



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

92 Lodestone Way – Tooele, Utah

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED ON 4.16.24

The public session was held in the boardroom at the district office.

Board Members Present:

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

Administration Present:

Superintendent Ernst, Lark Reynolds, Angie Gillette, Jackie Gallegos, Marissa Lowry, Brett Valdez, Terry Christensen, Dustin Nelson, Charles Hansen, Cody Reutzell, Bryan Becherini, Ian Silva, Andy Peterson, Robert Curfew
Excused: Asst. Superintendent Hamm, Sarah Jarnagin, Mat Jackson

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

1. Executive session, 5:15 pm (Closed to the Public)

1.1 Personnel/Negotiations/Property/Litigation

President Rich called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm in the executive conference room, calling for a vote to convene into an executive session.

MOTION:

Enter executive Session held in the executive conference room at the district office to discuss the following:

- Purchase, Exchange, or Release of Real Property
- Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation
- Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual

Motion by Emily Syphus, second by Scott Bryan

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Vote by Name:

Yea Elizabeth Smith

Yea Robert Gowans

Yea Julia Holt

Yea Scott Bryan

Yea Melissa Rich

2. Business Meeting, 6 pm (Start of Public Meeting)

2.1 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

President Rich called the business meeting to order in the boardroom at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Recognition and Good News

3.1 District Recognition for March-Grantsville High

Principal Kenna Aagard recognized the following from Grantsville High:

- Hadley Lund, 10th Grade Student of the Month
- Chism Nash, Teacher, Certified Employee of the Month
- Kelly Morgan, CTE School Work-Based Learning Coordinator, District Support Professional Employee of the Month
- Corey Mondragon, Volunteer of the Month

3.2 School Presentation

Hailey Broderick and Chelsea Bodell, students at Grantsville High, sang Bubbly by Colbie Caillat.

4. Open Forum (Limited to three minutes per individual and a total of 30 minutes for all comments. To speak, sign up at the clerk's desk prior to the start of the open forum.)

4.1 Patron Comments

Mitzi Belverstone, SPOTSD President, thanked the Board for their work

Lisa Johnson, TEA Representative, thanked the Board for their work

Shannon Heaps, a Teacher at Sterling Elementary, expressed concerns about the student population at Sterling

Mary Jo Hammond, a Life Skills Teacher at Sterling Elementary, expressed concern with the student population at Sterling Elementary

Danielle Giard, Behavior Tech, expressed concerns about the escalating challenges of the job responsibilities.

Trish Williams, Behavior Tech, expressed concerns about the escalating challenges of the job responsibilities.

Willard Richard, Spouse of Employee, voiced concerns over the budget cut

Lori Failner, Parent Liaison at Sterling Elementary, voiced concerns over the overcrowding of Sterling Elementary

Brandon Ushio, Parent, expressed concern about the budget cut and boundaries.

5. Consent Items (Routine items not requiring public discussion by the Board may be adopted by one single motion. A Board member may request to remove an item from the consent agenda for individual discussion and consideration.)

5.1 Minutes

5.2 Expenditure Report

5.3 Revenue Report

5.4 Disbursement Report

5.5 Personnel Decisions

5.6 Financial Reports

5.7 Surplus

5.8 Internal Audit Report

5.9 Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2024-2025 (Pulled from Consent Items)

Member Bryan expressed concern over having a work session on November 26 with the Thanksgiving break. Member Smith voiced concern about the August 13th board meeting

being on the first day of school.

MOTION:

Approve the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for the 2024-2025 school year as presented with changing the August 13 board meeting to August 20 and removing the November 26 work session.

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Elizabeth Smith

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

5.10 Vote on Consent Items

MOTION:

Approve consent items as presented or amended, with the exception of item 5.9

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION:

Move Agenda item 7.1, Superintendent's Report/Mid-Year Budget Update, up on the agenda before agenda item 6.1.

Motion by Emily Syphus, second by Julia Holt

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6. Action Items

6.1 Elementary Boundary Realignment

President Rich brought to the attention of board members that during February's public hearing concerning boundaries, the Board opted to defer the discussion on elementary boundaries to this current meeting, pending further information regarding West Elementary's status and the feasibility of maintaining it. After receiving the details regarding the cost implications of replacing West Elementary, Member Bryan expressed his opinion that West Elementary should remain open and proposed adopting option 1B for elementary boundaries.

MOTION:

Move to Adopt Option 1B

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Emily Syphus

DISCUSSION TO MOTION:

During the discussion, several board members voiced concerns regarding the relief of the student population provided by Option 1B for Sterling Elementary. Member Holt proposed relocating special education classrooms from Sterling to other schools, although Dr. Becherini, Tooele Area Director, and Marissa Lowry, Special Education Director, expressed reservations about this suggestion. Vice President Gowans suggested that to maintain pure feeder schools while addressing Sterling's needs, adjusting West Elementary's boundaries would be necessary.

Member Holt reiterated the importance of thoroughly reviewing redrawn boundaries before deciding. Vice President Gowans expressed confidence in adopting Option 1B, contingent upon shifting West Elementary's boundaries eastward to alleviate pressure on Sterling Elementary by 75 to 150 students but still striving to establish natural geographic boundaries. Vice President Gowans also reminded the Board and the Public that our schools have open boundaries.

MODIFIED MOTION: Adopt Option 1B with the modification of moving 75-150 students from Sterling Elementary to West Elementary Boundary.

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Emily Syphus

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6.2 Revised Policy 5001, Student Travel, 1st Read (PULLED)

This item was pulled from the agenda and not discussed due to the need to gather more information. This will be discussed in a future work session.

6.3 Revised Policy 2002, Central Office Administrators, 1st Read

Terry Christensen, Director of Policy, Property and Legal Affairs, presented revised policy 2002, Central Office Administrators. Policy 2002 had been revised to address identified deficiencies and align with best practices outlined in the USBA model policy.

MOTION:

Adopt Revised Policy 2002, Central Office Administrators for implementation

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6.4 Revised Policy 1005, Board Meetings, 1st Read

Terry Christensen, Director of Policy, Property, and Legal Affairs, presented the revised Policy 1005 regarding Board Meetings. Member Syphus raised several key points for the Board's consideration. These included decisions on whether to implement a 24-hour notice period or extend it to up to 3 days for virtual participation by members. Furthermore, board members discussed entirely virtual meetings without a physical anchor location. Member Syphus also highlighted the State Code requirement for a policy allowing verbal or written public comments, including written comments in the meeting minutes. Clarification was sought on the format of such comments in the minutes, and research was requested on the process of extending time flexibility for patron comments.

MOTION:

Move Revised Policy 1005, Board Meetings, forward for a second read.

Motion by Robert Gowans, second by Scott Bryan

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6.5 Revised Policy 5021, Admissions and Attendance: Compulsory Education, 1st Read

Angie Gillette, Grantsville Area Director, presented Revised Policy 5021, Admissions and Attendance: Compulsory Education, for a first read. Ms. Gillette stated the policy had been revised to reflect the current State Code.

MOTION:

Adopt Revised Policy 5021, Admissions and Attendance: Compulsory Education with a change in Title to Attendance-Compulsory Education.

Motion by Emily Syphus, second by Scott Bryan

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6.6 Revised Policy 5051, Citizenship Grading for High School Students, 1st Read

Dr. Bryan Becherini, Tooele Area Director, introduced the revised Policy 5051 on Citizenship Grading for High School Students. Dr. Becherini explained that the revision aligns with the state code and provides schools with flexibility regarding procedures for students to improve citizenship grades, emphasizing that citizenship would no longer be linked to attendance. Board members expressed interest in extending the policy's application to all students, not just high school students.

MOTION:

Adopt Revised Policy 5051, Citizenship Grading for High School Students, for implementation, changing the definition of student to all enrolled students.

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6.7 Revised Policy 5027, Student Fees, 1st Read (PULLED)

This item was pulled from the agenda and not discussed due to last-minute legislative changes that must be incorporated into the policy before it can be adopted.

6.8 2024-2025 Student Fee Schedule, 2nd Read.

Rebecca Leakehe presented the 2024-2025 Student Fee Schedule for a 2nd Read. Ms. Leakehe stated the only change from the first read is an increase in hotel fees from \$50 to \$75. Board members also expressed interest in changing the annual maximum fee per student not to exceed \$7,000.

MOTION:

Approve the 2024-2025 Student Fee Schedule as presented, but change the annual maximum fee per student not to exceed \$7,000.

Motion by Emily Syphus, second by Elizabeth Smith

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

7. Information, Discussion, or Calendar Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report/Mid-Year Budget Update

(this agenda item was moved up to be before item 6.1)

Superintendent Ernst discussed the district's focus on the Instructional Framework and a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum, both integral to ensuring student success through effective teaching practices and comprehensive course content coverage. Instructional leaders, supported

by area directors, are tasked with ensuring teachers understand and implement the framework, with personal conversations scheduled to gauge teacher comprehension and utilization by April 30.

Superintendent Ernst and Business Administrator Lark Reynolds delivered a post-legislative update on the mid-year budget. They announced that the legislative session authorized the USBE to allocate up to \$10M to alleviate the \$50M mid-year budget adjustment. Additionally, the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) is set to increase by 5%, generating an extra \$4.8M to address ongoing inflation and operating costs.

Despite these measures, the Tooele County School District still faces a \$128M shortfall in ongoing revenue to cover current salaries and benefits for the base budget. After careful consideration of all options and keeping in mind the Goal of least impact on taxpayers as possible, the administration has recommended the following course of action:

1. Utilize \$40M from capital reserves to partially cover the remaining balance for new construction.
2. Issue \$50M of MBA Bonds, with \$10M allocated to complete new construction, leaving \$40M remaining.
3. a. Increase General Fund Levies by \$11.3M in FY25 (2024), with an additional \$1.5M from taxes on vehicles/late fees, totaling \$12.8M to address the ongoing revenue shortage. b. Decrease Capital Local Levy by \$11.3M in FY25 (2024).
4. Transfer the remaining \$40M from MBA Bonds into capital reserves, covering capital needs for the next four years.
5. Implement small incremental tax raises over multiple years, aligning with TCSD's established philosophy. All agreed-upon property tax increases will be allocated to the Capital Local Levy.
6. Implement additional ongoing cost-saving measures.

President Rich clarified that the proposed MBA Bond wouldn't immediately raise taxes due to prior Truth in Taxation measures but could impact future tax considerations, and also explained that if the Board went through Truth in Taxation this fall, there would be a tax increase.

Member Bryan suggested a moratorium on non-essential expenditures like bus purchases and technology updates. Vice President Gowans expressed conceptual support for the Administrative recommendations plan pending specifics on tax implications. Member Syphus emphasized balancing fiscal responsibility with addressing school needs.

7.2 Construction Update

Micheal Garcia, Construction Coordinator, briefed the Board on the status of the various construction projects in the District.

7.3 Board of Education Committee Reports

Board Members provided updates on various committees they serve on:

- **JLC/USBA.** Vice President Gowans stated they will be setting up a new process and protocol for the JLC (Joint Legislative Committee), and there will be a JLC meeting in April so they can be ready for the Delegate Assembly in June.
- **TTECH Advisory Board.** President Rich mentioned her involvement on the advisory Board for TTECH (Tooele Technical College) and highlighted the ongoing efforts to foster collaboration between TTECH and the Tooele School District. President Rich shared that TTECH is undergoing expansion, specifically in its cosmetology and diesel programs.

8. Adjourn (10 pm Curfew)

8.1 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

MOTION:

Adjourn

Motion by Scott Bryan, seconded by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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