

APRIL 8, 2014 – NOTES OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE SEVIER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION AT A MEETING HELD ON APRIL 8, 2014, AT 3:00 PM IN THE SEVIER SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE.

In attendance were President Clint Johnson, Vice President Jack Hansen, members Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr as were Superintendent Cade Douglas, Assistant Superintendent Gail Albrecht, Business Administrator Chad Lloyd, Executive Secretary Patricia Sanchez, and soon to be Executive Secretary Krista Nielson.

Also in attendance were Secretary Mavanee Loftus, Principals Rod Hinck, Selena Terry, and Mike Willes.

President Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Don Naser offered the reverence and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A motion was made by Tom Hales and seconded by Jack Hansen to move the Action Items forward on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.**

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**ITEM #7. – ACTION ITEMS. A motion was made by Don Naser and seconded by Jack Hansen to award the new Richfield High School construction project to Westlund Construction. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Richard Orr and seconded by Jack Hansen to approve the personnel request discussed during the closed meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

ITEM #2. – CONSENT AGENDA. President Johnson called for a motion to approve a revision to Item #2.C. – Student Recognition.

**A motion was made by Richard Orr and seconded by Tom Hales to approve the revision to Item #2.C. – Student Recognition. Motion passed unanimously.**

President Johnson called for objections on the consent agenda. Since there were no objections, the consent agenda received Board approval.

ITEM #2.A. – APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Minutes from the March 19, 2014, Board Meeting and Closed Meeting were approved.

ITEM #2.B. – APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEES. The following individual was approved for employment: **Laura Williams** as the UPSTART liaison for the District.

ITEM #2.C. – RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS. Students and their achievements were recognized by the Board of Education. A letter of congratulations will be sent to each student.

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ITEM #2.D.1. – REQUEST FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL. South Sevier High School teacher/FBLA advisor Paula Roberts received approval for her and five students to attend the National FBLA Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on June 28 – July 3, 2014. Qualifying students included: Taylor Torgersen, Hadley Jensen, Austin Anderson, Braxton

Utley, and Macie Parsons. Expenses will be paid from state and school FBLA funds and personal funds. CTE funds will cover the advisor's expenses.

ITEM #2.D.2. – REQUEST FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL. Richfield High School teacher/FBLA advisor Penny Christensen received approval for her and student Colter Christensen to attend the National FBLA Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on June 28 – July 3, 2014. Expenses will be paid from state and school FBLA funds and personal funds. CTE funds will cover the advisor's expenses.

ITEM #2.E. – SCHOOL TRUST LAND APPLICATIONS FOR FY 2014-15. The following schools' Trust Land plan applications received Board approval: Ashman Elementary, Koosharem Elementary, Monroe Elementary, Pahvant Elementary, Salina Elementary, North Sevier Middle, Red Hills Middle, South Sevier Middle, Cedar Ridge High, Richfield High, South Sevier High, North Sevier High, and Central Utah Youth Home.

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ITEM #2.F. – CHECKS ISSUED MARCH 2014. The financial summary for the period ending March 31, 2014, will be included in the May Board meeting packet. Checks issued in March 2014 received Board approval.

ITEM #3. – REPORT – MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS. Principals Rod Hinck, Mike Willes, and Selena Terry provided a power point presentation to the Board addressing the District's five initiatives.

North Sevier Middle School Principal Rod Hinck began with the objective of the presentation, which included the following: Share the progress of programs initiated this year at each school; Share school academic performance data; and provide a forum for questions. He went on to say that the middle school years play a pivotal role in enabling all students to reach the goal of being college and career ready. The ABC's of putting middle school students on the path to graduation includes: Attendance, Behavior and Effort, and Course Performance. If students in the middle grades are struggling in one or more of these areas, it can reduce their chance of graduation from high school by 80 percent.

#### **North Sevier Middle School**

Principal Hinck shared the school's EPAS data and reported that they had met two of the District's goals in science and language. Students had made progress in math; however, reading scores were the greatest concern. The school will continue to search for ways to impact student reading performance. As the school met together in content subject teams, the staff came up with their strengths and weaknesses. In math, was it better to be thorough or timed? With NWEA, they've tried to have the students be more methodical, pace themselves appropriately, and take time to do their very best. The EXPLORE test allows approximately 30 seconds per question. The results revealed that in all areas the questions that were answered incorrectly by the majority of the students were the last 10-14 questions of the test. In language arts, the results indicated that grammar and structure were done very well, and not as well in punctuation. In science, with the single step data, students did very well; however, when it changed to multi-step data, students struggled. He also provided the after school tutoring and intervention schedule, which provides assistance to students with questions and assignments.

Principal Hinck shared some of the positive things happening at NSMS: “Kindness Card,” which encourages talking in a more positive tone – bullying vs. kindness; class competitions; trying more positive interventions with tardies/absences by having rewards/drawing each quarter vs. end-of-the-year, and the Gold Card, which provides a fun activity for students to participate in, such as; bowling, gym activity, and corn maze.

Principal Hinck expressed appreciation to his staff and to the community. He explained that it had been a unique year for family struggles and that it had been interesting to see how others react and serve each other in hard times. Former teachers have stepped in and helped those who have had to take extended time.

### **South Sevier Middle School**

South Sevier Middle School Principal Mike Willes shared the Utah School Report, which included the school performance total points score, growth points, and achievement points. Overall, SSMS scored 481 out of 600 points and received an “A” grade. The NWEA fall scores were also reviewed. He explained some of the positive behavior programs going on at the school.

- Ram Pride: The Ram Pride Club is determined by the teachers for citizenship in the classroom and throughout the school with 75 percent of dress ups on Thursdays. This is a quarterly club so students have four opportunities to qualify during the school year. Students may be entered for prize drawings and have the opportunity to attend incentive parties.
- Student of the Month: Students are encouraged to live by the “5 P’s, which stand for Prompt, Prepared, Persistent, Polite, and Proud. These goals are reflected in the student awards given out quarterly and annually. Students are nominated each month by their teachers for portraying these qualities and receive recognition in the school and media. They are also invited to a monthly party in their honor.
- Hall of Fame: Induction into the Hall of Fame is an honor granted to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have consistently demonstrated exemplary performance in academics, citizenship, respect, and responsibility throughout their three years at SSMS. Those entering the Hall of Fame are honored at the Honor’s Reception at the end of the school year.
- Students who exemplify leadership qualities or overcome obstacles throughout their career at SSMS receive the “Dream, Believe, Achieve – Award” along with a certificate and prize.
- Students who have shown an extreme amount of improvement throughout their career at SSMS have the opportunity to earn “The Most Improved Student Award” along with a certificate and prize.

Principal Willes provided information about interventions and after school tutoring. He explained that for the last two years, the school had utilized Trust Land monies to hire Jennifer Johnson to coordinate the intervention program. The core teachers refer students to interventions, who have fallen behind in their classes. As a result, there has been a definite decrease in the amount of failing students. Most teachers are available after school to help their students for a short period of time. Intervention funds are used to pay hand-selected teachers to work on specific areas of emphasis (math/science/language). Transportation is another hurdle for students who need the extra help. Intervention monies are used to fund extra hours for Mrs. Johnson to help those students who are falling through the cracks.

Principal Willis expressed appreciation for his staff and commented that he was proud of the school and all of its accomplishments.

### **Red Hills Middle School**

Principal Selena Terry expressed thanks for the opportunity to collaborate as middle school principals and to be able discuss middle school issues and share ideas. She mentioned that through the media, society is constantly reminded about the tragic and sad effects of bullying and that her report would be more focused on the positive things going on at RHMS to promote positive behaviors.

Principal Terry shared the EPAS trends and explained that there was great concern when the assessment was moved from the spring to the fall, which took about six months away from instruction time. The school was worried about the scores overall and were pleased that RHMS met the goals with improvement in all of the areas with the exception of reading. Reading is a continual challenge. The focus this year was to increase the reading time in social studies as well as reflect upon the reading and interpreting the data.

Principal Terry shared some of the things the school is doing to help students with interventions.

- ZAP Classes: ZAP stands for *Zero's Aren't Permitted*. Students who are missing assignments or failing a core class [Math, Language, Science,] are assigned to ZAP classes during elective classes until they are caught up.
- After School Tutoring and Lunch Bunch: Teachers offer after school help on Tuesday–Thursday and also a lunch intervention class in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Math Fundamental Classes: An additional math class for struggling students to help them master key concepts.

Positive Behavior Supports include:

- Cool-to-Care [Anti-Bullying Classes]: Wasatch School District Counselor Brent Burnham, who authored the program, came to the school and presented to the staff. The program also includes a curriculum. Mr. Burnham visited with teachers about positive behavior and the way to treat students.
- Bobcat Cards and Activities: If a student does a kind deed or act of service in a classroom, they are given a card, which they give to the principal. The cards are entered into a drawing for prizes. A chart in the school hall is stamped and the student writes their name on it. The names of students who have done something nice for someone else are displayed for their peers and others to see. The results of the cards and activities have created a positive climate in the school.
- Student of the Month [Character Ed]: The student is recognized and their picture is posted in the bulletin board in the hall.

Principal Terry provided a video put to music of the students and the fun activities they participate in at Red Hills Middle School.

The Board and Administration thanked the Middle School principals for their presentation and commended them for their leadership and hard work.

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ITEM #4. – PATRON DIALOGUE. There was no patron dialogue.

ITEM #5.A. – DISCUSSION – ITEMS FROM THE BOARD. Board members were informed of the upcoming events and assignments were discussed.

- Board scholarships – High School awards assemblies:
  - SSHS Wednesday, May 14 – 10:30 a.m. (Richard Orr)
  - RHS Monday, May 19 – 8:00 a.m. (Don Naser/Jack Hansen)
  - NSHS Tuesday, May 20 – 8:30 a.m. (Tom Hales)
- Graduation exercises for Friday, May 23. No assignments were made at this time.
  - CRHS 10:00 a.m. – SVC Theater
  - RHS 1:00 p.m. – SVC Arena
  - SSHS 4:00 p.m. – SVC Arena
  - NSHS 6:00 p.m. – SVC Arena

There was a brief discussion about the Board member role in the graduation exercises. The Board suggested that the principal make the decision for their school. Graduation exercises procedures are to be discussed at the next principals meeting.

ITEM #5.B. – DISCUSSION – ITEMS FROM ADMINISTRATION.

**Items from Superintendent Douglas**

- Superintendent Douglas referred to SB 103, which allows the Board to use four of the 180 school days for professional development. Mrs. Albrecht emailed principals requesting their feedback on this issue. They indicated that they would like to have those days to provide professional development for their teachers. The law requires districts to post their school year calendar 90 days before the first day of school; therefore, a calendar must be approved at the May 21, 2014, meeting to meet the requirement. A draft calendar, including professional development days, was shared with the Board. The pros and cons of using instructional time for professional development were discussed along with other options to the calendar.
- Superintendent Douglas reported that opting out of assessment has been a hot topic across the state at this time. Last year, the state had approximately 200 students opt out of end-of-level testing, and this year, Alpine District alone had 400. Sevier District has had approximately 25-30 students opt out this year. The reasons for opting out are various; however, the number one reason is Common Core related. Parents still have many concerns with the Common Core and how student data is being shared with the federal government. Other reasons included test fatigue and stress to the student. He reported that information in regard to the Common Core and SAGE assessments can be found on the District's website. Instead of principals just accepting the opt-out form, they've been instructed to invite the parent to come in and listen to the facts. This issue could also have ramifications on federal funding.
- Superintendent Douglas informed the group that Jason Strate had been selected as the new CUES Director. He stated that information about Mr. Strate was available on the CUES website. He commented that there were many very competitive applicants for the position.
- Superintendent Douglas reminded the group of the Retiree/Recognition Dinner scheduled for Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. at Frontier Village.

President Johnson commented on State Superintendent Martel Menlove's retirement and asked if there were any recommendations for his replacement.

### **Items from *Gail Albrecht***

Mrs. Albrecht commended Superintendent Douglas for his leadership and the way he carefully explains the critical challenges facing the District. She expressed appreciation to the Board for listening and asking questions to be informed of the issues at hand.

- Mrs. Albrecht reminded the group that Rachel's Challenge would be presented on April 14. High school students would attend an assembly at 9:00 a.m. and middle school students at 12 noon. The community/parent meeting is at 6:00 p.m. at Richfield High School and admission is free.
- Mrs. Albrecht stated that school safety is a District priority and that a training exercise had been scheduled for April 22 at North Sevier High School. Principals were encouraged to attend the training.
- Mrs. Albrecht reported that the SAGE writing assessment was underway and that this year, 100 percent of the essays would be read by humans. This would show any variances in the way machines and humans interpret the tests. The assessment ethics agreement has been re-emphasized with principals. She explained that neither principals nor teachers have been let go because of low-test scores; however, the state has lost some teachers due to unethical testing practices. The SAGE assessment for math, language arts, and science begins on April 28 and goes through May 16.
- Mrs. Albrecht reported that the Technology Committee had met and approved the technology plans submitted by the schools. All schools' first and second priority plans were approved. The schools can begin the purchase order process for approval by July 1.
- Mrs. Albrecht informed the group that the textbook adoption for social studies and high school math was moving forward and that the District has always tried to have textbook adoptions completed by the end of April. The adoption includes e-resources, which support classroom textbooks. Students will need a device to access e-resources and the District is currently waiting on pricing for Chromebooks to meet that need. Students may also access eBooks at home over the internet if they choose to do so. Mrs. Albrecht also reported that the District is getting closer to selecting textbooks for the high schools.
- Mrs. Albrecht explained that as part of this year's legislative session, STEM math technology grants would be offered to middle schools and high schools. The grant applications have been given to the principals and are to be submitted by April 16. Principals were informed that the grant would be part of a research project. There would be required evaluations and some assessments given to students, and parents would have the opt-out option available to them. The grant provides resource tools; middle school teachers' selected iReady and high school teachers selected ALEK.

### **Items from *Chad Lloyd***

Mr. Lloyd had no items for discussion.

ITEM #6. – CLOSED MEETINGS. The closed meeting was held during the work session prior to the regular meeting.

ITEM #7. – ACTION ITEMS. This item was moved forward on the agenda.

**A motion was made at 4:57 p.m. by Jack Hansen and seconded by Don Naser to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

*I certify that upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board of Education of the Sevier School District approved the foregoing minutes on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2014. I further certify that a quorum of the Board was present on both the day covered by these minutes and the day of approval.*

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*Chad W. Lloyd, Business Administrator*