

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Business Meeting
and Closed Executive Session

November 5, 2013

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Business Meeting and Closed Executive Session at 5:10 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, 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, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, and Lavenita Vaitai, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Barbara Kuehl, Director of Academic Services/Professional Development; Joann Price, ELP Supervisor & Elementary School Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Shelley Halversen, Highland Park Elementary School Principal and Salt Lake Association of School Administrators representative; Earl Arnoldson, Indian Hills Elementary School Principal; Jana Edward, Jackson Elementary School Principal; Lamar Spotted Elk, Jackson Elementary School Assistant Principal; John Robson, board legal counsel from Fabian, Attorneys at Law; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Allison Sisam, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Business Meeting of November 5, 2013, three 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 5:10 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 1 with Mr. Clára voting "No".

** (Nelson and Young)

Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, and John Robson, the board's legal counsel.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. and returned to the Board Business Meeting at 6:37 p.m.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	2 & 3	1	
EMERY	X		
NELSON	X		
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 BUSINESS MEETING

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience. She recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Shelley Halverson, representing the Salt Lake Association of School Administrators; Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; and Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association.
- Shelly Halverson led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

*(2) Approval was given to the six items included in the Consent Agenda. These items are listed below.

** (Nelson and Emery)

- The Purchasing/Accounting Report, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, increases to existing purchase orders, a payment voucher report that includes travel and professional expenditures, and the Budget Report for September, 2013.
- The Human Resources Department Report, included new contract employment for five employees, non-contract to contract employment for two, and releases for two.
- Minutes of the Board Business Meeting held October 1, 2013.
- Minutes of the Board Study Session held October 15, 2013.
- West High School student Trip/Tour Request for the wrestling team to participate in a tournament in Reno, Nevada, December 19-21, 2013.
- Board Policies:
 - Policy I-8, Student Progress and Academic Achievement
 - Policy I-16, Student Clubs-Equal Access
 - Policy P-2, Equal Employment Opportunity
 - Policy P-9, Employee Criminal Background Checks and Self Reporting

B. REQUESTS TO SPEAK

1. Kathleen Losser, Director of Children's Services for the Utah YWCA, addressed the board to thank them for providing a bus to pick up students at the YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter and take them to school in order to make sure the kids are safe. She presented the board with a "Thank You" poster made by the kids. President Swett thanked Janet Roberts and the Transportation Department for their efforts in making the bus a reality.

C. REPORTS

1. Highlights from School Improvement Plans:

- a. Jackson Elementary School. Jana Edward, Principal, and Lamar Spotted Elk, Assistant Principal, provided the board with a report on Jackson Elementary School.

Ms. Edward briefly reported on how Jackson is using its resources to create a highly-effective and unified learning community. She said Jackson is focusing on engaging the community and teachers. She said Jackson is emerging as a Community Learning Center site, and is working to sustain current partnerships and develop new ones. She told the board the Adelante program is in its eighth year at Jackson and has brought university mentors to the school to provide services to students, field trips to the university, and summer camps for students. She said Jackson is continuing to work with Fidelity Investments and the Bennion Center, and this year established a community garden which provides fresh vegetables to families. She said Jackson's parents have formed a Parents in Action group that organizes and operates monthly parent nights among other activities. She said Jackson is a dual immersion site. The Dual Immersion Committee meets to address concerns which include appropriate placement of students, improving communication between the programs, and equitable class size, particularly in the upper grades. She told the board weekly collaborative meetings are held in all grades to discuss data and plan next steps. Five power strategies were developed to increase student achievement. She said Jackson is a Utah Behavior Initiative (UBI) school which means they are a positive behavior intervention site that promotes a positive learning environment with consistent expectations, rules, and consequences.

Ms. Edward briefly addressed elements in the Dual Immersion Program that can be replicated school-wide. She said Jackson adopted the state model for dual immersion which means there are two classes at each grade level. She said they are working to increase access to the program, noted there is a waiting list at all grade levels, and said they are trying to make entrance to the program more fluid so students can transition into the program when there are openings. She also told board members that all Jackson students have access to the Adelante program.

Ms. Edward told the board that some of the challenges facing the school includes declining enrollment and neighborhood students choosing to go to other schools. She said they are also concerned about the low proficiency levels and the achievement gap in content areas. She said staff meets regularly to address student progress, is utilizing the interim tests provided by the district, and is providing teachers with professional development. She said

they are working with Dr. Edwin Javius, an equity consultant, who meets with teachers monthly. She said they are also working with Adelante to provide professional development as well. Teachers provide information on what they need in order to better help students, and the school strives to provide professional development in those areas.

In closing, Ms. Edward and Mr. Spotted Elk thanked the board for their support. They said they are happy to be working together at Jackson, and are impressed with the school, the parents, and all the community involvement. Following the report they answered questions from board members. President Swett thanked them for the report and for everything they are doing at Jackson Elementary School on behalf of students. A copy of the Jackson Elementary School Highlight Report has been added to the official minutes.

2. Utah Core Standards Implementation. Barbara Kuehl, Sharon Adamson, Jerry Frydrych, and Laura Scarpulla provided the board with a presentation on implementing the Utah Core Standards. Ms. Kuehl told the board it has been a big challenge but feels the district is well ahead of other districts, both in the state and nationally. She said there are still things to be worked out, believes it to be a big step forward for students, and said they are committed to making it work. A copy of the presentation and other handouts have been added to the official minutes.

Ms. Adamson spoke on the shift in the language arts core and Mr. Frydrych spoke on the differences in the math core standards. Both addressed reasons the district is embracing the changes and the new core standards. They briefly went through the implementation maps for both language arts and mathematics. Ms. Kuehl noted the language arts is a gradual implementation across all grades, and the math implementation plan started with a few grades and has expanded each year until its implementation in every grade.

They continued the report with a recap of the strong professional development efforts. They said a lot of the district's teachers have completed a 4-day workshop sponsored by the state. Teachers attending the workshop came back and shared what they learned with their colleagues. Ongoing professional development, after school workshops, and reading and mathematics endorsements have been tilted to the common core. Ms. Kuehl told board members the investment the district has made in coaching has been very powerful, noting how much help the district's coaches have been. She said they are providing direct help in classrooms, modeling instruction, planning lessons, refining teacher content, and helping create district tools that are available to all teachers.

Ms. Adamson reported on the instructional materials available for elementary language arts. Ms. Scarpulla addressed instructional materials for secondary language arts. She told the board the materials adoption process was suspended because adequate materials were not available, and she noted instructional material pilots are being done in two middle schools. Ms. Kuehl reported Math Expresses was written by one of the authors of the common core for elementary mathematics, and she reported the district has been able to purchase updated, fully-aligned textbooks for each elementary grade level. She said two middle schools piloted a program in 2011-12. Digits was adopted in 2012-13 for seventh and eighth grades, with monthly professional development offered that focuses on using Digits. She said the high schools have been the biggest challenge for the district and teachers. Implementation of the

common core began before instructional materials were available and the district had to develop materials for teachers to use during the first year of each course.

Ms. Kuehl spoke briefly about assessments. She said at the end of the year SAGE (Student Assessment for Growth and Excellence) will replace the CRTs. She said a lot of good input has been given and district coaches and specialists have been involved. Field tests will be conducted this year, with full implementation in 2014-15. She also updated board members on interim assessments and said their purpose is to help teachers understand what students have learned and to develop plans moving forward that will ensure all students make progress toward meeting core objectives. She said the interim assessments were created by coaches and specialists with a lot of cooperation and help from Assessment and Evaluation. The interim assessments will be constantly refined and updated based on teacher feedback and results from SAGE.

Ms. Kuehl briefly addressed course progression and graduation requirements. She distributed a handout entitled Salt Lake Course Progressions for Students in Grades 6-12, which also includes course progressions for advanced and struggling students. She updated the board on supports for students so they are able to meet the new levels of rigor which include: more systematic intervention in elementary schools, math lab and reading classes to help middle school students be prepared for high school; and high school math support classes and credit recovery to ensure students meet graduation requirements. She also said information has been provided for parents keeping them updated on the changes.

In closing, Ms. Kuehl talked about the next steps which will include more professional development, response to the first SAGE assessment, and continued review of new instructional materials as they become available. She thanked her staff for the remarkable job they have done of positioning the district to be successful. Following the report they answered questions from board members.

President Swett thanked them for the report and for all their efforts on behalf of students. She noted board members from other districts often ask her about the district's coaches and have been impressed.

D. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Board Policies B1 – Board of Education Legal Status, Responsibilities, and Ethics and B2 – School Board Meetings. Vice President Bennett said there had been a lot of discussion and a lot of input on the proposed revisions to Policies B1 and B2. She thanked board members for their input and said the Policy Subcommittee met yesterday and revised the policies. She distributed a "Discussion Draft" for the two policies, and she noted for the record there would be no action taken on the policies at this meeting.

Vice President Bennett went through the recommended changes from the Policy Subcommittee and the rationale. Board members discussed the recommended changes. Mr. Clára expressed concern about requests for information having to go through the Superintendent and the timeframe for board members submitting items to be included in the meeting and gave his reasons for the concerns. A copy of a letter from Mr. Clára sent to President Swett on October

21, 2013, and a second letter distributed to board members at tonight's meeting, addressing his concerns to the proposed policy revisions have been added to the official minutes. Ms. Bennett noted part of the Policy Subcommittee's rationale for submitting all requests through the Superintendent is so that requests do not overly burden the regular duties and work responsibilities of staff, and so that the same information can be provided to all board members.

In conclusion, Vice President Bennett requested if board members have any additional comments on the proposed policies they should send them to a member of the Policy Subcommittee.

E. ACTION AGENDA

1. Open/Closed Designations for 2014-15 Choice Enrollment.

Prior to the motion, Superintendent Withers told board members the recommendation of staff is that every school in the district be designated as "open" during the open enrollment window.

*(3) A motion was made that the board accept the Open/Closed recommendations for 2014-15 School Choice applications as outlined in Exhibit E1.

** (Sandberg and Young)

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Education Task Force and Governor's Education Excellence Commission. Superintendent Withers reported the Education Task Force met Friday, November 1, and would be holding another meeting on November 11. He said more information will be available after that meeting and he will update board members. He also reported a sub-committee of the Governor's Excellence Commission will be meeting to make recommendations that include monetary requests that are more aligned with the priorities. He noted the Governor's budget would be released mid December.

Superintendent Withers announced the Teacher Team Growth Awards for the most growth: Kindergarten – Lincoln; 1st Grade – Bennion; 2nd Grade – Backman; 3rd Grade – North Star; 4th Grade – Mountain View; 5th Grade – Washington; and 6th Grade – Franklin. He noted for the third consecutive year the seven elementary grade recognitions went to seven different schools. The Secondary Awards for 7th and 8th grades went to Language Arts – Open Classroom; Math – Salt Lake Center for Science Education; and Science – Glendale.

Superintendent Withers distributed a copy of the Fall Enrollment 2013 and the Student Distribution by School and Area October 1, 2013 reports. A copy of these reports will be added to the official minutes. He said additional demographic reports will be sent to them in the Superintendent's Friday packet.

Superintendent Withers told board members the three calendar options for the next three years have been sent to schools for input. He will send a copy of the options to board members in the Superintendent's Friday packet.

2. Other Reports. Board Member Emery thanked board members who had attended the annual Columbus Community Center breakfast and noted the event had been very nice.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Vice President Bennett, seconded by Ms. Young, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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