects, their purposes, and the collaborative process behind their selection.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action, Information: 2. Consideration to Approve Preschool Fee Adjustment for 2024-2025 - Dr. Eric Campbell, Director of Student Support

Dr. Eric Campbell presented a proposal to the Board of Education to adjust the preschool fee schedule for the 2024-25 school year. Here are the key points discussed:

Current Fee Structure: Currently, families are charged \$175 per month for preschool, which has remained unchanged for several years.

Proposal: Dr. Campbell proposed raising the monthly fee by \$25, bringing it to \$200 per month for families who can afford the full amount.

Reason for Increase: The proposed increase is necessary due to rising costs and inflationary pressures. It has been about a decade since the last fee adjustment.

Sliding Scale and Benefits: The sliding scale for families facing financial difficulties will still be in place, and benefits available to employees and their families will not be affected by the fee increase.

Collection of Fees: The district does not typically have a hard time collecting fees from families enrolled in preschool. If families are struggling financially, the district reaches out to offer support and accommodations.

Value of Preschool Education: Despite the fee increase, \$200 per month remains a reasonable rate for preschool education, considering the benefits it provides to children.

Overall, the proposal aims to align the preschool fee structure with the current economic landscape while ensuring that families in need still have access to affordable early childhood education.

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 3. Consideration to Retire Policy 420 - OPIOID OVERDOSE - Dr. Eric Campbell, Director of Student Support

Dr. Eric Campbell presented a proposal to retire the old opioid overdose policy, as it is now encompassed within the current medication administration policy. The aim of this proposal is to streamline the policy manual, making it easier for families to access and understand the relevant information.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 4. Consideration to Retire Policy 439 - MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICY - Dr. Eric Campbell, Director of Student Support

Dr. Campbell proposed retirement of the Medication Administration Policy 439 because there is a new, updated one on the books.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 5. Consideration to Approve the 2022-23 Elementary School LAND Trust Final Plans - Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Education

Mrs. Stephanie Discher presented the final reports for the 2022-23 Elementary School Land Trust Plans for approval. The board swiftly moved to approve the reports, indicating their confidence in the proposed spending and the results achieved. Additionally, there was positive feedback regarding the effectiveness of the Trust Lands funds, with a legislative performance auditor praising Midway Elementary for their efforts in utilizing the funds to positively impact students' lives. This success reflects the dedication and strategic planning evident across the district's schools.

Action: 6. Consideration to Approve the 2022-23 Secondary School LAND Trust Final Plans - Dr. Garrick Peterson, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Garrick Peterson presented the final reports for the 2022-23 Secondary School Land Trust Plans, highlighting their importance in achieving the district's goals. He emphasized that the funds from these plans have supported interventions and professional development opportunities for personnel, recognizing that investment in people is key to student success. Dr. Peterson underscored the significance of these plans in driving positive outcomes for students and reiterated the district's commitment to continuing this approach.

Motion (for Action Items 5 & 6) by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 7. Consideration to Renew Securly Web Filter - Dustin Miller, Director of Technology

Dustin Miller, Director of Technology, presented the Securly web filter, explaining that it is used for student devices from kindergarten through eighth grade. He proposed a renewal for the service at \$34,600, extending it for about 15 months to provide flexibility and avoid disruptions during the school year.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 8. Consideration to Approve the Wasatch County School District Resource Officer Agreement - Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations

Mr. Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations, presented the Wasatch County School District Resource Officer Agreement for consideration. He recommended accepting the agreement as written by the Wasatch County Sheriff's Department and the Heber City Police Department. The agreement entails providing resource officers for each school in the district, with one officer per school, totaling six officers from the county and two officers from Heber City. The board acknowledged the importance of having resource officers in every school for enhancing safety and building positive relationships with students.

Superintendent Sweat highlighted the efforts of Representative Wilcox in addressing school safety legislation. Representative Wilcox has demonstrated a genuine concern for school safety by visiting various locations affected by school shootings and engaging with police departments, principals, and school districts. The forthcoming legislation mandates that every school in the state must have some form of armed guard, termed as a "guardian." Districts have three options to comply: employing a school resource officer, hiring an armed security guard, or designating a qualified staff member as a guardian. He expressed gratitude for the district's foresight and the board's commitment to school safety, noting that Wasatch County School District has already implemented a comprehensive safety program. Superintendent Sweat emphasized the importance of having a visible law enforcement presence at schools to deter potential threats and ensure the safety of students, commending the dedication of the resource officers and expressed confidence in the district's preparedness to address safety concerns.

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action, Information: 9. Consideration to Purchase 1 (one) New School Bus for the WCSD Transportation Fleet - Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations

Mr. Kelly proposed the purchase of a new school bus to update the fleet, following the district's practice of acquiring new buses periodically. Given the district's growth and ongoing need for reliable transportation, he suggested purchasing one bus

and allocating funds towards acquiring additional vehicles, such as another Suburban, which is in high demand and not readily available. Mr. Kelly requested approval to purchase one Bluebird bus from Bryson under the state bid contract, with the total amount being \$198,864.

The discussion continued around the increasing costs of buses, with Mr. Kelly explaining that bus prices have risen, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the current price being approximately \$198,864. They noted that the previous cost was around \$160,000 two years ago. Despite the increasing prices, the district typically gets about 20 years of use out of each bus before they need to be replaced due to wear and tear, rust, or accidents. Additionally, they mentioned that new buses are primarily used for out-of-county trips for extracurricular activities. Finally, it was observed that the bus design has remained relatively unchanged over the years.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 10. Consideration to Purchase a District Vehicle - Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations

Mr. Kelly proposed the purchase of two Chevy Malibu vehicles, one for driver's education and another for district use. They received bids from Labrum and Ken Garff, with Labrum offering the lower bid of \$23,957.80. The proposal was accepted, highlighting the cost-effectiveness of owning a district vehicle compared to reimbursing mileage for personal vehicles. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of transitioning to electric cars, but it was deemed impractical due to the higher costs associated with electric vehicles.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 11. Consideration to Approve Real Estate Exchange Agreement - Superintendent Sweat

Superintendent Sweat proposed a three-way land swap involving Mountainland Technical College (MTECH). MTECH serves the Mountainland region and Wasatch County, offering skilled labor career opportunities not just for high school students but also for community members. The proposed land swap aims to align the boundaries between MTECH's purchased acreage adjacent to the new high school site and surrounding properties owned by others. The proposal involves transferring ownership of certain parcels: the red piece currently owned by the school district to Mr. Hansen, the yellow piece owned by Mr. Hansen to MTECH, and potential future use land to the school district. In return, the school district will receive cash equivalent to the appraised value of the transferred parcel. The arrangement is designed to ensure that boundary lines and property ownership align effectively for the benefit of all parties involved. Additionally, it was clarified that while the sign in front of the school indicates that the college is being built, it refers to MTECH's involvement, not the high school. Construction of the high school is currently underway, with MTECH expected to start construction in the spring.

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

G. Board Report

Board Member Marianne provided a board update, discussing various legislative matters and upcoming events:

Legislative Session: *Marianne mentioned that the end of the legislative session would be a busy time until midnight on Friday, with several bills and funding aspects to be considered. She highlighted the importance of funding for school safety initiatives, particularly the bill from Representative Wilcox, which has been in the works for two years. Marianne encouraged representatives to advocate for funding to support school safety measures.*

SJ 10 Vote for JLC: *Marianne informed the board about the SJ 10 vote for the Joint Legislative Committee (JLC), which was scheduled for Monday, with a meeting also planned for Friday. She urged the board members to check their emails for updates*

and share their thoughts, which she would convey to the state level.

Regional Meeting: *Marianne mentioned an upcoming regional meeting on March 12th, where legislative updates would be provided for the region and Wasatch County. She encouraged board members to attend the meeting, which would be held at the Grub in Park City at 6:00 PM, and suggested carpooling in a district car for convenience.*

Board Member Holmes provided an update regarding the interlocal meeting. He mentioned that they are still waiting to receive a date for the meeting, and both he and Board Member Allen expressed excitement about attending the meeting once the date is confirmed. They have already informed the organizers of their availability and provided some suggested dates. Regarding the chairmanship of the meeting, it was noted that the county manager will be chairing the interlocal meeting this year. Additionally, it was mentioned that the county has made an agreement to permanently take over the organization of the meeting. The discussion then shifted to the location of the meeting, noting that it will likely be held in Midway or Charleston, as it has been in the past. There was also mention of smaller towns potentially hosting the meeting as well.

Board Member Dickerson provided an update on recent school activities and events, participating with District personnel at the Timpanogos Middle School spelling bee, where Board Member Allen's son, Jackson, secured second place in the regional spelling bee competition. She also discussed attending Timpanogos Middle School's Multicultural Night, which she and Board Member Holmes attended, sharing her appreciation for the event where they enjoyed interacting with teachers and students. Finally, she said she will be participating in a Jordanelle listening tour at the clubhouse in Hideout with Dr. Campbell. Overall, she emphasized the importance of being invited to school activities and events, as it allows the board to witness the impact of their decisions firsthand and engage with teachers and students.

H. Superintendent Report

No report.

I. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Tom Hansen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

J. Executive Session

Information: 1. Section 52-4-5 of the Open Meetings Act identifies the topics that may be discussed in a closed meeting.

Discussion to purchase, exchange or lease of real property; character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; and or collective bargaining.

No executive session was held.

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