

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – APRIL 30, 2024

The Board of Education of the Alpine School District met in a board meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 8:00 AM. The meeting took place in the board room at the Alpine School District office.

Board members present: Board President Sara M. Hacken, Vice President Julie E. King, Stacy M. Bateman, Sarah L. Beeson, Dr. Mark J. Clement, Joylin Lincoln, and Ada S. Wilson.

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Shane J. Farnsworth, Business Administrator Jason Sundberg, and members of the administrative staff. There were approximately 10 others in attendance.

Board President Sara Hacken conducted the meeting.

President Hacken said the meeting agenda needs to be amended to add a time for community comments. Julie King motioned to amend the agenda, Stacy Bateman seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scott Sumner.

### INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT OR REFLECTION

President Sara Hacken shared an inspirational thought about the opportunities provided to the citizens that live in Utah County.

### COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**John Gadd** spoke about the MGT study. He feels it is biased and the data is flawed. Decisions should not be made based on the study.

**Paul Hancock** is a Lehi City Council member and said the MGT study helped to provide information and options. He reported that yesterday nine cities met to discuss two interlocal agreements which passed unanimously. Mr. Hancock feels option 3 would create three strong districts, but encouraged the board to move forward with the LBA and tax increments for the new high school in Saratoga Springs. He asked the board to let the cities take this decision now and to not put another initiative on the ballot that would confuse the public.

**Doug Cortney** is on the Highland City Council. He said yesterday nine of the 14 cities in ASD voted in favor of option 4.

**Bryan King** was at the meeting held by Saratoga Springs, Eagle Mountain, and Fairfield last night. He shared the feeling of excitement among those in the room as they considered their own school district. He proposed that instead of viewing this as the splitting a district, consider that we are splitting the problems which allows solutions at the local level. This decision has the possibility of building bridges instead of walls to connect the communities.

**Jared Gray** is on the Eagle Mountain City Council. He asked the Board to help with a new high school in Saratoga Springs to support students. He supports having hard conversations, but encouraged them to disagree better.

1. Determination of Configuration(s) to Send to Utah County on May 1, 2024 for Certification

President Sara Hacken gave a summary of where we have been since hiring MGT to study a district reconfiguration. On April 24th, the board met in a work session and eliminated the options they felt would not benefit students. Superintendent Farnsworth reviewed the timeline and explained the purpose of the board meeting is to determine the configuration option(s) they will send to the county on May 1st for certification. On May 14th, the public comment window begins for the option(s) being considered and will close on June 28th. There will be a public hearing on June 11th and another will be scheduled on June 25th. Another board meeting will be scheduled on July 12th where the decision will be made if an initiative to reconfigure the district will be put on the agenda. Dr. Farnsworth said the district leadership team met yesterday to review the six options determined by MGT, and eliminated those that did not represent the best interest of the patrons and students of ASD. The staff's recommendation is that the district remain together because it is in the best interest of students. However, there are other variables that cities are wrestling with and patrons want an initiative on the ballot. Superintendent Farnsworth said that if the Board decides to move forward, the staff believes the best option over the long-term is option 3 (Saratoga Springs, Eagle Mountain, Fairfield and Cedar Fort in one district, and Alpine, American Fork, Cedar Hills, Draper, Highland, Lehi, Lindon, Orem, Pleasant Grove, and Vineyard in another.) He explained the rationale for this option is that the growth and taxable value will continue to grow in the west. Lehi and cities east and south of it have a stable taxable value, that will continue to grow, but not significantly. If the west becomes its own district, they would be disadvantaged in the beginning because of capital needs so he recommended that the current school district move forward with a lease revenue bond and tax increments in August to help with the building of the new high school.

**Stacy Bateman motioned to send reconfiguration option 4 to the county for certification and it was seconded by Joylin Lincoln.** This option would create three districts: (1) Cedar Fort, Fairfield, Eagle Mountain, Saratoga Springs; (2) Alpine, American Fork, Cedar Hills, Draper, Highland, Lehi; (3) Lindon, Orem, Pleasant Grove, Vineyard. Board members discussed the pros and cons to this option, but it was emphasized that this is not a decision for the ballot, but one to be sent to the county for certification and further consideration. Most agreed that sending multiple options to the county for certification and to receive public comment, allows more information to be shared with tax payers. Those opposed to the options were concerned that it was not in the best interest of the patrons and students in the south area of the district. **The board voted on the motion to send option 4 to the county for certification and it passed 4 to 3 with Stacy Bateman, Sara Hacken, Julie King and Joylin Lincoln voting in favor, and Sarah Beeson, Mark Clement and Ada Wilson voting against.**

**Ada Wilson motioned to send reconfiguration option 3 to the county for certification, and it was seconded by Joylin Lincoln.** This option would create two districts: (1) Cedar Fort, Fairfield, Eagle Mountain, Saratoga Springs; (2) Alpine, American Fork, Cedar Hills, Draper, Highland, Lehi, Lindon, Orem, Pleasant Grove, Vineyard. Board members discussed option three and agreed sending it to the county for certification narrows down the options and allows the public a chance to study additional data. **The Board voted on the motion to send option 3 to the county for certification and it passed unanimously.**

2. Public Hearing/Board Meeting on June 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM

**Superintendent Farnsworth recommended approval to hold a public hearing and board meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Ada Wilson motioned to approve the meetings on June 25th, Mark Clement seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.**

3. Board Meeting on July 12, 2024 at 8:00 AM

**Superintendent Farnsworth recommended approval to hold an additional board meeting on Friday, July 12, 2024 at 8:00 AM. This will be 14 days after the 45-day window closes for public comment. The decision will be made at this meeting to determine what option to put on the November 5th ballot. Mark Clement motioned to approve an additional board meeting on July 12, 2024, it was seconded by Sarah Beeson, and passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

**On motion by Ada Wilson and seconded by Mark Clement, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 AM.**

APPROVED