



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah
May 13, 2024
4:30 p.m.

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Technology Director Jeremy Cox.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence by Member Cox.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 12:03 p.m. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, Stan DeMille, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Property

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Legal

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Personnel

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills,

Personnel

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Safety

Board Member Staheli presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 3:18 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Board PLC Training – Wade Jensen

Wade Jensen shared about the state championships recently won by Pine View High and other schools from our region. He shared a video about the culture and success at Pine View Middle. He said that we are starting to see growth at Pine View Middle with their culture. The video showed many student activities and student involvement. Pine View Middle's connection has helped with some of the behavior issues they were dealing with. It has also helped to increase their academic performance. Burke Staheli suggested getting more of the school color connections between the intermediate, middle, and high school.

Update on UHSAA – Craig Hammer and Rusty Taylor

Rusty Taylor shared an update on UHSAA. He shared proposed rule changes with voting links. He said essentially if a student wants to transfer after being in a school they can transfer but they will miss half of the varsity season for the sport that they played. If the student plays multiple sports, they will miss half the varsity year for each sport. He said the current policy has them sit out for a year. The state had over 150 appeals this year. He feels it is a good rule and a good start for us. He said the rule is actually half season or 30 days, whichever is greater. They can play on a principal boundary variance waiver with open enrollment. Wade Jensen said Arizona switched to this policy and it reduced the number of transfers. Cheri Stevenson mentioned that it also takes some of the emotion out of the process. Rusty Taylor said the students can practice, but they cannot play in competition. Rusty Taylor said open enrollment is the state rule. The District does allow principal hardship transfers waiver for schools that are closed. He said we do discourage multiple transfers. He said that the idea of doing "what's best for you" is strong right now as parents have invested so much in their child, they want a return on their investment and will go somewhere else if they are not getting it. Rusty Taylor said the current rule is not working the way it should, so we are glad for the change. Burke Staheli said we do train coaches not to

recruit as part of the ethics training. Rusty Taylor said another change being voted on would not allow foreign students play in tournaments. He said their definition of a full-time student to participate in UHSAA activities is a student enrolled in at least half of the class periods that the school offers. Online classes and seminary classes can count. Craig Seegmiller clarified that if the school offers six periods the child would need to attend three, if the school offers four periods the child would need to attend two.

Rusty Taylor reported on the Utah Fits All Scholarship. He said the recommendation is to apply as a program provider for the scholarships. On the secondary level we would become a provider and allow students to come for our classes. He has been working with Brent Bills and came up with a suggested amount of about \$1000 a year per class. He said his recommendation would also be to not open up extracurricular events to those scholarship students. He said it gets muddy really quick and if they want to do the fun stuff with us, they can come join us and not take money from the state and play both ways. The social piece and that activity piece is what we have, and he feels we need to leverage that and use that for students in the community. It does not have to be done by policy. It can be stated in the application what programs we offer and what programs they will not be offered. Brent Bills said in future years the tuition would be set on the student fee schedule. Superintendent Richard Holmes mentioned that Utah Online is also going to apply under UOS. It is felt that will be a better way to handle it as more people recognize their school brand of UOS statewide. They follow the same guidelines in terms of paying for classes. Students on the voucher program will not play in the UHSAA sports. Rusty Taylor said elementary schools will offer “special program” participation fees for scholarship recipients. Extracurricular activities will only be for those enrolled in our schools. They can come for education but will not be able to play.

Policy 9201 Guidelines for Accelerated College Level Program – Rusty Taylor and Jon Butler

Rusty Taylor said this is a proposal regarding credits. The issue came up with principals and counselors feeling that we are over crediting students really quickly with concurrent enrollment. Currently if you take a concurrent enrollment class you get double the credit. He reviewed many of the class options that kids are taking and getting extra credit for. Students are getting a lot of extra credit by taking those credits. The proposal in the policy is to change the credit back to credit for just what the class is. They will still receive college credit but will only receive .5 credit for the semester class. Rusty Taylor said there are a few issues they are still working on the History 1700 and Utah Tech University. English 1010 will only give half credit but it will cover a student’s graduation requirement as a full credit. He said schools will also make sure it does not hurt students as we make the transition. The double credit was offered as an incentive to get students to take the classes. Superintendent Richard Holmes said we didn’t offer as many classes when it started. We are getting more aligned with what other districts. Rusty Taylor said most of the students are taking the classes for double credit, they are taking them for the college credit. He also said another thing with this was by doubling the credit they did not have to take anything else and had an empty class. Now they will need to take another class whether it is at the building, an online class, an internship instead of just having an empty class. The graduation requirements of 27 credits does not change. Rusty Taylor reported looking at Crimson Cliffs High where many of the students did not have a full schedule. Students are signing up for concurrent enrollment younger and younger. Becky Dunn asked about the science classes being a full year but only getting three college credits. Rusty Taylor said Science was set up that way by the university. Craig Seegmiller said he thinks they are teaching in a year what is taught in a semester at the university. Superintendent Richard Holmes said some of the courses are being set up by the university. If they take a full year class, they get a full credit. Rusty Taylor said we want to encourage and open the door the kids to take more classes instead of having an empty schedule. Becky Dunn suggested clarifying under 5.1.1 the semester length courses for high school which take the full year.

Proposed Northern Corridor- LaRene Cox and Eric Clarke

LaRene Cox said a new environmental impact study was done. There are five alternative routes proposed. One of them would impact Legacy Elementary. She said they would like the District to write a letter and sign a resolution. Public comment will run through the end of June. She said Eric Clarke has agreed to help.

Update on Professional Learning Center – Nate Esplin

Nate Esplin shared an update on the Professional Learning Center. He shared the plan to start an elementary behavior unit for students struggling with severe behavior issues in the classroom. They will receive behavior interventions in the program. They will have a teacher and an aid to help them receive instruction and help. There are being enough students with behavior issues we hope to help. Students would receive 20-40 days in the intervention program. Superintendent Richard Holmes said this is a statewide thing with behavior issues in the classroom. Nate Esplin said principals and teachers are wanting help for dealing with some of these students. One of the classrooms at the Professional Learning Center will be designed for that purpose. He said there are already students in mind, but schools will wait to see how they do in their new grade. Transportation will be provided for those students. Schools will need to do all they can first before sending a student for intervention. He also mentioned that Post High is getting ready to move in and is excited. Holly Cullen proposed a four-day week for Post High students. They would attend Monday through Thursday. She said they are not obligated by hours. She has been working with Lane Hadlock on Transportation. It would alleviate a lot for Transportation not having to transport the students on Fridays. Post High would add an additional 20-30 minutes, Monday through Thursday depending on what Transportation can do. It would also allow the paras who will have additional travel time to come to the center have four days a week. Terry Hutchinson mentioned concern for the families with high need students who have benefited by having the kids with us. That extra day would be burdensome. Hollee Cullen said a survey was sent to every family at Post High. Thirty-five of the sixty families returned surveys. Five of the families said it would be a major impact for them. Hollee Cullen said she would like to work with those five families through the summer to connect them with outside resources to provide services for them on Fridays. The other families said it would have zero impact and they felt it would be great to have a four-day week. She would like to work with the families that felt it would impact them to find ways to help them alleviate the impact. Nannette Simmons asked about the other families that did not respond and asked if they had reached out to. Hollee Cullen said she the survey responses were anonymous, so she has not reached out to them. The five that needed help used their child's name in the response. Hollee Cullen said the benefit would be for paras, teachers, and students to maximize their days Monday through Thursday. The hope is to link agencies to help students on Friday and eliminate transportation on that day. They would not lose any hours. Superintendent Richard Holmes asked what the plan would be if resources did not work. Hollee Cullen proposed possibly having paraprofessionals work with students at their local high school. They would not integrate with other students and would receive service one-on-one with the paraprofessionals. The paras would still have the same number of hours. She said we would have to provide transportation. Hollee Cullen said the teachers and most paras are in favor of the four-day week. Transportation is also in favor of the proposed schedule.

Update on Enrollment – Cheri Stevenson

This discussion was postponed.

Graduation – Cheri Stevenson

The Board briefly reviewed graduation assignments.

2024-2025 Meeting of the Board of Education Calendar

Becky Dunn asked the Board about moving the meetings to Monday. Superintendent Richard Holmes said the July 8th meeting will be at CT High. Terry Hutchinson mentioned the year correction needed for July 2025.

The Board discussed those attending the Delegate Assembly including Becky, Craig, and Dave. The assembly is scheduled for June 7-8.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Board Committee Discussions

Terry Hutchinson mentioned the dress code and would like proposals for the next meeting.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

1. Enrollment
2. Safe Schools
3. GRAMA Requests
4. Department Reports

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Washington County School District was held after due, legal, and timely notice being given to all members and interested parties. Board President Becky Dunn called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were David Stirland, Craig Seegmiller, LaRene Cox, Terry Hutchinson, Burke Staheli, and Nannette Simmons. Staff members present were Superintendent Richard Holmes and Business Administrator Brent Bills.

OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

1. Reverence by Member Seegmiller
2. Welcome – Board President Dunn
3. Pledge of Allegiance by Member Simmons
4. S.P.E.A.R. – Sgt. Jared Carson
5. Skills USA Recognitions – Dave Gardner
6. Southern Utah STEM Award Recipients – Cheri Stevenson
7. Recognition of Retirees

Craig Hammer presented Laura Belnap with a Distinguished Service Award from UHSAA.

Sgt. Jared Carson shared about the S.P.E.A.R. Program put on by the St. George Police Department. This is the second year of the summer program. They just crossed over 200 students who have signed up for S.P.E.A.R. and he anticipates that number will increase. He shared a short video with program highlights from last year. He said S.P.E.A.R. stands for Student Police Education Achievement and Resilience. The core of the program is the interaction between police and students and introducing students to SROs at the next school level. The program is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. It can be a trying time for these young people to transition from elementary into the secondary setting. The program goal is to help kids be resilient and understand the world a little bit better as they transition to secondary schools. Some of the core themes of the program include team building, life skills, character building, the roles of law enforcement as a resource to them, and some of their curriculum including presentations from community partners on Internet safety, vaping safety, and some of those major things they see as kids are transitioning like conflict resolution, leadership, and mentorship. They help kids understand self-worth and making good decisions, community, social skills, and resilience. The kids get to learn about the roles of law enforcement and how they serve as guardians and protectors. He shared some of the community partners including Washington County School District, Southern Utah Health Department, Washington County Youth Coalition, and the adult coalition. The program runs for eight-weeks going from cone-site to cone-site with one session in the morning and one session in the afternoon. They are hoping to have 40 students per sessions, which would be over 700 students. The 6th grade students will go through June. The program is adjusted a little for the 7th and 8th grade students in July. He said they are excited about the program and are looking forward to a great summer. He encouraged everyone to share the program information. Sgt. Jared Carson also shared that the National Association for School Resource Officers selected the St. George Police Department as a Model Agency of the Year. They are one of two agencies that have ever been selected from Utah. St. George PD and Orem PD were both selected this year from Utah. They are two of the six agencies that were selected throughout the entire country. They will receive the award at the national conference in July. He thanked the Board for their support. Board members thanked the officers for their service and response in the community.

Helene Morse shared the exceptional achievement of six teachers. On April 24th the following teachers received the Southern Utah STEM Award of Excellence:

- Charlie Phillips, Mathematics K-6 Educator of the Year – Crimson View Elementary
- Stacey Moutsos, Science K-6 Educator of the Year – Desert Canyons Elementary
- Heidi Miller, Engineering K-6 Educator of the Year – Desert Canyons Elementary

- Tami Salmon, Technology K-6 Educator of the Year – Washington Fields Intermediate School
- Justice Fitzgerald, Science 7-12 Educator of the Year – Crimson Cliffs High School
- Cari Heizer, Technology 7-12 Educator of the Year – Crimson Cliffs High School

She said that these exemplary educators have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to the classroom. Through their passion for teaching and their tireless efforts to inspire curiosity and critical thinking they have fostered an environment where students thrive and excel in STEM subjects. Their impact extends far beyond the classroom walls shaping tomorrow's future leaders, innovators, and problem solvers. She expressed appreciation for their remarkable contribution to education.

Dave Gardner said STEM education is alive and well at the elementary level and continues on up through our high schools. He reported on the number of students going to nationals. He said in all his years as an educator and as a director, he has never seen so many of our students walk away from the Skills USA competition with medals. Our District's students received 29 gold medals, 15 silver medals, and 13 bronze medals. He recognized the educators who have gone above and beyond in a way that he has never seen in his career. He congratulated Darren Lister, Dean Warner, Carly Everett, Craig Milligan, Jeremiah Herron, Kyle Smith, Derek Smith, Lou Crandall on the great work they did with their students. He also thanked the school administrators for their support.

The School Board recognized the 2024 retirees.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Washington County School District is conducting a public hearing on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. to receive input from the public with respect to the proposed 2023-2024 Final Budget and the adoption of the proposed 2024-2025 Budget. The public hearing will be held at the Washington County School District Office located at 121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah.

Brent Bills explained that the budgets are available on the website for review over the next 30 days. The budgets will be ready to approve at the June 10, 2024 Meeting of the Board of Education. The budget can be found at washk12.org at the bottom of the page. The document includes the financial information and will include some data and statistics for the District when complete. He briefly reviewed the fund accounts included in the budget book. The Maintenance and Operations fund is used to run the main operations of the District, which is teaching kids. It is used to pay teachers, counselors, principals, the building operations, etc. The budget for instructional staff this year was over \$247,000,000 and will be just over \$257,000,000 next year. We also have all of our other support services such as counseling, health services, media, and anyone providing direct support to school staff like the grade level specialists and professional development people. The fund also includes District administration and Board, school administration and secretaries, business services which includes communications, technology, operations/maintenance of facilities which includes custodial staff and utilities, student transportation and personnel services. Brent Bills said the District did receive a grant for food services through ESSER funding that show up in the Maintenance and Operations Fund 10 account and also some capital projects funding from the state. The total M&O Fund 10 budget for this year was just over \$360,000,000 and next year will be just over \$376,000,000. Most of that money comes in from the state and we have property taxes. About half of the property taxes are part of what they call the basic levy that the state requires us to levy, and the rest is levied by the Board. Brent Bills reported on the debt service funds that are going away. There will not be anything against it but there may be prior collections that are showing up there. We will spend the rest of it in 2023-2024 and it will be cleared out. There may be a little rollover to 2024-2025 that we will clear it out and it will be gone. That was part of the whole capital plan. Brent Bills said we will continue to pay the debt that we currently have outstanding in Fund 32. We have some bonds still outstanding that we'll pay every year through property taxes. The money going out is for new construction, remodels, rebuilds, and upkeep on all the facilities. We have over 50 buildings to keep up. The budget this year is estimated at \$54,000,000. Next year will be a little bit lower at \$45,500,000. All the details of all the different projects are available for review. Brent Bills reviewed the Food Service budgets. He said there have been some dramatic changes in Food Service with federal money to provide food service to all students for free. That funding went away this last year. We are still providing free

food service to those who qualify for free or reduced food service and making up the difference from the District. The budget is about \$17,500,000 for the next two year. We also have the Student Activity Fund which is money that comes in from student fees. There is some other local revenue received through advertising dollars, building rentals, and so forth. That is about \$11,000,000. Brent Bills reported that we are probably one of the most efficient school districts in the state, in a state that is known to be the most efficient in the nation and ranked number one for education. Utah was one of the top places to relocate your business and everything again in U.S. News. We were ranked number one in the nation for public education. We do huge amounts with the dollars we have, and we really stretch them a long way. We put money where it really needs to be in the school. We run lean in a lot of places and put money where it is needed. David Stirland asked about concerns or trend issues related to the budget in upcoming years. Brent Bills said macroeconomics is his biggest concern. What happens on the world stage and the U.S. stage will affect us here. We are not insulated. Everyone is still waiting for inflation to come down. It's been hovering around 3.8% for almost a year now. They are still having a hard time getting it to settle down to the 2% they like. Every time they talk about lowering the interest rates it seems like the stock market takes off and everybody starts spending money again. It is keeping inflation going up and that is hard to combat. We need to make sure that we are tracking that with what we can pay people and what we are paying for supplies, energy, and repair costs in our buildings to keep everything running. If we were to go into some kind of national recession and the money stops coming in, that could cause some problems also. He said we are hoping for a soft recovery but until that happens, and they can get inflation down closer to the 2% range, it is going to be a concern. David Stirland asked about budget concerns with the District slowing down with growth. Brent Bills said we are not in a place where we are decreasing enrollment. The slowdown we are seeing is exactly that, it's a slowdown. He feels we will continue to see growth here for quite a while in the future. We have some bright spots out in our community with close to 100 kids two years of age or younger. He feels if it continues that way, by the time those kids are in 5th grade we will need additional elementary schools. We are seeing some areas that are still affordable for families. That is an area of concern for our cities. We'll just have to watch and see what happens with inflation and the cost of everything going up.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes
 - a. April 2, 2024 Meeting of the Board of Education
 - b. April 22, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
2. Financial Report
3. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items
4. Sandstone Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSD SCHOOLS

Legacy Elementary - Principal Angie Evans

Principal Angie Evans introduced two fifth grade students who are part of the Dual Immersion program. They shared some of the things they love about Legacy Elementary in Spanish and English. Some of the things they mentioned are that the teachers are good and kind, they encourage students when testing and with other things, the monthly STEM days, the school library including the big windows and beautiful view, the assemblies and field trips, attendance celebrations and celebrations for doing good things, the school choir and their practices and performances, and the Spirit Festival. Principal Evans said another awesome thing at the school is the students. They have a diverse population. There are nine nationalities represented in the school choir.

Snow Canyon Middle School – Principal Jerrod Dastrup

Principal Jerrod Dastrup a fun video clip on herding cats. He shared the clip because sometimes he feels it is similar at the middle school. They have 850 students at Snow Canyon Middle. They are working to align efforts with the District level and school level to make sure they can bring all the students across the finish line. Snow Canyon is The Warriors, and it definitely takes a bunch of warriors to bring 850

students across the finish line. When Principal Dastrup was hired and began his first year in the school, he assembled a leadership team or a guiding coalition. One of the first things they set out to do was to establish the purpose of the leadership team. The changes and things they have been able to do have impacted the culture in the school because they are aligned. They set out to elevate the culture to strengthen the pillars at Snow Canyon Middle School. The culture is the norms, the behavior, and is how they do business at the school. The only way to improve how they do business at Snow Canyon Middle School is to strengthen the pillars, or the vision, mission, those things they collectively commit to, and measuring progress through goal setting. Principal Dastrup said this is true with our staff. When we stop learning we run the risk of becoming irrelevant. As leaders in education, we have to make sure that we are leading the charge and ensuring high levels of learning for our kids. If we want our kids to learn at high levels, we have to be willing to learn ourselves. He said he is proud of his teachers. This June he will be taking over 25 teachers to the PLC Institute in Las Vegas to learn together. Teachers are giving up three and a half days of their summer and time with families to attend the conference and commit to learning together. He feels that speaks volumes to their character to want to strive to be better and to come together to align their efforts. He mentioned that they will have Aaron Hanson in their school several times next year and are excited to have him and that commitment to learning with the staff. Principal Dastrup mentioned that they have changed the model at Snow Canyon Middle School. They have a full-time learning coach. They want to not only focus on their new E.Y.E teachers but also want to focus on the work of collaborative teams and ensure that they are working at high levels as well. When the guiding coalition got together, one of the first things they said was that they needed to be more aligned in how they do social emotional, behaviors, and attendance in the school. The school did not have a PBIS or leadership team. He reached out to the faculty about starting a PBIS team to align the goals with behavior and attendance. He said 15 staff members gave up two summer days last year and have met on a monthly basis this year to align those efforts. Together they created a matrix that is more than just words on a paper. They determined where they needed to be warriors, so they are respectful, responsible, intelligent, one, and ready to serve. They identified what that would look like in the cafeteria, the hallway, the commons, the classrooms, bathrooms, lunchroom, etc. They have posters hung up around the school and refer to them quite often when students aren't being a warrior. Principal Dastrup said their new Assistant Principal Stephen Ord is the ultimate warrior. You can walk into our school at any point in time and hear him say, "Be a warrior." The kids know what it looks like to be a warrior. He also shared some of the positive affirmation notes students wrote to themselves prior to the Rise and Aspire testing. He said they love the kids and love the attitudes that they have. He said they celebrated one class that had 100% of the students score highly proficient on their Aspire math test. He said that they don't want to just chase points with their kids, they want to chase proficiency. When students fail classes, they are no longer on track to graduate from high school. He said Snow Canyon Middle School cannot continue to send students with Fs on their report card to Snow Canyon High School and expect them to spend money for credit recovery for those students. They got together as a guiding coalition and as a faculty to determine what they could do to help more students pass more classes and came up with T.G.I.F. (Touch Gold It's Friday). T.G.I.F. is interventions for students who are failing classes. It is fun activities for students who have passing grades. It takes place every Friday between 2nd and 3rd period for 47 minutes. Students who are not failing in class get a Touch Gold laminated ticket. Students can take the ticket to socialize and participate in fun activities. Students who are failing in a class get a slip to go to the teacher whose class they are failing and receive some intervention. Most of the time the kids are failing because they haven't turned in assignments and they get a little extra time. He shared some data on the program's success so far. They started T.G.I.F. in second quarter. Two years ago, they had 636 Fs. Last year there were 589. They are down to 379 for quarter two this year. Quarter three went from 491 to 580 and down to 258. They are currently right now just over 1000 Fs on the year and are projected to probably have around 1200 Fs total for the year which is almost a reduction of 50% from the year prior. He feels like they are making some headway and will hopefully see it in proficiency scores as well. They are excited about the reduction of the number of Fs. They want to improve the culture in the school and have kids happy to show up at school. They have instituted a faculty Wellness Room and a student Wellness Room because they know the social and emotional health of all our students is vital to success. They have also instituted a Warrior Room for restorative justice and are following the model of Lava Ridge Intermediate. They have some amazing clubs like National Junior Honor Society, Latinos in Action, Hope Squad,

Student Ambassadors, and an amazing Student Council. He mentioned some of the assemblies held this year. He recognized his teachers and reported that band and orchestra recently took 1st and 2nd place for the state in the Battle of the Band and Orchestra event. He also mentioned a student who took first place in the national Chinese competition. The school does Math Counts, fashion shows, a Turkey Trot, and has done well in many state athletic events.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Jamie Holt said she was nominated to represent the Snow Canyon parents and was also encouraged by the coaches to address the Board. She addressed the Board about cheer competitions held out-of-state. The main one with the most accreditation is held in Florida. They currently are not allowed to participate but she believes that all of the schools in Northern Utah are allowed to travel to Florida for cheer. She said the cost would be about \$900 an athlete and about \$200 for airfare. It would easily be under \$1200 to take the team. It would allow them exposure to more college recruiters and allow more opportunities. She feels it would be an awesome representation for Southern Utah. She feels the schools have some incredible athletes, and it would be a great opportunity for them.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

2024-2025 Meeting of the Board of Education Calendar

Terry Hutchinson mentioned one change was needed to the July date correcting the year from 2024 to 2025.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Meeting of the Board of Education Calendar with the correction. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 7040 Out-of-State Travel for Activities and Field Trips – Cheri Stevenson

Cheri Stevenson said the policy was discussed last month and there have been no comments received during the past 30 days. The purpose behind the policy when it was created in 2015 was identify how many days of school students could miss when going on out-of-state field trips and also to identify where we were comfortable with students traveling, the bordering states. On 3.1.4 we did increase the maximum dollar amount for students to \$1200. Again, that's not in reference to anything other than just the maximum amount we are comfortable with. Additionally, we did add the Ibigawa trip and robotics to the exempted trips. Burke Staheli asked about an appeal process if a group is invited to something that was not in a bordering state that would be a lifetime opportunity. Cheri Stevenson said she is not aware of any and understands that the District has held very tightly to the policy. Superintendent Richard Holmes said it becomes really complicated when we start looking at exemptions and he mentioned it is also tied to risk management. Craig Seegmiller said this is why the policy exists. We have said no to other sports. He doesn't feel an exception should be made. David Stirland said the Risk Management side is an element for the students we are responsible for as well as the cost. With the cost, it becomes prohibitive for some students, and we have to look at fee waivers. It is a great idea, but there are reasons behind the policy while still trying to give students the best opportunity to have experiences.

Craig Seegmiller said there is no exception for any of the sports.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve Policy 7040 Out-of-State Travel for Activities and Field Trips. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Approval of Certified Negotiated Agreement – Darin Thomas

Darin Thomas shared the contents of the proposed 2024-2025 negotiated agreement between WCSD and the WCEA. The agreement includes adding \$2,539 to the \$47,597 base of the 2023-2024 one-lane certified salary schedule, adding \$504 to the existing \$8,400 2023-2024 Legislative Educator Salary Adjustment, and increase and fully fund the steps from \$825 to \$850. The WCEA has forwarded out the agreement to the members and, so the District is just waiting for their votes to come back. He asked the Board to approve the Certified Negotiated Agreement based on the ratification from the WCEA and their members.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the Certified Negotiated Agreement with ratification from the WCEA. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Approval of Classified Negotiated Agreement – Darin Thomas

Darin Thomas reviewed the proposed Classified Negotiated Agreement which includes a 5.25% increase on the base classified 2023-2024 salary schedules and fund classified steps according to the WCSD classified salary schedules.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Classified Negotiated Agreement with ratification from the Classified Association. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Darin Thomas mentioned that both including funding a 10% increase to health insurance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 9201 Guidelines for Accelerated College Level Program – Rusty Taylor and Jon Butler

Rusty Taylor said the proposed changes to Policy 9201 are to clean up the language that was little bit outdated. The most significant change involves taking a look at the amount of credit that is given for concurrent enrollment classes. It was found that the library of concurrent enrollment classes has increased the amount of extra credit students were earning for those classes and became significant enough to cause issues with the school. Students were being over credited and were missing out on some other opportunities. The proposed changes bring the credit earning more in line with the classes being taken instead of doubling the credit that students are earning. It will be more consistent with the time that they are spending in their classroom. They will still earn their college credit, but they're not getting the double high school credit. The policy will be out for 30 days to receive public comment. He said the District will also make sure that schools are aware to receive comments from counselors and others at the school. Becky Dunn asked if there was a way that parents would be notified of the proposed changes. She said it is a significant change for some who would be taking classes and would be expecting the credit. Rusty Taylor said for those who have already registered, we are not going to punish the students or punish their plans. It would go into effect for the younger students this year, but not penalize those who were planning for the credit this year. David Stirland said there are a lot of significant changes to the policy. He feels it may not be the best time at the end of the school year. People may not be looking at policy changes. He has concerns with how much is being changed and suggested the District do something to get the policy out to parents so they can see what is happening. He feels that a lot of juniors and sophomores count on some of the stuff in the policy. The policy has been in place for a significant period of time and to change some of what is proposed, he is concerned with the timing and giving parents and other interested individuals the opportunity to look at it. Rusty Taylor said with the way that the changes work and when it would go into effect, he feels we have some time if the Board is not comfortable with comments received through the summer. He feels it is the right direction for schools and gives kids more opportunities to be involved, but it is a significant change and will be different. Burke Staheli clarified his understanding that a 10th grader who signed up for an English class the old way would take the half year of English in college and get a full year of English at the high school. That would still be in effect for next year as that was how they made their schedule and planned for it. In their junior and senior year, they would have to plan a little differently with their counselor. Rusty Taylor said students have already registered for next year. He felt like approving the policy changes through the summer would have it in place when counselors start meeting with kids next year and gives them time to make those plans. David Stirland said there are parents with multiple kids who have already gone through this and planned for this, so even as a sophomore they are planning for the same scenario and it's going to change. He feels it's just wise to make sure we give plenty of opportunity for comment and understanding of the policy. Rusty Taylor said the school principals and counselors have been involved in the conversion and have been part of the process. The biggest thing time wise for making the change is just giving counselors time as they start meeting with students for next year and planning for the years ahead. Superintendent Richard Holmes reminded board members of a diagram Jon Butler did when the schools transitioned from an eight or ten period schedule that showed an example of incoming freshman moving up through the system. He suggested it might be helpful to show an example associated with the

new policy and what the transition would look like. Becky Dunn said she was just concerned with the grandfathering of some kids and feels a little more information would help so parents know how it affects their kids and can plan for their child to graduate. If the process worked for other students in the family and now, it's changed and can make it hard for them. Rusty Taylor said the District would make sure it is advertised and if it is felt it was not advertised or understood enough then we can delay the approval. LaRene Cox noticed a couple of things that make it a little bit easier for a student to be able to do this such as the GPA being moved to 3.0, plus younger students are being allowed to do the program. Rusty Taylor said when it hasn't changed since it started and concurrent enrollment has really grown especially with some changes at Utah Tech University and their support of the program. There have also been some credit changes through the state. It used to be sophomores by exception and the school had to sign off and have approval for that. Now almost all of the middle schools have concurrent enrollment business classes in their schools. The issue with that became that they were earning credits so fast that then they didn't need to be involved in other classes. They are missing out on some of our opportunities with electives and CTE courses. He said we have seen a significant decrease in enrollment because they didn't need electives. They received double credit for their concurrent enrollment classes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Foundation Grant Summary – Steven Dunham

The Foundation Grant Summary presentation was postponed.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Richard Holmes said all of the retirees have left and that would have been really this main focus to express his deep sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of service given. The longest tenured service was 43 years and that is just amazing that they would dedicate their lives to education. It is really their home away from home, so he said he was so very grateful to them for what they have done. He shared as a sidenote that we have so many teams and organizations of the performing arts participating with state competitions and activities. There is a lot happening this week with state baseball and the 4A state softball and track. He reported on the sports that are done including Crimson Cliffs High School Girls' Golf, state champions, and the 2A Enterprise High Softball, the newly sanctioned Pine View High Boys' Volleyball and Desert Hills High Boys' Tennis. So many participated in these activities, and we commend them and congratulate them as well as those in our Fine Arts and performing arts.

Board

No reports were given.

Association

Annette Croucher, WCEA, thanked the District for the wonderful collaboration this past school year. The partnership is going well, and they hope to have more next year. The negotiations and other settings working side-by-side have gone really well. She feels they have been really positive collaboration between all involved. She said the ratification process should be done May 24th. They are waiting for the members to respond to the survey and Reece Jacobsen will get back to Darin Thomas.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

No reports were given.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

No public comments were given.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT