



**BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION  
92 Lodestone Way – Tooele, Utah 84074-8050**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER 10, 2023 BOARD MEETING.**

The public Session was held in the Board Room at the District Office.

**Board Members Present:**

Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Elizabeth Smith, Melissa Rich, ValaRee Shields, Julia Holt, Scott Bryan  
(Electronically Present via Teams)

Excused:

**Administration Present:**

Superintendent Ernst, Lark Reynolds, Jeffrey Hamm, Angie Gillette, Bryan Becherini, Cody Reutzel, Dustin Nelson, Marissa Lowry, Andy Peterson, Charles Hansen, Jackie Gallegos

President Rich conducted the meeting. Notice of the time, place, and agenda had been given to each governing body member more than two days before the meeting. The plan was published on the Utah Public Access Website and Transcript-Bulletin. Supportive documentation for this meeting can be reviewed at: <https://www.boarddocs.com/ut/tooelesd/Board.nsf/Public>.

**1. Work Session (A work session is intended to provide opportunities for board members to study issues in-depth, gather and analyze information, and clarify situations and potential solutions. While open to the public, these sessions are more informal than the regular board meeting.)**

**1.1 Welcome and Rollcall**

President Rich called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Board Room, District Office.

**1.2 West Elementary**

Dr. Becherini and Mr. Silva provided board members with an overview of the current conditions of West Elementary, including ongoing maintenance and repair needs, recent improvements, enrollment data, and potential impacts on school boundaries.

Mr. Silva informed the board that the school has issues with several systems, including

- inoperable evaporative coolers,
- a malfunctioning office A/C unit,
- problematic steam boiler and chiller.
- The cooling tower has heavy calcium deposits, effecting its efficiency.
- The building automation system is outdated and inefficient.

Mr. Silva stated that VCBO Architects had been selected to conduct a Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) to prioritize maintenance and capital improvement projects. The FCA will assess building systems, interior spaces, learning adequacy, exterior and site conditions, accessibility, safety, and code compliance and provide cost estimations for necessary repairs and renovations. In the preliminary report from VCBO, they presented three options which included:

1. Abandon the existing building and move students off-site to portables or another facility for 3-5 years while a replacement school is built.
2. Occupied complete renovation of the existing building so it is useable for another 50+ years.
3. Leave students in the existing school and perform limited summer and limited impact renovation projects of HVAC and seismic issues until a new replacement building can be built in 3-5 years.

Mr. Silva and the board members then discussed rebuilding West Elementary, what the timeline would look like, what funding options the district had, and the financial aspect of different funding options such as MBA bonds or GO Bonds.

Mr. Silva stated the estimated budget for replacing West Elementary in 2023 is approximately \$36,375,250, with an estimated cost of \$55,419,990 in 2029 due to yearly escalation. Superintendent Ernst reminded the board that if they went out for a GO Bond, the soonest it could get on a ballot for the community to vote would be November 2024. Member Bryan stated MBA bonds could be considered to provide a quicker timeline for construction.

Dr. Becherini then discussed the effects that potential boundary changes could have on the enrollment capacity of neighboring schools and the impact on special education classrooms, with a need for additional portable classrooms.

Dr. Becherini also provided a breakdown of school capacities, the need for additional space to accommodate growing enrollments and the possibility of a lab school.

The board discussed if rebuilding West Elementary would be more cost-effective to keep students in West Elementary during the rebuild, which would cost money to replace systems, or relocate the students, which would require portables. Mr. Silva did state that some of the systems that would be used to keep West Elementary operable could be salvaged and reused in other schools; board members did ask for a cost analysis to determine which systems could be salvaged and reused in other schools. Member Bryan suggested the concept of year-round school as a fiscally prudent, temporary solution while the school was being rebuilt. Board members were concerned about the potential complications of implementing year-round school schedules, particularly in coordinating with secondary schools, and the impact on district staff and families. Dr. Becherini stated he would look further into this option.

A timeline for bonding options was discussed, with a proposal to deliberate and decide on the best course of action between November and February. Member Bryan raised concern about potential state mandates or deadlines related to school closures, relocations, or year-round school implementation, prompting the importance of researching these legislative requirements. Board members agreed to continue discussions on bonding options and facility needs in the coming months while focusing on making well-informed decisions that address the district's long-term needs.

### 1.3 Assessment Director Report

Andy Peterson, Assessment Director, presented a comprehensive overview of the district's assessment goals, current performance, and plans for improvement.

Mr. Peterson stated that in 2022, the district's assessment goals were aligned with the strategic model and the Teaching and Learning Mission. These goals aimed to ensure that all stakeholders, including coaches, were well-informed about the importance of assessment. The

ultimate goal was to have the district rank in the top 10% statewide in all assessments, using a tiered approach.

Mr. Peterson shared assessment data that reflected actual performance, highlighting areas where improvement is needed. The data shows varying degrees of success across grade levels and subjects, with some notable achievements in Acadience Reading and Math.

Mr. Peterson also addressed Chronic absenteeism, sharing data indicating that more effort is required to reduce student absenteeism rates.

Mr. Peterson stated that data integration is crucial for informed decision-making, with tools like Data Dashboard and Ed-Fi Data Warehouse playing a pivotal role in data management.

Looking ahead to 2023-2024, Mr. Peterson outlined future goals, including enhancing Benchmark PLC Meetings with Data Protocol training, implementing Data Dashboard and Reports, and focusing on achieving a top 10% ranking among districts.

Mr Peterson emphasized that while challenges exist, he feels the district is on the right track and has confidence that positive outcomes will be achieved. He underscored the district's commitment to data-driven improvement and encouraged patience in the ongoing efforts to improve student learning and assessment processes.

## **2. Adjourn (10 pm Curfew)**

### **2.1 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

**MOTION:** Adjourn

Motion by Robert Gowans, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Julia Holt, Melissa Rich, Emily Syphus, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan