



**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah
June 6, 2023
4:30 p.m.**

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, and Communications Director Steven Dunham.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Member Simmons.

Board Member Simmons presented a motion to go into a closed session at 2:03 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSION – Delayed Start time 2:00 p.m. for Closed Session
Property and Personnel Items**

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer. Board Member David Stirland participated via phone.

Personnel

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Personnel and Property

Board Member Cox presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 3:41 p.m. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Board Handbook Training – Becky Dunn

Becky Dunn asked the Board to review Policy 0002 procedures and practices and bring things that stand out after reviewing to talk about in next meeting.

Board PLC Training – Steve Gregoire

Steve Gregoire shared a video on the work that is happening in the schools with PLC team meetings. It shared what teams do to look at targeted skills and the learning needs of students. They are able to share and collaborate with each other on individual students and student data to determine what needs to happen through interventions and extensions. They are able to focus on essential standards. Becky Dunn mentioned it is great that the teachers are looking at a plan for how to do things better.

Steve Gregoire also mentioned trainings for Language Arts and Math teachers this week with the Grade Level Specialists. Teachers are collaborating and getting ready for next year.

Capital Growth Plan Update – Steven Dunham

Steven Dunham reported that he was able to present at the teacher training earlier today. He is also working on a mailer to go out. He said the Town of Rockville is doing a letter of support for the tax initiative. He is also working with a media education reporter from Salt Lake City to get word out on our initiative. Becky Dunn asked about setting a date for the Truth in Taxation hearing. It was recommended to hold the hearing on a different day from Board Meeting at one of the high schools to allow more opportunity for public comment. She wants to make sure the public feels that they have been heard. There have been great questions and feedback so far. Steven Dunham said the mailer will allow for public comment to be returned as well to help answer questions. There will also be a link on the mailer to a website. He is hoping the mailer will go out about the same time as the tax notice in July. The Board felt they would like to hold it on a different night than Board Meeting. It was suggested to start at 6:00 p.m. Steven Dunham suggested starting the meeting with a presentation to help explain what we are doing, then open it up for public comment. The meeting was scheduled for August 7th at 6:00 p.m. at Dixie High.

Learning Materials

Jeremy Cox reviewed the Learning Materials Policy 4212. The policy was developed in conjunction with legal counsel. There has been a lot of feedback from grade level specialists, teacher leads, and teachers. Version 5 includes feedback from all levels. The selection committee is made up with content coordinators, educators, and at least one district administrator to provide recommendations to the Board. Terry Hutchinson suggested to clarify using one of the following under subsection 3.8.2. Becky Dunn said under subsection 3.8.5 it should say “shall” not “may.” It also needs the same in subsection 3.9.6. Jeremy Cox said after the policy is passed, the content coordinators will discuss how to train in the content areas. Becky Dunn asked about the public meetings under section 4.11.4. Jeremy Cox said it was taken right out of legislation. Becky Dunn also mentioned the supplemental material should be district wide. Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned that he and Jeremy Cox would be presenting for the interim committee on what we have done on June 14th at 8:30 a.m.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Board Committee Discussions

Terry Hutchinson said IHC has five containers to donate to the School District for storage of the bikes. He will work with IHC. Craig Seegmiller said Washington Fields Intermediate School should receive one first. Cheri Stevenson can help with other schools needing them.

Board Member Cox presented a motion to go into a closed session at 4:25 p.m. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Legal Items

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 4:30 p.m. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

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 Craig Seegmiller, LaRene Cox, Burke Staheli, Nannette Simmons, and Terry Hutchinson. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Superintendent Richard Holmes, and Business Administrator Brent Bills. Board Member David Stirland was excused.

OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

Reverence by Member Seegmiller

Welcome – Board President Dunn

Pledge of Allegiance by Member Hutchinson

Principal and Teacher Recognitions

Nate Esplin reported on the Southern Utah Stem Award recipients. The following teachers were recognized: Jamie Andrew, Crimson View Elementary, was selected as the Science Educator of the Year; Karen Webb, Hurricane Elementary, was selected as the Engineering Educator of the Year; Miranda Schear, LaVerkin Elementary, was selected as the Mathematics Educator of the Year. Washington County School District has a good stem program, and we appreciate teachers bringing stem into the classrooms. Nate Esplin also recognized Melissa Dietzel, Sandstone Elementary, who was given the 2023 Utah Afterschool Administrator of the Year award. There are 100 students participating in afterschool programs in the District.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Washington County School District is conducting a public hearing to receive input from the public with respect to the adoption of the 2022-2023 Final Budget and the 2023-2024 Proposed Adopted Budget.

A copy of the 2022-2023 Final Budget and the 2023-2024 Proposed Adopted Budget are available on the District website (www.washk12.org) or may be obtained by contacting the District Business Administrator.

Brent Bills reviewed the final and proposed budgets for 2022-23 and 2023-24. He reviewed the historical and projected student enrollment for the District. The District receives 48.7% of revenue from the state, 45.2% from local, and 6.2% from federal sources. The proposed budget for 2023-24 is \$456,000,000 which is down from last year. Expenditures are in line with the revenue. The District expenditures per student for 2021-22 were \$7,839 compared to the state at \$9,174 and the national rate at \$15,800. Being a faster growing area has an effect on our lower expenditure amount per student. Brent Bills also shared a

comparison with larger districts throughout the state. Only one of the districts has a higher graduation rate than Washington County School District. Brent Bills reviewed the Maintenance and Operation budget. The state froze the property tax levy for five years statewide. Next year there should be a little bit of relief on property taxes. Of the expenditures, 68.6% goes toward instruction. Only a small amount .3% goes toward district administrative costs. The expenditures budgeted for 2023-24 are \$353,481,481. The Debt Service levy shows the planned initiative to save interest and make interest to offset the inflation increase. The Capital Projects budget show the increase. Under Food Services, the federal sources when up but will be closer to normal at \$8.8 million for next year. The Student Activity fund show fees collected and funds from fundraisers. Brent Bills reviewed the property tax levies, capital levy, and property taxes collected by the state and the District. It was mentioned that the District has received the ASBO Meritorious Budget award.

No public comments were given on the 2022-23 Final Budget and the 2023-24 Proposed Adopted Budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes

- a. May 8, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**
- b. May 9, 2023 Meeting of the Board of Education**
- c. May 30, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**

2. Financial Report

3. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items

4. Snow Canyon Middle School TSSA Plan Change

5. Santa Clara Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Becky Dunn asked about the purchase of new buses. Brent Bills said four buses were purchased. They are all propane buses for local routes. The District purchases diesel buses for activity trips. The propane buses save us money with maintenance when used locally. They start well even on cold days. It has been a good thing for the District.

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

WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSD SCHOOLS

Water Canyon School – Principal Brad Jolley

Principal Brad Jolley shared what is right at Water Canyon School. He shared his history in education including being told that in education, we are in the people business. He shared about Sandra Brown, the kitchen manager at Water Canyon School. “Shorty” as she prefers to be called, is an amazing lady with loads of energy and enthusiasm. She does not stop. She also has a happy smile that is infectious. She shows an incredible commitment to students. She works to prepare, serve, and clean up meals for the elementary and high school students. Things are great at Water Canyon. The students are thriving. They have focused on attendance this past year and were able to increase attendance to 88%. The goal is now to get over 90% attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No public comment was given on Board Action Items.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Negotiated Agreements – Brent Bills

Brent Bills asked the board to approve the classified negotiated agreement. Becky Dunn shared that this is the biggest raise in history for classified employees.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Negotiated Agreement for Classified Staff. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 4212 Learning Materials – Jeremy Cox

Jeremy Cox requested approval of the Policy 4212. The policy is similar to library policy but deals with instructional materials used in the classroom. It falls under the sensitive materials law as teachers have a captive audience.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve Policy 4212 Learning Materials with changes discussed in the Work Session. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 4215 Textbook and Instructional Materials – Jeremy Cox

Policy 4220 Review of Instructional Media – Jeremy Cox

Jeremy Cox recommended the deletion of Policy 4215 and 4220. The policies will be replaced by Policy 4212.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to abolish Policy 4215 Textbook and Instructional Materials and Policy 4220 Review of Instructional Media which are being replaced. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 4210 Instructional Media – Jeremy Cox

Jeremy Cox recommended that Policy 4210 be abolished. The policy is no longer needed for the print shop.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to abolish Policy 4210 Instructional Media. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 3610 Band Management – Richard Holmes/Rob Schmidt

Richard Holmes said the discussion on changes to Policy 3610 Band Management is being postponed until August.

INFORMATION ITEMS

No information items were presented.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the negotiations will help us raise salaries to fill and keep positions. We are now just under \$60,000 for starting teachers.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned the UHSAA state championships including:

State Boys Baseball – Crimson Cliffs High School

State Girls Softball – Enterprise High School

State Boys Track 4A – Snow Canyon High School

State Girls Track 4A – Desert Hills High School

State Boys Track 1A – Water Canyon High School (2nd Place)

State Girls Golf – Pine View High School

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned that all of graduations (11) went great this year.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson expressed gratitude for his 41 years in education. He thanked the School Board, employees, students, parents, and community for their support. He said Washington County School District has been a great place to work and to serve. The District is moving northeast and will continue in that direction. We have good people here and he is excited for Superintendent Richard Holmes and knows he will do a great job.

Board President Becky Dunn noted this is his last meeting and thanked him for countless hours of service.

Board

No reports were given by the Board.

Association

No reports were given by the associations.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

No reports were given by the PTA/PTO/Community Council.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

Jenifer Winward, Southern Utah Lacrosse, said she wants to make sure Lacrosse stays top of mind. She reported on the championship game at Dixie High. Dixie High won the regional championship for Lacrosse. As they are not a sanctioned sport in Washington County School District, they did not have the opportunity to play in the state championship and had a good chance to do well there. They look forward to working with the Board. This means so much to all of the athletes. She again invited to Board to join her in the announcer box.

Board Member Cox presented a motion to adjourn at 5:26 p.m. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT