

**August 22, 2023 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meeting (Tuesday, August 22, 2023)****Welcome by Board Vice President Cory Holmes****Procedural: 2. Roll Call of Members***Members present:*

Board President, Tom Hansen

Board Vice President, Cory Holmes

Board Member, Kimberly Dickerson

Board Member, Tyler Bluth

Board Member, Marianne B. Allen

Superintendent, Paul Sweat

Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

Outgoing Business Administrator, Keith Johansen

**A. Study Session****Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM**

Welcome and introductions by Board President, Tom Hansen.

**Discussion: 1. Policy Review**

*Policy Review: Dr. Eric Campbell, Director of Student Support and Equity/Elementary Edu.*

Dr. Campbell explained this is an update to the existing School Fee policy, and affects one section on page nine of 13 in section 8.9, which was added following a state audit requiring the update. He explained it is "services in lieu of a fee," which permits the schools to allow students to work off their fees by either performing tutoring, or assistance before and after school with teachers, or even community service (which would need to be approved by the school and parents). This does not apply to students who qualify for a fee waiver, unless those students choose to work off their fees in lieu of applying for a waiver. The update follows the state's model policy. The change will be presented at the Board's regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Discussion, Information: 2. Discussion - Western Bypass Route**

Superintendent Sweat recapped his recent discussion with Craig Hancock, Utah Department of Transportation project manager for the bypass route west of Heber and how the five options for the bypass relate to the future high school site on Midway Lane. He noted that UDOT has planned to announce their preferred route this fall but has pushed that to the end of the year, or early next year. Superintendent Sweat noted that all five options pass the west side of the future high school similarly, crossing at Midway Lane, though one version has an overpass and offramp, while the other four have stoplights at the intersection at the southwest corner of the school's campus. He noted that all versions are a 40-acre parcel away from the school and that the Board could forward a formal opinion to UDOT on their preference of the five routes. He noted that it will serve students coming to the high school from the Jordanelle Basin to the north, and from Wallsburg to the south, commenting that UDOT has been working with the District all along and that they promised to work around a future school site, and they have done so.

**Discussion, Information: 3. Discussion - Property Tax Adjustment**

Board President Hansen explained that the remainder of the meeting would be dedicated to discussing additional options for property taxes, which was spurred by the tabling of the approval of property tax rates at the August 16, 2023, Truth in Taxation Hearing to allow for a follow-up discussion by the Board.

Dr. Watt presented the Board with a spreadsheet detailing how much in capital funds would be collected over the next few years with the proposed property tax rate. "I think that this conversation is best had by way of, what are some goals that the board has relative to revenue and so that'll be part of some ongoing conversations we have?" Dr. Watt explained. He noted that the projected capital costs reflect if the Board followed the plan that came from last year's Future Schools Project, which has a Midway Elementary remodel or rebuild in 0-5 years at a cost of almost \$42M, a new elementary school in the next 5-10 years, a new middle school in the next 10-20 years with an assumed increase of eight percent per year in inflation, per the architect. That would put the cost of a new Midway Elementary at \$52M. He explained that with the amount of new revenue, and moving the debt service payment of \$9M from debt service to the capital fund, would put \$15.2M in the fund balance for Fiscal Year 24. He then explained that there would ultimately be \$20M in the capital fund balance to pay cash toward a new school, so the Board would need to bond for the remaining amount.

Board Member Holmes asked if the cost of purchasing the ground for a new Midway Elementary is factored in, to which Dr. Watt & Mr. Johansen explained that information is sensitive because it deals with future property costs and they are discussed in executive session. Dr. Watt then pointed out the Board would ultimately be selling the current Midway Elementary property once the new school is completed and that would recoup the cost of the purchase of the new property. He also noted the land for a future elementary is already secured in the Sawmill development and at the Jordanelle for a smaller school. "This is just a sort of really rough tool that the board can kind of use as we move forward to help us project where, keep track of these new revenues so that we can be true in what we're telling the public we're going to do with them and what sort of funding will be necessary as we move forward," Dr. Watt said.

Superintendent Sweat pointed out that the capital projections foot back to the Future School Project process and commended Dr. Watt for connecting the funding to the goals the Board set with the community's input.

Board Member Dickerson asked what happens with the current funds in the capital fund, to which Dr. Watt explained it would be used for existing capital needs.

President Hansen asked Dr. Watt to show projections if they dropped the amount by \$1M.

Dr. Watt explained that would drop the amount collected in the capital fund and would need to be made up by a larger bond. He then pointed to the possibility of dropping the amount going to the general fund, noting it might be more difficult to preplan teacher raises. President Hansen mentioned Park City could be a benchmark for that, where they telegraphed their strategy on how to retain teachers with a pay increase across three years.

Board Member Allen asked to look at the Fund Balance, to which Mr. Johansen replied it's at approximately \$24.5M. President Hansen asked about the capital fund balance, and Mr. Johansen said it's at about \$15M. Board Member Allen asked for an explanation of why it's so important to have that much sitting in the general fund balance, and how it compares to other districts. Mr. Johansen explained Wasatch's is a little lower than the average in the state, and it's like having a bank account - there's a downturn, that's the only thing that will get the District through it.

Mr. Johansen added that the District's bond rating is based on the amount it has in the General Fund.

Board Member Allen thanked Dr. Watt for his work on the projections, noting it was unexpected to see the numbers so high.

Superintendent Sweat noted that there was a time when the District didn't have a fund balance, and had to cut several \$100,000 out of buildings to keep from going in the red. He said it's been the culture to have a solvent fund balance, and until now, the District really only had what would last two or three months of payroll. He said there was a time when the District didn't see any new monies come in, so class sizes increased and no new teachers were hired, making them get "really lean really fast." He said having a solid fund balance is an admirable goal with the District trying to save money and interest on building schools with cash that makes them a solid financial organization.

Board Member Allen asked how much in expenses would \$24.5M cover, and Mr. Johansen answered two to three months.

President Hansen said, "Bringing this whole conversation back to the fund balance and the lists of items here, are there things that we can either go without? You got your options, you cut or you spend less."

The Superintendent replied, "The answer is, of course, we can cut a million dollars out of this and it's not going to be like those times I spoke of where we feel like it's on the leading edge type of cuts, we can make do. We can take a cut and we can deal with some of these things maybe we wanted to add. And if you need to hire six teachers at the high school, you can get away with hiring five, depending on what they teach and where they're at. If we've been sticking to a number in the elementary of 19 ... we have those little golden numbers we've always had, and if it's 19 in the first grade and we've got to let it push to 25 for a year or two, we can. And that's how we would deal with it"

President Hansen said they can also let the fund balance drop, to which Dr. Watt replied, "Yes, when (the fund balance) gets down to a spot you're not comfortable with, then you consider another Truth in Taxation."

Superintendent Sweat said, whatever decision the board makes moving forward, they're going to deal with it.

Board Member Allen asked about the cost of preschool, which is partially funded by a \$500,000 grant, to which Mr. Johansen replied the District is spending close to \$2M for preschool which this funds.

Superintendent Sweat noted that Alpine School District is holding a Truth in Taxation hearing to raise funds for Special Ed, which Wasatch has not considered. "Keeping those things in mind, can we tighten our belt for a few years," said Superintendent Sweat. "We thought with the proposal that we did we'd be solid for a couple of years. We don't plan to go back to the taxpayers anytime soon if the proposal goes through. And if not, we'll just deal with it a year or two sooner."

Board Member Allen: "Even if we did a half a million there, right? You're saying we can do those? I don't think anybody wants to say, yeah, sorry. Anything that would be detrimental to any students or anything like that? We're not saying that we would be doing that, but I guess here the gut punch, like I said is seeing having to go to the voters again in Fiscal Year 27 because to me it's like, if we knock a million off here, we have to go to them in Fiscal Year 27 anyway. So if we knock a million off here to help some people out and we're going back anyway in 27 ... Right now our voters are saying, 'We're struggling. Can you give a little?' So, to me, it's like if we can give a little and we have to go to them anyway, let's show some level of trust and like, 'hey, we hear you.' That's what if we have to go and say, 'hey, we're 29 million short on an elementary or an elementary remodel combo or whatever it turns out to be.'"

The Board then discussed the need for a remodel vs. rebuild at Midway Elementary, which will be the difference in capacity needs.

Conversation was continued regarding going back to the voters to request additional funds in a few years and how much that would be, and whether it would be better to have the cost to the taxpayers now or in the future. The Board also reviewed how much could potentially be in the capital f

Board Member Dickerson responded, "Whatever's going on in the county, we don't have control over ... but we have kids to educate. ... I'm glad we've had this extra time to think about all this and just sort it out."

## B. Board of Education Meeting

**Call To Order**

*Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m.*

Welcome by Board President, Tom Hansen

**Roll Call of Members**

*Members present:*

Board President, Tom Hansen

Board Vice President, Cory Holmes

Board Member, Kimberly Dickerson

Board Member, Tyler Bluth

Board Member, Marianne B. Allen

Superintendent, Paul Sweat

Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Offered by Board Vice President Cory Holmes

**C. Celebration/Information****D. Community Comment**

Discussion, Information: 1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

**Bonnie Henderson Luncker - 5191 N Oldgate Rd, Jordanelle -**

Mrs. Luncker spoke about her concern with the Board holding the tax rate steady and the increase in taxes she will be paying on her home as a result. She said she's been there for 10 years, is on a fixed income and is angry about the tax increase because it's already been \$240 more than she brings in for the past year, and those on fixed incomes cannot handle the increase, and she's had to borrow money from her kids. Her second concern is that she heard from the County Assessor that the money they're paying isn't going to schools, it's going to MIDA (Military Instillation Development Authority).

**Dr. Dennis Geartsen - 5191 N Oldgate Rd, Jordanelle -**

Dr. Geartsen echoed Mrs. Luncker's concerns about their taxes going to MIDA.

President Hansen closed the discussion. Board Member Allen responded to the Public Comment re: MIDA, explaining the District will be collecting 25% tax for 40 years, but they do not have any control over MIDA, which loops the county in as a courtesy. She explained that the Board Chair of MIDA is Utah Senate President Stewart Adams. Superintendent Sweat explained she is affected if she lives within the MIDA footprint, which is about 4,000 acres. He said the arrangement was made before anyone on the board was present and those present had no say, and she's correct, for property taxes inside of the MIDA footprint, 75% will go to the MIDA board and the MIDA board will pay for infrastructure inside of the MIDA footprint. President Hansen suggested they contact Wasatch County for more information. Board Member Dickerson asked Mrs. Luncker for her contact for further questions and to continue the conversation.

**E. Consent Items****1. Consideration of Consent Items**

Consideration and Approval of Consent Items E 2. - E10.

Minutes: 2. School Board Meeting Minutes- July 6, 2023 Special Meeting

Minutes: 3. School Board Meeting Minutes- June 20, 2023

Minutes: 4. Study Session Minutes - August 8, 2023

Action (Consent): 6. Employee New Hires

Action (Consent): 7. Financials

Action (Consent): 8. Home School Affidavits

Action (Consent): 9. School Choice

Action (Consent): 10. Staff or Student Travel

Motion to approve by Tom Hansen, second by Marianne B Allen.

## F. Action Items

### Action: 1. Vote on Property Tax Adjustment

President Tom Hansen made the motion, "I move that the Board of Education approve the following tax rates and revenues for the year 223:

Basic School Levy 21,358.00 at a tax rate of 0.001406  
GO Bond Payments 3,806,550 at a rate of 0.000251  
Capital Local Levy 29,424,329 at a rate of 0.001937  
Voted Local Levy 18,350,330 at a rate of 0.001208  
Board Local Levy 23,621,493 at a rate of 0.001555

**Motion** to approve by President Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.

**Final Resolution:** Motion Carries

**Yea:** Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Kimberly Dickerson

**Nay:** Marianne B Allen

### Action: 2. Consideration to Purchase the Microsoft Office 365 and Windows Licensing Subscription 1-Year Renewal - Dustin Miller, Director of Technology

**Recommendation to approve the rental of the Microsoft Office 365 and Windows Licensing subscription for \$106,751.04**  
*President Hansen asked Mr. Miller if it's in the budget, to which Mr. Miller responded, "yes."*

**Motion** by Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.

**Final Resolution:** Motion Carries

**Yea:** Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

### Action: 3. Consideration to Approve the School Fee Policy Revisions - Eric Campbell, Director of Student Services & Equity

*Dr. Campbell commented, "This, as we spoke earlier in the study session, is an adjustment to the School Fees policy to get in line with state expectations. An addition of section 8.9 regarding service and move of fees, which allows parents and the schools and students to create other ways for students to work off fees that were excused."*

**Motion** by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Cory Holmes.

**Final Resolution:** Motion Carries

**Yea:** Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

### Action: 4. Consideration of 2023-2024 Early Learning Plan - Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Ed.

Approve 2023-2024 Early Learning Curriculum and Goals

*Mrs. Discher: "I'm here to present the early learning plan. It's a grant that we've received in years past. We received it again and it's for \$88,015 and it's scoped for supporting our early literacy goals."*

**Motion** by Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.

**Final Resolution:** Motion Carries

**Yea:** Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

### Action: 5. Consideration to purchase the OTUS, K-12 Student Growth Platform - Tod Johnson, Director of Teaching & Learning

**Recommendation to approve the renewal purchase of 3500 OTUS one-year licenses for \$16,467.05, 3500 licenses**

*Mr. Johnson: "Otis is used in our elementary schools and what it does is allow teachers, principals, and schools to monitor and evaluate student learning. It collects data, teachers give an assessment, teachers are then able to identify which students learn, and which have not learned it. Also catalogs, all standardized assessments that students have taken, brings all the data into one place so teachers can easily evaluate how each child is learning and allows them to adjust instruction accordingly."*

**Motion** by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Tom Hansen.

**Final Resolution:** Motion Carries

**Yea:** Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

### Action: 6. Consideration to purchase of Derivita math platform for Grades 9 & 10 through Utah Education & Telehealth Network (UETN) - Tod Johnson, Director of Teaching & Learning

Approve purchase of Derivita math platform for Grades 9 & 10 through Utah Education & Telehealth Network (UETN) for \$13,534.50

*Mr. Johnson: "In considering data across the state and identifying top-performing collaborative teams, we identified Brighton High School, as a top performer. Our math team went and visited with Canyons School District and discussed what types of resources they are using. Derivita is something Canyons uses in order to support students in their math learning by asking challenging, on grade-level questions in math for students to answer. Speaking with (Wasatch High School math teacher) Brady Tree on this request, he said that they have been using Alec software at Wasatch High School, which is good for evaluating level one and level two learning. But Derivita*

*will allow them to get to level three and level four. So what I'm saying is it ups the rigor and draws attention to an area where we have goals to see improvement. And through the curriculum resource and the supporting assessment tool Derivita, which Canyons is using, which will allow this team to partner with Canyons on the same initiative, we believe it'll help the high school math department achieve its goal."*

Motion by Tyler Bluth, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

**Action: 7. Consideration to purchase the COMPanion Software Subscription - 1 year Renewal - Tod Johnson, Director of Teaching & Learning**

Recommendation to approve the renewal of the COMPanion Software Subscription for \$16,640

*Mr. Johnson: (This) is a consideration to purchase COMPanion Software for a one-year subscription. COMPanion is who gives us Alexandria, which is the way each of our schools catalog their library books. And so if you go to each of our school's web pages, if the public wants to know what books are in our library, they would do that through Alexandria."*

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

**Action: 8. Consideration of the TurnItIn Program (AI Detection Tool) - Tod Johnson, Director of Teaching & Learning**

Approve TurnItIn Quote, AI Detection Tool, for \$19,944.00

*Mr. Johnson: "The high school has been using TurnItIn for a number of years. They like the way that it integrates with Canvas, but what it does is it's anti-plagiarism software or a plagiarism detector. And what's included with this, which is interesting for this year, is AI detection. So if turned in, would be able to tell teachers if students have written their own essay or if that wrote the essay. And so I think it's pretty critical as we try to help students improve their writing, that they submit original pieces."*

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

**Action: 9. Consideration to Purchase Two Truck Service Beds - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor**

This is an action item to purchase 2 service beds for maintenance trucks for \$22,086.04

*Mr. Bredsguard said these are the utility tool beds on the District's two new maintenance vehicles, and that Reading has a state contract, but was also the lowest bid.*

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

**Action: 10. Consideration to Purchase Three Snow Plows - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor**

This is an action item to purchase 3 snow plows for maintenance trucks for \$27,906.25

*Mr. Bredsguard explained they will be purchasing two new plows and replacing one for the maintenance vehicles from Mountainland Power Equipment.*

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

**Action: 11. Consideration to Purchase a Maintenance Truck - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor**

This is an action item to approve the purchase of a maintenance truck.

Motion by Tyler Bluth, second by Tom Hansen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

This is an action item to purchase a maintenance truck for \$54,927

*Mr. Bredsguard said this is a new maintenance vehicle from Labrum Ford, and while the District is still waiting on the two purchased last year, this will be used by the new maintenance worker hired this year.*

**Action: 12. Consideration to Purchase a District Vehicle - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor**

This is an action item to approve the purchase of a district vehicle for \$26,600

*Mr. Bredsguard explained the vehicle is a "buy back" of the Cool Teachers Care one-year car lease awarded to a teacher in 2022.*

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

## **G. Board Report**

Discussion, Information: 1. Information

Board Member Allen reminded the Board that the Utah School Boards Association Delegate Assembly will be on August 26 and it will include the actual voting on USBA legislative priorities, representing all 41 school districts. She said they set their legislative priorities in conjunction with the Utah School Superintendents Association and Utah Association of School Business Officials to they're all on board with the same legislative priorities going into this legislative session. She explained those priorities will be voted on during the assembly, so it's important to have two delegates from the WCSD Board of Education there.

President Hansen said he attended the Board of Trustees meeting for Mountainland Technical College (MTECH) and that the groundbreaking for their Wasatch Campus will be in the spring. He said MTECH has purchased the property, which will be next to the high school currently under construction, and that they have a groundbreaking for the Payson location in two weeks with a completion date of fall 2024. President Hansen noted that the MTECH campus construction in Wasatch will run a parallel timeline with Wasatch's new high school and will be completed right before the high school or at the same time. Superintendent Sweat noted that it's remarkable that the Wasatch location will be on the heels of the Payson campus because they Board was cautioned that the Wasatch location would be a years-long process but it's moving along more quickly than expected. Superintendent Sweat said, "The fact that we'll have an MTECH building with our high school at this site is going to be such a powerful thing for this community. It's going to be an economic engine for this community. It's an amazing opportunity for our community and more importantly from our perspective, it's an amazing opportunity for our students and this is going to be a very powerful learning center and it's all put together." Board Member Dickerson said, "That's what I love about this district's vision is that it's not, you don't see kids as just college bound. You see kids with different abilities who graduate and some join in the army and some go to college. So I love it. I love the vision that this district has for our students." Superintendent Sweat said the MTECH model is designed such that 60% of students are undereducated adults and the Wasatch location will offer 16 programs.

Board Member Allen said she attended the Interlocal Meeting, which was also attended by State Senator Ron Winterton who was there to listen, and there was a lot of good discussion.

## **H. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Sweat reported on the progress of the new high school, saying it's coming along nicely, and that Westland Construction has invited the Board and staff member to join them at the job site on Sept. 14 at 11:30 a.m for a tour with updates on the progress of the high school and a barbecue. He added there will be regular tours of the site as part of future Study Sessions for the Board.

## **I. Adjournment**

Motion by Tom Hansen at 7:16 p.m., second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

## **J. Executive Session**

Information: 1. Section 52-4-5 of the Open Meetings Act identifies the topics that may be discussed in a closed meeting. Discussion to purchase, exchange or lease of real property; character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; and or collective bargaining.

No Executive Session Held

*Generated by Kirsta Albert on Wednesday, August 23, 2023*