

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2024

Board Meeting

The Murray City School Board met in a Public Hearing on April 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Jaren Cooper – Board President, Kelly Taoalii – Board Vice-President, Kami Anderson, Elizabeth Payne, Jill Weight, Jennifer Covington – Superintendent and Richard Reese – Business Administrator. The meeting was held at the District Office located at 5102 South Commerce Drive, Murray, Utah.

Welcome

President Cooper welcomed those in attendance.

Board Business

Public Comments – No comments were made.

Board Vote on Recommendations Put Forth at the January 11, 2024 Public Board Meeting

Boundary Change – Beginning in 2024-25 school year, approximately 68 students would be moved from Parkside Elementary to Liberty Elementary. The impacted students live north of Fireclay Avenue and west of State Street. Kami Anderson made a motion to change the boundaries as stipulated. Elizabeth Payne seconded the motion. After a short discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

The following comments were made:

Jill Weight – Ms. Weight said that the decision did not come easily. The boundary change seemed the most logical to right size the elementary schools after the review of many options. This is the first of many boundary changes in the upcoming years.

Elizabeth Payne – Ms. Payne said that the decision felt right and was the best plan for now.

Kelly Taoalii – Ms. Taoalii said that this will likely not be the final decision in the long-term but is the best option for now and is the most logical. She said that her initial thoughts would be to close a school.

Kami Anderson – Ms. Anderson said that this is not the final plan and made a commitment that the Board would be transparent in all of their decision making.

Jaren Cooper – Mr. Cooper agreed with all of the previous comments.

Grade Reconfiguration – In no less than two years, the 9th grade students would be moved from middle school to Murray High School. Also, 6th grade students would be moved from elementary schools to a middle school model. Kelly Taeoalii made a motion to move the 9th and 6th grade students to high school and middle schools. Kami Anderson seconded the motion. After a short discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

The following comments were made:

Jill Weight – Ms. Weight said that she read, researched, talked to parents of neighboring districts that have made the change and talked to secondary principals. She was encouraged to vote in favor of moving 6th and 9th grade students up.

Elizabeth Payne – Ms. Payne said that she talked to 6th grade teachers at her child's school and they were in favor of moving 6th grade up.

Kelly Taeoalii – Ms. Taeoalii said that she struggled the most with this decision. She researched and listened to community members. She reminded those in attendance that the district-wide survey favored moving the 6th graders to middle school. She said that there are definitely educational benefits to moving 9th and 6th graders up. She talked to many 6th grade teachers and all were in favor of the move. She is confident that moving both grades up is the right thing to do.

Kami Anderson – Ms. Anderson said that she supports moving the 6th grade and 9th grade. Moving the 6th grade might be more emotionally difficult for some.

Jaren Cooper – Mr. Cooper said that the parental feedback he received was more concerned with moving the 6th grade than 9th grade.

Bond Election November 2024 – The Board discussed holding a bond election to pay for the addition of a 9th grade wing at Murray High School and to rebuild Riverview Junior High School. Elizabeth Payne made a motion to hold the election in November 2024. Kelly Taeoalii seconded the motion. After a short discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

The following comments were made:

Kelly Taeoalii – Ms. Taeoalii said that the grade reconfiguration will happen regardless of the success of the November bond election and made it clear that they are not connected.

Kami Anderson – Ms. Anderson asked when is the right time to bond? The Board has postponed a decision for many years and has been very careful to not raise taxes. She said that this decision has been a long time coming.

Jaren Cooper – Mr. Cooper said that this is the first bond election in twelve years and that the Board has been very careful to be financially aware of the tax burden on patrons.

The Board was polled at 5:25 p.m. and was unanimous in holding a closed session for personnel.

The Board meeting was then adjourned at 5:56 p.m.


Jaren Cooper – Board President


Business Administrator – Richard Reese

STATEMENT AFFIRMING THE PURPOSE OF A CLOSED MEETING

I, Jaren Cooper, certify that I am the member of the Board of Education of the Murray City School District who presided at the closed meeting of the board held on April 18, 2024. I hereby affirm, pursuant to Utah Code § 52-4-206(6), that the sole purpose of holding this closed meeting was to discuss personnel issues.

I certify under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 9, 2024



Jaren Cooper, Board President