



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah
March 5, 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.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence by Board President Dunn.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 12:09 p.m. Board Member Stirland 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 Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, and Executive HR Director Darin Thomas.

Personnel Items

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, 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, Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Legal and Personnel Items

Board Member Simmons presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 3:49 p.m. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Board PLC Training – Wade Jensen

Wade Jensen shared a video showing the math PLC model used at Hurricane Intermediate with students coaching other students. The process helps both students in their learning. He said the math team has

worked really hard and is going great things. They did a Superbowl activity that had the kids wanting to stay in class.

School LAND Trust Board Training – Sharleen Hammer

Sharleen Hammer shared the state rules for School LAND Trust funding. All school plans need to be data driven, academic, and student focused. Schools cannot use the funds for things such as school administration, construction, maintenance, facilities, overhead, furniture, security, athletics, or non-academic activities. The schools can use funding for extracurricular activities if the activity is academic based. First consideration for elementary goals should be Math, Science, and English/Language Arts. Secondary consideration can also be given for graduation rate and college/career readiness. Schools that branch out from those areas must be deemed at an academic level to allow it and receive approval from the Board. Goals need to be student centered and specific, measurable, academic, relevant, and time limited. The academic areas need to be addressed in the goal. The measurements should be written to see progress. Actions plan steps should be specific, active, written future-tense, be clear on how steps support the goal, and written with the fund amount. Sharleen Hammer said the state will be requiring more specificity in 2025 or the plan will be returned. It needs to be laser focused on the action steps. Principals have received emails from the state, and she has been meeting with each principal to go through the plans. Action steps and expenditures need to be tied back to the goal. They should be more focused, specific, and intentional. The action steps and expenditures need specificity but should not be so specific that it causes problems later. She mentioned that mini grants for specific classrooms must support an existing goal. The \$7,000 camp for digital citizenship has been removed. Schools should not carry-over excessive amounts as the funds are to be spent on the children in the school during that school year. The Superintendent can recommend corrective action for schools that consistently have carryover. Currently, some of the carryover has come from salaries when the school can't find a qualified person or para to hire. Funding changes are no longer listed on the School LAND Trust plans. If the School Board allows for funding to be moved from one category to another no amendment will be needed. New plan purposes will require an amendment. She mentioned that she is working with the new principals on changes they would like in their TSSA plans. The Board agreed for schools to move funding from one category to another already listed in the plan.

Progress and Data Update for Student Learning – Dr. Brad Ferguson

This presentation was postponed.

Insurance Plan Renewals and Changes – Tammara Robinson

Tammara Robinson said the committee did not want to make any changes to medical, dental, or health savings. Changes were proposed to move the life insurance to Lincoln Financial and to EMI Vision Plan for the vision insurance. Brent Bills shared the rating calculation range from 6.4% to 10.6% increase. Brent Bills shared the current and proposed increase amounts. There are some programs such as Title 1 and CTE that pick up some of the cost of insurance increases. Last year was an increase below 3%. Utilization is running high for the year. Tammara Robinson said we have used 119% for claims paid for the year. She mentioned that costs from the providers is increasing. The committee recommended holding the deductible amount for at least this year. Brent Bills said he would be comfortable with a 10% increase. He shared the proposed increase for employees which is up to \$6 for high deductible and up to \$27 more for the traditional plan. It was mentioned that the government will force a deductible increase in the future.

Capital Construction Plan – Brent Bills

This discussion was tabled.

Enrollment Update – Cheri Stevenson and Nate Esplin

This presentation was postponed.

Spend Plans – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said he had met with the principals on spend plans and also with the Desert Hills High teachers. Schools are using the entire \$350 for Fine Arts trips and have hotel bills on top of that cost. They were

ranging between \$650-\$950. He proposed schools limit the out-of-state trip to every other year. Many of the schools are doing out-of-state trips every year. The schools would like \$350 every year with an additional amount every three years on the spend plan for the California trip. Schools are spending about \$1450 a year per student. He said principals assured him that they are meeting with the families that did not sign up to make sure it was not a cost issue for them. He mentioned that the SB 415 that would have eliminated co-curricular charges but was changed to continue to continue allowing for those charges. Bills said principals are concerned about how they will pay for all the students on fee waiver with the new legislation that eliminates fundraising. Becky Dunn suggested tre-annual (every third year) capstone events to make the accounting easier. Brent Bills said the Board would need to set aside funds to help cover the higher cost for students who can't pay. He said we cannot tell students they cannot go if they can't pay, and we also can't have schools that are going every year when other schools are not going because they can't come up with the funds to cover the cost. Some schools have a limited ability to fundraise, and parents don't have the money to pay.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Board Committee Discussions

There were no board committee discussions.

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 by Member Seegmiller

Welcome by Board President Dunn

Pledge of Allegiance by Member Hutchinson

Employee Recognition – Superintendent Richard Holmes

Superintendent Richard Holmes recognized Mike Hassler, Dave Gardner, and Brenda McMurtrey. Mike Hassler was selected as Career & Technical Educator of the Month. Mike Hassler has created a Workforce Development Podcast in 38 states and three countries, was part of the U.S. Department of Education Career Training, created the nation's first professional development podcast for high schools, and was a State of Louisiana Educator Conference trainer to just name a few of his accomplishments. He complemented Mike for his outstanding job and representing our District so well statewide and nationwide. Dave Gardner was named as the Utah Administrator of the Year for CTE. Dave Gardner is a seasoned educator and instructional leader. He has made remarkable contributions to Utah's educational landscape particularly in one of the nation's fastest growing counties. Over the past years, Dave's collaborative efforts with Utah Tech University have resulted in the highest year-over-year percentage of concurrent enrollment growth in the State of Utah under his leadership. Brenda McMurtrey, Pine View High, received the National Distinguished Educator Award by the national nonprofit NextGen Personal Finance for outstanding commitment to professional development in real world finance topics. She has earned six national certifications which require time and passing a certification exam. Superintendent Richard Holmes expressed appreciation for all they do.

Orchestra Recognition – Rob Schmidt

Rob Schmidt reported on the history of the East Zion Orchestra Festival which includes performances from the intermediate and middle school orchestras. There are about 400 students that perform for each

other and then play two musical numbers all together. He said it is phenomenal. The orchestra teachers have received the Music for All 2024 Advocacy in Action Award for outstanding achievement in recruitment, engagement, and retention.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes

- a. February 7, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**
- b. February 13, 2024 Meeting of the Board of Education**
- c. February 26, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**

2. Financial Report

3. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items

4. 150-Mile UHSAA Requests

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Superintendent Richard Holmes shared a personnel recommendation to select Travis Wilstead as the principal for Diamond Valley Elementary.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the Personnel Item to select Travis Wilstead as the principal for Diamond Valley Elementary. Board Member Stirland seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSD SCHOOLS

Washington Elementary – Principal Kelly Mitchell

Principal Kelly Mitchell was excused. Bryant Urry shared how students who attend Washington Elementary are in good hands. He shared how they handle discipline and misbehavior at the school. They strive to address student misbehavior through the use of restorative justice. Restorative justice shifts the focus of the discipline from strictly punishing the student to helping the student reflect, learn, and repair. He said that in the past if there was a severe misbehavior, the first thought tended to be how many days will we be suspending the student. While that may have addressed the situation in that moment, it didn't build the student's capacity. Now when there is a serious misbehavior, their first thought is what skills does this student need in order to improve. Washington Elementary has a restorative skills room that is staffed by two behavior technicians. Students work in the restorative skills room to fulfill restorative contracts and improve social, emotional, and behavioral skills. He shared an example of a student with bullying behavior issues that went through the process. They partnered with the student's parents to create a restorative contract that would help the student reflect, learn, and repair the harm. The restorative contract included removal from class to receive lessons on bullying, interviews with the school counselor to learn how bullying impacts students, writing a summary of what was learned and changes the student planned to make moving forward, and writing an apology letter to the victim and the victim's parents. He said that since completing the restorative justice process the victim has reported that they are now friends the take care of each other. The administration has pulled the student aside to commend the student on the changes made and the positive impact they have had on others. The student has even come to the office and told the secretaries that they have not been in trouble for a while and is proud of the choices being made through the restorative process. The student has not had any additional incidents since going through the process. Kristen Brown shared that Washington Elementary's theme this year is "Level Up." The students are motivated and love the Mario theme. They want the students to take ownership of their learning through setting goals that provide a focus and motivation for them. She shared some of the things they have done in the school to cultivate that culture. First, they do have a schoolwide behavior goal and have taught the students what good behavior looks like. Teachers track the behavior and every week they have a leaderboard that is updated. The leaders change often, and it gives a little bit of bragging rights to that grade level. They also have an attendance school with students who are on time and present being celebrated every week during the morning announcements. Then every month the class with the highest attendance get free churros that are donated from a local restaurant. They also have academic goals. They hold data meetings every six weeks where they discuss student learning. Every time they set a goal; they talk with the teachers about what it will look like for students. She shared how the kindergarten team had a fun way to recognize the students with coins to stick on the wall and take home. She said one kindergartner stopped her in the hallway and pointed to their name showing they worked so hard to meet the goal. The fifth-grade classrooms have academic goals the students make and then post a list of things they need to do to accomplish those goals.

They check how they are doing after every assessment. She said they are always looking at data and are very excited about their first through third grade reading scores. Three years ago, at the beginning of the year, they were 60% proficient. This year they can in at 73% proficient, so they see they are making huge strides with the kids in reading. She said their focus will always be on students. She shared a story of an at-risk student who had a desire and worked hard to reach the goal. She said they love the students and want them to succeed. They are working so hard to make that happen and do feel that their students are taking ownership for their learning.

Dixie High School – Principal Warren Brooks

Principal Warren Brooks shared what is right at Dixie High School. He introduced a couple of students who helped with the presentation. Meg Fraser said she is over audio/visual on the Exec Council and does the videos for the high school. She said there has not been a day this year that she has woken up and not wanted to go to school. She loves Dixie High. She loves the environment. She loves all the activities there and loves the tradition as Dixie High one of the first schools here. She loves the student involvement. She shared her video showing many of the student activities. Even Wells, student body president, talked about some of the traditions at the school. He said that the last week of April every year they have “D Week.” He said it gets rough those last few weeks of the year finishing up the school year, but not at Dixie. Everyone is looks forward to that week from the start of the year. They have Class Olympic events, assemblies, Mr. Dixie, and the student council spends hours putting up decorates all around the school. He said it is huge and something that everyone really looks forward to. The Bucket Run and Diamond D events were also mentioned. Natalie Little, student body vice president, said another really big thing they do is the Christmas in Dixie and their Angel Tree. For the Christmas in Dixie, they invite people from all around the community to come and perform. All proceeds go toward the Angel Tree. She said this year they raised about \$2000. Another tradition is their Oscars event. They put QR codes around the school and kids can make videos and submit them into the Oscars. The students come for an evening all decked out in black tie attire, and they roll out a red carpet and they watch all the videos and give awards. The Angel tree money goes to help buy Christmas presents for students in need. Aisha Welch said she is in charge of elections and eligibility. She shared about the Diamond D tradition at Dixie High. She said they have a book to track points throughout the year for all the sports, clubs, service projects, student council, academics, attendance, or arts. It has been a great way to get students involved at the high school and has been a tradition at Dixie High School since the 60’s so they love to keep it going. To earn the Diamond D, students have to have over 100 points. Those who earn the Diamond D get the privilege to repaint the Dixie rock. Allee Williams, senior class president, shared what is coming up at the school. She mentioned Junior Prom will be the first weekend in April, they will be having a Mario Cart Tournament during lunch, a Stay Afloat activity with root beer floats, Singled Out, a presentation by Dustin Smith about keeping our eyes up and doing the work, D Week, and the D Day Dance. Kai Frehner shared about the wonderful students and faculty members at Dixie High. He said that Dixie High provides so many clubs and team sports. Those activities help the students get to know different students who have different interests, and it is just so cool to get to know them and be part of that. He said he really appreciates and love the faculty and the fact that they not only teach the students but create a safe and fun environment at the school.

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

The Washington County School District will hold a Public Hearing on March 5, 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 reviewed the process the District went through. Under Senate Bill 127 we were charged to adopt a core literacy program that aligns with the Science of Reading. The list from USBE can out November 2023 and so we had to jump really fast and start working very hard to look at the three programs that were approved for review. The three that were approved included: Into Reading, CLKA, and Wonders. She said they had an extremely qualified reading committee that included ELL, Special Education teachers, a Dyslexia specialist, grade level specialists, amazing teachers, LETRS facilitators, Board Member Simmons, and administrators. There was one open house held for parents and one open house for PTA. They also held two open houses for teacher to come and view the materials to provide

feedback. Teachers had two months to submit their input. Based on the committee, teachers, and parents it was recommended that the Board approve Into Reading as the new core literacy program beginning Fall of 2024.

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No public comments were given on Board Action Items.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Elementary K-5 Literacy Curriculum – Kathy Hall

Board Member Staheli presented a motion to approve the Elementary K-5 Literacy Curriculum Program selection of Into Reading. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Insurance Plan Renewals and Changes – Tammara Robinson

Tammara Robinson requested Board approval of the Insurance renewal rates for the 2024-2025 school year. The medical will keep the same plan designs we have with a 10% increase on the premium, to keep the dental insurance as we have the plan design already, to change the life insurance to Lincoln Financial, to change the vision plan to EMI Health Vision, and to keep the HSA, Flex Spending, limited purpose Flex Spending, Health Reimbursements, and Voya supplements the same.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the Insurance Plan Renewals and Changes as proposed. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Priorities CMGC Contract RFP – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said the District has done a CMGC contract for priorities projects, but the District is doing something a little different this year. We have our CMGC contract but also put out that we are going to do multiple awards. The way it works is we are recommending that we grant the contract to Herm Hughes who has agreed to do the CMGC work at a 7% administrative fee and then we have the other points for the other people that have submitted proposals, and we'll start with the next highest number of points and ask if they are willing to accept the contract at 7%. If they say yes, then we would use them as well and go down to the next one. We would like to have three different contractors in the CMGC. Of course, since Herm Hughes is the one that had the low bid, most of the work would go to them, but then others could pick up the additional work as we needed because we have so many projects and one contractor can't do them all. He said that is the recommendation.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Priorities CMGC Contract as proposed. Board Member Stirland seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DHHS Tennis Courts – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said as part of the whole project that we were putting together with Snow Canyon Middle and the tennis courts, we are trying to get the Desert Hills High tennis courts done by the same company so we can get a better price. He said we have the bids in now for the not to exceed pricing with the CMGC for the Desert Hills High tennis courts and would be ready to start this weekend if approved. The not to exceed pricing of just under \$1.5 million. That has about \$300,000 in different contingencies in case they run into specific issues, so he believes this is going to come in at our \$1.25 million budget that we have in our Capital Construction Plan. The tennis courts will be in basically the same place, but we are remodeling how the traffic will flow through. You won't be able to drive from the high school side to the middle school side anymore which has been a little bit of a problem with kids speeding through. It will be the post tension concrete, so you won't see cracks anymore.

Board Member Simmons presented a motion to approve Desert Hills High School Tennis Courts. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Capital Construction Plan – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said we have the Capital Construction Plan, previously the Five-year Plan, budgeted out. Normally we would have bonded for these projects, but now we are going to just be paying cash for the projects. As soon as it is approved it will be put on our website for anyone who wants to know. We want to be as transparent as possible about the plans we are looking at. He asked the Board to approve the projects that are listed as CY 23 and CY24. He said he would be bringing it back on a regular basis as prices change or as we get tighter with numbers. We will also be adding additional years overtime so it will continue to be a living document. He said the Board is approving the overall plan and numbers for CY 23 and CY 24. Modifications will be brought back to the Board as needed.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the Capital Construction Plan. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 1100 Filling Positions – Darin Thomas

Darin Thomas reviewed the changes to Policy 1100 and Policy 1332. In Policy 1332, under section 3.1.9, it says that an employee may use up to 12 calendar days for year-round employment or 10 calendar days for traditional employment of sick leave in a contract year for any FMLA qualifying event. The change being proposed would allow employees to use any paid sick leave balances for dependent care that is not directly related to an employee's personal illness. He said this is important as we have several employees a year that have family illnesses with children, husband, or wife and we believe that they should be able to use the sick time that they have allocated without us telling them they can only use so many days. It is proposed to change the verbiage removing 12 calendar days and 10 calendar days for qualified FMLA events. This is not going to take away from those who just stay home a day for a sick child, it is for FMLA qualified events. Terry Hutchinson mentioned the five days of sick leave used for death of family members unless they need more time. Darin Thomas said if they have to travel or something they would get that approved through Human Resources. He said they are trying to do what's best for employees given the circumstances of illness or death. That is the only change to Policy 1332 so it will be up for a 30-day review. The Superintendent will usually designate someone, such as Tammara Robinson, to meet with employees dealing with tragedy or illness to give them options and let them know what the District can do.

Darin Thomas said some of the changes to Policy 1100 are just changes in verbiage for spelling or UCA reference corrections that we use for compliance. Under subsection 3.1.15 we added six periods in a ten-block schedule because we do have schools on a five-by-five block. Instead of referring to just principals, program directors were also added as needed. Some of the changes also fix dates, such as April 1st which is no longer used for filling positions. We no longer use paper and revised the application process to Frontline. Under 3.12.1 it was changed for principals, managers, or others selecting candidates, including transfers, to make recommendations to the Human Resource Department. Executive director verbiage was removed under 3.12.2 as that is a position that the Board fills so it was not needed there and just spells out how the principal positions are selected. The executive director was also removed under 3.12.3. Most of the changes are just simple things to clean up the policy and make it a little more user friendly. Craig Seegmiller asked about the wording of School Board of Education under 3.12.2. Terry Hutchinson reviewed how the procedure works and feels the selection process is getting tighter and better. It encourages the candidates to do better. Darin Thomas agreed that we have phenomenal candidates and excellent administrators in the District. David Stirland asked about the date removal under 3.4.4. Darin Thomas said pre-staffing is done with the principals so there is not a staffing plan to approve. Letters of intent are due by January 31st. Principals all know what the expectations are so a staffing plan is not needed. Becky Dunn asked if a section or policy was needed on hiring executive directors. Darin Thomas suggested having an administrative letter explaining how they hired as the executive director hiring is different.

Policy 1330 Employee Leave – Darin Thomas

This policy discussion was tabled.

Policy 1332 FMLA, ADA and District Sick Leave – Darin Thomas

Changes to this policy were discussed above with Policy 1100.

INFORMATION ITEMS

No information items were presented.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Richard Holmes said the schools have been pretty busy this last quarter which ends on Friday, and we will be in the last quarter. He is sure many of our seniors are disappointed to see it come to an end. He reported on UHSAA state champions including the winners of Girls Wrestling from Snow Canyon High, Desert Hills High, and Crimson Cliffs High. The Boys Wrestling champions included students from Crimson Cliffs High, Snow Canyon High, and Hurricane High. In swimming the state champions were students from Desert Hills High School and Dixie High School. The Snow Canyon High Girls Basketball team took second place, and the Snow Canyon High Drill Team took second place. Crimson Cliffs High School took a Cheer co-championship with another school in northern Utah. Desert Hills High Cheer was the All-girls champion. Snow Canyon High School Cheer took second place in the All-girls bracket. The Enterprise High Boys Basketball team ended a 30-year drought and took the state championship. We have great students and amazing schools.

Board

No Board reports were given.

Association

Reece Jacobsen, WCEA, gave a shout out to all the Fine Arts, PE and CTE teachers. He has had a lot of conversations about our online programs through Utah Online School with teachers and parents. Knowing there are a lot of voucher programs that are taking money and giving more flexibility for students to have the education they want. We are lucky in our District to have programs that allow students to take programs at their own pace but still allow them to go to brick-and-mortar schools to be part of the Fine Arts, business training, and technical training. He is grateful for both the online and the brick-and-mortar teachers. He also gave a shout out for caucus night and is glad that Superintendent Holmes has encouraged employees to attend their caucus meetings. He said we are always searching for public education champions and advocates in our elected offices, so he is grateful for that. He said they have encouraged their members to double down on the invitation as well. He mentioned that the Legislative Session ended last week and if you do a search for how many education related bills there were it is overwhelming. He said there are a handful of the bills that will present us and the District with the opportunity to see what they are like for us, or we get to establish what they mean for Washington County. He listed three that he thought were important including SB 173, HB 221, and HB 347. He said the WCEA would be happy to collaborate with District leadership to give the perspective of those in the trenches.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

No PTA/PTO/Community Council reports were given.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

Kirk Jones, music teacher at Diamond Valley Elementary, invited the Board to attend their end of year ukulele concert on May 9th. He brought a student, William, to share a little bit of what students will perform that night. William has been playing for about one year and wishes there was more time for music.

Tim Hollingshead said the parent is the primary stakeholder of a child's upbringing. He acknowledged the Washington County School Board as the strongest board in the state of Utah, which he said is the strongest state in the nation and is protecting the parent's rights as the primary stakeholder of the child's upbringing. He said proof of that is the passing of Utah Code 80-44-104 which states that a parent has the

right, responsibility, and authority to raise, manage, train, educate, provide for, and discipline the parent's child; and that the state's role is secondary and supportive to the primary role of a parent. He said as school board members change, he wants to preserve and protect the continuity of positive representation offered by this current board. It is within the family that children learn their values, understand their cultural heritage, and create enduring bonds. Parents are the ones who know their children's unique needs, aspirations, and challenges best. Parents have the right and responsibility to guide, protect, and advocate for their children's education and well-being.

Thomas Cummings said he is grateful for the Board's dedicated service to this county. He feels that southern Utah has and will continue to be a stronghold for family values and be a beacon of hope for the world. As a parent of three children in Washington County School District, he shared why he would support a resolution from the School District on parents being integral to a child's upbringing. He shared a proposed resolution copy for consideration by the Board.

Jennafer Barlow had questions regarding the Hurricane Early Childhood Center. She was concerned about lack of information about a teacher being fired from the center.

Cedric Ebisch has two children currently navigating through the Washington County education system. He was reflecting on his own experience in his educational years and realized that his experience was less than ideal in Germany. There was a prevailing notion that the state would know exactly what was best for him and that they had superior insight into what he needed. This led to years of studying of prescribed curriculum from the state and minimal to no engagement with his parents about his education direction. He doesn't want to compare the systems but thinks that we have something great here. He loves the fact that Utah has the State Code mentioned previously. He also supports the resolution that parents are the primary stakeholder for a child's upbringing.

Lex Howard and **Douglas Howard** signed the Request to Address the Board form but did not address the Board.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT