

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

January 21, 2014

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Kristi Swett, Vice President Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson (arriving at 6:07 p.m.), Tiffany Sandberg, and Laurel H. Young (via electronic media).

Members Excused: Lavenita Vaitai, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Kathleen Christy, Educational Equity and Advocacy; Julie Atwood, Director of Educational Technology/Library Media/Elementary School Support; Sue Parker, Elementary School Support; Joann Price, ELP Supervisor & Elementary School Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Principals Shelley Halvorsen, Highland Park Elementary, and Jana Edwards, Jackson Elementary School; Assistant Principal Lamar Spotted Elk, Jackson Elementary School; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Leslie B Castle, District 7, Utah State Board of Education; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Allison Sisam, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Study Session of January 21, 2014, two motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Swett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:02 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

*(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, property, and personnel items. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 6 to 0, with Dr. Nelson absent at the time of the vote.

**(Sandberg and Bennett)

Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson (arriving at 6:07 p.m.), Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young (via electronic media), McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and Joan Andrews, board legal counsel from Fabian, Attorneys at Law.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 6:30 p.m.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	X		
EMERY	X		
NELSON	2		1
SWETT	X		
SANDBERG	X		
YOUNG	X		
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience.
- Michelle Grutter led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Limited Consent Agenda

*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the Limited Consent Agenda consisting of the Purchasing Report dated January 21, 2014, and the Proposed School Calendars for 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17.

** (Nelson and Emery)

- a. The Purchasing Report dated January 21, 2014, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, and increases to existing purchase orders.
- b. Proposed School Calendars for 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017. Prior to the motion, Superintendent Withers distributed a Revised Calendar Ballots by School. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Prior to voting on the motion, Mr. Clára asked for clarification on the \$25,000 change order to SOS Temporary Services for temporary labor for grounds keeping crews. Superintendent Withers said the increase is to pay for work not performed by seasonal or temporary employees of the district who are limited to 29 ½ hours per week due to restrictions for retirement and health insurance.

A. STUDY TOPICS

1. Student Achievement Plan – Equity and Advocacy. Kathleen Christy thanked the board for the opportunity to provide them with an update from the Educational Equity and Advocacy Department. She introduced Language Cultural Coaches Jennifer Newell, Michelle Grutter, and Susanna Anderson; ALS Coordinator Betty Jimenez; Data Specialist Claustina Mahon-Reynolds; Principals Jana Edwards and Shelley Halvorsen;

and Assistant Principal Lamar Spotted Elk; who were present to help with the report. A copy of the report and the presentation have been added to the official minutes. She reviewed the mission and goals of the Educational Equity and Advocacy Essential and said equity requires educators develop skills, knowledge, and beliefs necessary to meet the needs of every student, with an emphasis on students of color, English learners, students in poverty, and students with disabilities. She said they would begin with an update of accomplishments to date and then present their top goals and priorities for next year.

Ms. Mahon-Reynolds went through the data that was included in the presentation for Language Arts, Math, and Science. She said all student groups have experienced an increase in achievement; however, performance differences still remain between Caucasian students and students of other ethnicities that will require a steeper trajectory of growth by other ethnicities in order to close the achievement gap.

Ms. Grutter updated board members on the site equity teams. She said it is a veteran group of Site Equity Teams, and each of the teams is at least in their third year of work. She briefly recalled what the site teams work on in each of the first three years, and noted all teams have their own dynamic and work at their own pace. Jackson Elementary School Principal, Jana Edward, and Assistant Principal, Lamar Spotted Elk, reported on Jackson's Site Equity Team and equity efforts at Jackson. They spoke briefly about the Adalante program and efforts to create a college-going culture. They said Jackson's efforts are focused on students and families, and they are working with Dr. Javius, from EdEquity, Inc., to examine how they are teaching, and what changes can be made to motivate Jackson's students. Highland Park Principal, Shelley Halverson, addressed the board on Highland Park's Site Equity Team and equity efforts. She noted Highland Park's demographics are very different than Jackson's with only 13-17% minority. She said sometimes when average achievement is at a certain level people don't want to look beyond the numbers to see who isn't achieving, why they aren't achieving, and determine what can be done. She said she feels it is a privilege and a responsibility to advocate for those who aren't able to advocate for themselves. They are working to educate Highland Park's students that the world, even the city, does not look like Highland Park, and to prepare students so they can advocate for those who do not have as strong a voice. She said they have talked with students about being super-heroes for each other, that it is their charge and responsibility to help others.

Ms. Newell updated board members on the continued collaboration efforts with Academic Services for English Language Development professional development. She reported Dr. Javius has been working with East and West high Schools, five sessions have been held, and feedback has been positive. She said a districtwide courageous conversation group has been formed, they are having great discussions, talking about issues, and it is exciting how many want to participate. She extended an invitation to board members to hold a courageous conversation.

Ms. Jimenez gave a brief update on the AVID program at Bennion Elementary School. She said 124 students are enrolled in the program. She reported on the partnership with the University of Utah and said this year students and parents will be bussed to the University of Utah to spend the day. Student will learn how to fill out a college

application, what a day at college is like, and possibly sit in on a class. She also told the board there are a couple of other elementary schools who have expressed an interest in starting a program. Ms. Anderson talked about the Latinos in Action program. She said as of today there are 50 students in the program, 15 are seniors, and 13 have applied for colleges. She told the board, students in the program serve as mentors for students at North Star Elementary School.

Ms. Christy told board members the ISQ survey is currently on hold. She said they found the survey did not fully address school climate and they are trying to find a better tool for that purpose. Ms. Grutter addressed the issue of Disproportionate Minority Contact. She said trends show students of color have a greater chance of, and a higher number of, contacts with the juvenile justice system. She noted the more contact a student has with the juvenile justice system, the less likely they are to graduate. She said they are working to put something in place in the schools to help reduce the issue. Ms. Newell spoke briefly about the 9th Grade Connection program at West High School and the Welcoming School Initiative.

Ms. Christy provided board members with a brief update of the top goals and priorities for next year which include: building the capacity for addressing student learning through improved instructional practices and monitoring student progress, and student advocacy and access. She said some of the things they plan to do include: administrator instructional leadership, support teachers with instructional practices proven to be effective, continue to build a database monitoring student data, reconvene the Equity Leadership Team, get to know students better, and work on how best to instruct students who are different than ourselves.

In closing, Ms. Christy said improving quality instruction is the key to changing the trajectory for the district's students. Following the report they answered questions from the board. On behalf of the board, President Swett thanked them for the report, for everything they have accomplished, and for everything they are doing to benefit the students of the district. Superintendent Withers noted the district has come a long way but there is still a long way to go.

2. School Improvement Plan Process for 2014-2015. Patrick Garcia, Julie Atwood, Joann Price, and Sue Parker reported on the School Improvement Plan process for 2014-15. Mr. Garcia reported the School Support Team continues to look at the School Improvement Plan process and the template and make modifications in order to make the School Improvement Plans concise and user friendly so all stakeholders can readily know what the school is focusing on. A draft of the revised template was distributed. A copy has been added to the official minutes.

The School Support Team walked board members through the template and provided an explanation of how the template works, and how schools can drill down on the plan and take an honest look at where they are as a school. Schools are asked to gather feedback, focus on what really makes a difference and can be accomplished over a year, and be specific in developing their plans. Included in the plans should be a way to measure progress and resources that will be needed, both financial and human

resources. Schools should continue to look at their plan throughout the year, and make necessary adjustments.

Mr. Garcia told the board the proposed template will be presented to school administrators on Wednesday, January 22, at the General Administrators Meeting. He said as schools move forward they will still have to complete the LAND Trust Plans. He said the templates will be available to schools the first of February. Schools will have February and March to work on their plans. During April School Support Staff will provide feedback and work with schools to resolve any problems. The School Improvement Plans will be provided to the board the first part of May and will be on the board's agenda as an Action Item at the Board Business Meeting in June.

President Swett thanked them for the report and for everything they do to support the schools.

3. USBA Master Board Training/Annual USBA Conference Reports. President Swett briefly discussed the USBA Master Board Training. She distributed a handout that outlined the requirements for Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes. She reminded board members they need to complete the Open Meeting Law for whichever Level they are on and challenged them to do so. She also noted some of those items board members have completed together that can be marked off. She called the board's attention to the "Other" section and said it was added to the Master Board Training in order to allow flexibility for what various districts might be working on.

President Swett talked to the board about the possibility of team building exercises. She suggested the possibility of scheduling these from 5:30 to 6:00, prior to Closed Executive Session, and asked board members for their feedback. She also said she would work with Ms. Christy and Ms. Newell on scheduling some courageous conversations into the team building exercises.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Proposed Legislation. Superintendent Withers reported there are 75 bills on education as of this afternoon. He distributed a list of the Educations bills as of 4:15 p.m. on 1/21/2014. A copy has been added to the official minutes. He will keep board members updated. He said as the bills are updated the board will need to determine 4 or 5 priority bills they would like to focus on.

Budget Development. Superintendent Withers reported the President signed the budget deal into law. He said Title I funds are up 4.5% from last year's sequestration level, Special Education and CTE are up 5% from sequestration, Headstart funding was fully restored, and a childcare and development blockgrant was also up 7% from the sequestration level.

Superintendent Withers distributed a copy of a handout that was distributed at the Governor's Education Excellence Commission meeting by Phil Dean, from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. The handout looks at the Basic School Program and includes a column with a "yes" or "no" indicating whether any growth factor was included. The Superintendent said there are 10 items marked "no" the USBA/USSA/UASBO Joint Legislative Committee feels should be included in growth calculations. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Superintendent Withers reported Tami Pyfer, current Utah State Board of Education Chair, has been named the Governor's Education Advisor. She will resign her seat on the State Board. Superintendent Withers also reported U. S. Department of Education Secretary Duncan named Northwest Middle School as one of five memorable visits he had in 2013. The Superintendent will forward a copy of the article to board members in the Friday mailing.

2. Other Reports. Board member Young said she had enjoyed the USBA Annual conference held January 9-11, 2014, and said she felt the session on the CTE Classes had been very valuable. She thanked President Swett for all her hard work with USBA. President Swett said they had received a lot of positive feedback from the conference.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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