

**KANE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
KANAB CENTER – KANE DISTRICT BOARD ROOM
20 NORTH 100 EAST
KANAB, UTAH
AUGUST 13, 2024**

I. Board Work Meeting – 6:00 PM

Board President Danny Little called this meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Other board members present were Marc Grow, Karen Kelly, Lisa Livingston and Jarad Brinkerhoff. Others present were Superintendent Ben Dalton and Business Manager Cary Reese, along with many members of the community.

- A. Reverence – Jarad offered a reverence
- B. Pledge of Allegiance - The board joined in a pledge to the Flag
- C. KSD Board Goals Discussion/Review
- D. Review Board Agenda

II. Truth in Taxation Public Hearing – 6:15 PM

- A. Action: Open Truth in Taxation Hearing
Jarad moved and Marc seconded a motion to open the Truth in Taxation hearing. This motion passed.
- B. Presentation on Proposed Tax Increase
Cary presented a PowerPoint explaining some information regarding the purpose of the proposed tax increase. KHS – new HVAC system replacing the outdated coal boiler. VHS – remove old gym and build a new gym, music room, lunchroom to serve VHS and VES, and fitness room for students and community. We would also like to move the VHS office toward the front of the building, which would improve safety. Capital funds, grants,
Cary shared a chart showing total tax levies for all 41 school districts in Utah. This chart shows how the total proposed tax levy would compare to all other school districts in Utah. Even after the proposed increase there are still 34 school districts with higher tax rates. In Fact, several districts have a levy rate of more than twice Kane’s proposed rate. Kane School District hasn’t increased taxes for 14 years.
Iron Rock engineer Tom Avant addressed the board and community members regarding the condition of the VHS building in the gym/music room, entrance area. He explained and showed pictures of the current condition of the building, compared to the condition 13 years ago in the same areas. There has been some movement in the foundation over the past 13 years. The chimney is strong and has a very large footing. Tom reported that if a sizable earthquake occurred, the roof and walls of the old gym might collapse.

Next, the board opened the meeting for public comments.

Robert Lacey - VHS music teacher addressed the board: Mr.Lacey thanks the board for taking the needed improvements at VHS under consideration. He has worked at VHS for 16 years and has hoped for these improvements to be completed. He explained how small the music room is, that it is not safe, and does not allow for a safe and usable space.

Melissa Griffiths - Valley resident, thanked the board for their work on this project, and wants the board to know she supports this tax increase to improve her children's safety and educational experience.

Robert Barrick - Valley resident, left Cedar City and moved his six kids to Valley six years ago. He appreciates the strong music program at VHS. Supports the board, and the tax increase and the investment it is in our community.

Joeie Harris - Valley resident and mother of 3 kids. Points out that the current VES kitchen, which feeds VES and VHS students, is smaller than the kitchen in her house. She thanks the board and supports the tax increase.

Emily Roundy - special ed VHS teacher, holds her classes next to the temporary music room. The music is very loud in her classroom and is disturbing to her students - some are very sensitive to noise, and some have behavioral issues. The noise disrupts their learning. She supports the tax increase to improve the learning environment.

Sarah Esplin - Figures that the proposed tax increase averages out to about \$1 per student for the average household per year. She supports the tax increase.

Brianna Crofts – VHS alumni, saw the building damage when she attended, and now her own children attend VHS. She feels that money is spent in other schools and Valley schools deserve improvement as well. She feels that it is a great investment for all the students and future students. She supports the tax increase.

Rob VanDyke – Kanab resident. Appreciates the board and their service to the community. Doesn't argue the needs at VHS but questions the method of the proposed tax increase. Feels that yearly property taxes should cover the yearly expenses of our schools. Feels that any project that goes beyond one year should be funded through the GO bonding process and says that there is no guarantee that the increased funds will go toward the projects at Valley High unless we go through a formal bonding process to ensure the lowest interest rate. Says that with bonding, the tax increase ends with the completion of the project.

Nick Hoyt - VHS alumni and basketball coach, and Valley resident. Gyms are very important for the success of athletic programs. Points out that the Valley weight room is very small and inadequate, and equipment is old.

Michelle Cox – quoted Sky Chaney's article regarding the condition of VHS, pointing out the unsafe conditions, and how the students and faculty has adapted well to the limitations of the condition of the school. Supports a serious update and the tax increase.

Steve Medrano – former teacher at KHS and Kanab resident. Shares how the tax increase would affect him personally, along with all the other costs increasing around him. Isn't against the tax increase but is concerned that the board makes careful decisions in using the tax money, like residents must in order to live within their budgets.

Jack Reynolds – never in favor of a tax increase, and questions why the VHS improvements were not considered before the building of the new KES with a full gym. Feels that current taxes should cover current improvements and future improvements. He and his wife are in favor of the tax increase for the improvements at VHS.

Brent Judd – former teacher, CTE Director, and Valley resident. Appreciates how fiscally responsible the board is and has been over the years. He has been a part of the district for many years and has seen it firsthand. He believes in fixing things right – not just putting a bandaid on it. The VHS problems have existed for a long time and although he and his wife are on a fixed income, he is in favor of the tax increase.

Vanessa Pavlides – new Valley resident. Loves the schools and community and supports the tax increase and all the positive changes that it will bring.

Sky Chaney – Kanab resident and founder of the Kane County Taxpayer association.

States that the foundation is neutral on this tax increase. Is generally against tax increases but recognizes that VHS needs to be fixed and improved. Questions whether the improvements could be done at a lower cost.

Jeremy Chamberlain – Valley resident. Thanked the board for their service to the community. Questions Sky Chaney regarding blocking the golf course and bringing in high density housing instead. Jeremy supports the tax increase.

Shalisse Sorensen – Valley resident. States that she was told that blood donation was halted at VHS because of unsanitary conditions due to the condition of the building, yet we feed our school children in the same space. Supports tax increase.

Joseph Sorensen – Valley resident, VHS alumni and former teacher. Described the condition of several of the rooms at VHS. Supports tax increase.

Heidi Jacobs – Lunch lady at VES and has spent a lot of time in the school kitchen. Doesn't want to see more money going out of her pocket but supports tax increase because our kids deserve it.

Brittany Hoyt – sees the money being spent in other places and supports the tax increase.

George & Dusty Reese – appreciates the work the board does. They are retirees and struggle with the cost of a tax increase. While they agree with and support the need for the improvements at VHS but disagree with the method. They feel that raising taxes is permanent and a bond should be considered so the costs are temporary.

LoRal Linton – In favor of the VHS improvements. But feels the district is asking for too much money – more than is needed. Wonders if there are other projects, such as a wrestling facility at KHS, that are planned to be completed using the money.

Joe Craig – Lived in Kanab for 4 years and taxes have increased 43% since he's moved here. Feels that the board has not explained or justified the need for VHS improvements.

Wendell Head – Has a son in middle school in Kanab. Agrees with the need for the improvements at VHS. His assessed home value has increased 235% since 2017, which increases the tax base incredibly. Feels that the district is asking for too much money.

Julie Young – Questions the difference between funding in Valley and Kanab. Feels that Valley is receiving far less money than Kanab is. Supports the tax increase.

Angela Powers – Thanks board members for their work. The proposed projects at VHS, if completed, will affect many students' lives. Gives numbers of recent earthquakes in Utah and is concerned about the safety of our schools if earthquakes continue to occur in our area. Supports tax increase but would like more information about the project money.

Betty Chamberlain – Likes seeing all the people attending the meeting and voicing their thoughts about what is important to them. Feels there are other ways to get funding for projects. Feels that Valley schools are being short-changed when it comes to the amount of money set aside for their schools compared to Kanab schools.

Don Heath – VHS principal. Moved here last year and loves living in southern Utah. Mr. Heath is happy to show anyone around the school to show them the work that needs to be done. Believes that investing in students affects everyone. Supports the tax increase.

Board President Danny Little closed the public comment portion and thanked everyone for attending and sharing their comments regarding the proposed tax increase. He says the board has taken notes on the comments to consider.

- C. Action: Motion to Close the Truth in Taxation Hearing
Lisa moved and Jared seconded a motion to close the Truth in Taxation hearing. This motion passed.

III. Regular Meeting - 7:00 PM

- A. Welcome
Danny Little called this meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Other board members present were Marc Grow, Karen Kelly, Lisa Livingston and Jarad Brinkerhoff. Others present were Superintendent Ben Dalton and Business Manager Cary Reese, along with many members of the community.
- B. School Safety Recognition
The Kane County School District honored several people in our community. We appreciate all they do to keep our students, schools, and communities safe. The board presented a recognition plaque to the following:
 - Harriett Perkins - Crossing Guard, recently retired
 - Tracy Glover – Kane County Sheriff
 - Tom Cram – Kanab City Police Chief
 - Rod Willis – School Resource Officer
 - Brent Smith – School Resource Officer

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve Minutes from June and July 2024 Meetings
- B. Approve Check Registers for June and July 2024
 - June 2024
Accounts Payable check register check numbers 306356-306527 totaling \$809,579.70.
Payroll check registers total \$776,697.11.
 - July 2024
Accounts Payable check register check numbers 306528-306659 totaling \$506,923.42.
Payroll check registers total \$564,692.78.
- C. Approve Hiring Recommendations Pending Successful Background Check
 - Bekka Patton- KHS Volleyball Head Coach
 - Filpeta Begay- BWS secretary
 - Amber Banfill- BWS paraeducator
 - Madilynn Terry - KES Music Paraeducator
 - Necia House- Paraeducator

Carmen Cox- Paraeducator
Amber Bowman- Cosmetology instructor
Mercedes Morgan- Paraeducator
Abbey Bateman- Paraeducator
Harlee Riggins- Paraeducator
Ashley Brown- Speech Aide
Grace Almond- Paraeducator
Lisa Green- Paraeducator
Esther Torgersen- Assistant VB coach VHS
Heather Dalton- Paraeducator
Connie Tait- Food service

D. Letters of Resignation

E. Home School Affidavit

Lisa moved and Marc seconded a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. This motion passed.

V. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Danny opened the meeting for public comment.

Sky Cheney – Urged the board not to make a decision tonight on the proposed tax increase, but to give more time to listen to taxpayer comments.

Haze Harris stated that he supports the board and business manager Cary Reese and feels they have done due diligence in being fiscally responsible.

VI. Reports

A. Travis Terry Internet Safety Presentation

Mr. Terry reported on the status of internet security in our schools and on student devices, even when the devices are taken home.

B. School Board Reports

C. Superintendent Report

Supt. Dalton recognized the district faculty and staff for all the time and effort they put in to prepare for the new school year. Thanked Travis Terry for all his IT work within the district – he keeps us up to date with technology and does a great job. Supt. was invited and spoke to the Fredonia school board in their recent meeting. He showed them our tuition agreement with Page. No decisions were made, but wanted the board to know he met with Fredonia and will keep the board aware if an agreement with Fredonia is being considered.

D. Kane District Enrollment

Student enrollment in May was 1,470, which is the same as the April count of 1,470. This includes the 25 BWS students that are bused to Page and 82 preschool students.

- E. USBE Update
Supt Dalton reported on R277. See board packet for details.
- F. USBE SOEP Committee Update
Supt was invited to participate in the USBE SOEP Committee. He updated the board on actions taken by this committee. See board packet for details.
- G. Utah Fits All Scholarship Update
Lisa asked how many local families are receiving the funding. Supt responded that he thinks there are 12 families.
- H. KSD Grant Summary
The board packet contains a list of grants our district has obtained.
- I. Parent Webinars Resources
Working with the Cook Center, monthly parent live webinars are available to assist parents with learning skills to help their children with some great resources.
- J. ACT Changes Update
Changes start in spring of 2026.
- K. KSD Custodial Supplies Central Ordering
The district office has been working on centralized supply ordering, which we anticipate will save the district around \$102,000 this year. Danny added that the board appreciates Quade and Mike and all they do for district maintenance and custodial.
- L. Business Administrator Report
Cary will forego his report tonight in an effort to save time. He addressed a question asked earlier regarding obtaining capital funds through the GO bonding process. Danny thanked Cary for his work to keep our district fiscally strong and in order.
- M. Monthly Budget Report
Not reported on this month. Will be in next month's board packet.

VII. Board Action Items

- A. Motion To Adopt Final Tax Rate & Related Revenue
Danny opened discussion on final tax rate and related revenue. Lisa commented that she has received several calls from her constituents regarding the proposed tax increase, which none were in favor of the tax increase, but none of them were in attendance tonight. She stated that she noticed in the comments tonight that there were quite a few who, even if they were in favor of the tax increase, mentioned the importance of being very careful with the money, and possibly wait and investigate other ways to go about getting the funding. She feels uncomfortable with making a decision, and suggests possibly looking into lowering the cost by changing the parameters of funding.

Jarad commented that postponing a vote won't change the way he will vote, as he has a very strong opinion about what needs to happen at VHS. One of the reasons he ran for this board position is to make a difference in the Valley schools.

Danny recapped the comments tonight, stating that there were 15 speakers who were in favor of the tax increase, 4 that were for it but concerned, and 4 that were against it. In emails he received, there were 20 for the increase, and 8 against it. He had about 20 phone calls: 18 for the increase, 2 against it. He feels like Valley deserves having the improvements to their facilities.

Karen commented that it would take someone about 5 minutes touring VHS to see how much these improvements are needed - she didn't realize how bad things were at VHS. She also stated that it was past time we gave the KES students space to get out of being taught in literal closets. KES needed to be built, and she feels like it is time to make improvements at VHS. She has confidence in Cary and Supt that they are not being extravagant but doing what is necessary.

Marc commented that of the phone calls he received, 9 were for the increase, 5 were against. He feels like the district is quite transparent with the budget and is in favor of accounting for all spending.

Lisa commented that she is curious about LoRal's comment earlier about \$10 million in contingency fund. LoRal responded that the district had \$10 million in a contingency fund when he left as a board member. Cary commented that the district does not have a contingency fund but does have approximately \$8 million in our capital fund balance. Lisa also commented that several people commented that once a tax increase goes into effect, it doesn't go away. She suggested that they come up with a plan so it would expire. She will be the voice to speak for her constituents.

Jarad commented that there will be other capital projects that will come up, so we have money available for those once the VHS project is completed.

Cary commented that anyone is welcome to go into his office and look at the budgets and discuss finances.

Jarad moved and Karen seconded a motion to approve the following property tax rates and revenues for the 2024 tax year:

Basic School Levy: \$3,838,653, Tax Rate .001408

Capital Local Levy: \$3,524,011, Tax Rate .001293

Voted Local Levy: \$1,562,179, Tax Rate .000573

Board Local Levy: \$2,677,242, Tax Rate .000982

Charter School Levy: \$5,453, Tax Rate .000002

Total Revenue: \$11,607,538, Total Tax Rate .004258

This motion passed with Marc, Karen, Danny, and Jarad voting in favor and Lisa voting in opposition.

Danny commented that the board doesn't take this lightly and welcomes those interested to come to board meetings each month to answer questions of how the finances work.

B. KSD Early Learning Plan 2024-25

Karen moved and Lisa seconded a motion to approve the KSD Early Learning Plan. This motion passed.

C. KSD Cellphone Policy FHAH-1

Lisa moved and Marc seconded a motion to approve the Cellphone Policy FHAH-1. This motion passed.

D. School Handbook Approval

Lisa moved and Jarad seconded a motion to approve the School Handbook. This motion passed.

E. LEA Specific Licensure Approval

Madilynn Hoffmeier- KES music teacher

Karen moved and Marc seconded a motion to approve this LEA Specific Licensure. This motion passed.

F. Fall Sports Schedule Approval

Marc moved and Jarad seconded a motion to approve the Fall Sports Schedule. This motion passed.

VIII. Board Business

A. KSD Committee Assignment Review/Discussion

B. KSD Board Goal Review

C. USBA Model Policies Review 2024-25

Supt Dalton has read through the USBA model policies, and the public can see the red line changes that we may want to look at for our district. He suggests the board review these policies.

Jarad asked if Supt has any concerns with these USBA policies. Supt responded that some seem like over-reach in our district.

D. USBA Model Policies Needing Additional work

Supt Dalton commented that there are some proposed model policies that need additional work.

E. Utah Fits All Scholarship Fee

Supt discussed this issue and ed if the board had any questions. Jarad asked about sports participation. Supt commented that our district is generous in that most districts don't allow participation in sports. UFA students would pay the regular sports fee and an additional \$400 to participate.

F. USBE Educator Evaluation Draft Model Policy

Teacher evaluation would be every 3 or 4 years. We'll continue to work on this.

G. KSD TSSA Framework Review

This money would flow to the schools. Our District Framework needs to be approved by the school board and submitted to USBE by November 1.

H. VHS Capital Project Update

This issue was covered in detail during the tax increase hearing.

- I. Curriculum Review
The superintendent briefly commented on curriculum review activities in our district.
- J. SB 173 Excellence in Educational and Leadership Supplement Discussion
Supt would like input from the board. These are funds based on end of level state assessment. Need to make a decision by December 1.
- K. KHS Multipurpose Room Discussion
The KHS wrestling mat hoists at KMS are not installed yet. They have been working with engineers, steel fabricators, and the hoist company to get this project completed.
- L. EHA-1 Graduation Requirement Policy Review
Asked the board to consider adding, that enrollment for one semester in our district be required before being able to graduate.
- M. FHAA Safe Schools Alcohol and Drugs Policy Review
Material will be in the board packet for next month's meeting.
- N. KSD Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Kanab City Review
Cary has been working with the City regarding City league use of School District facilities. So far he hasn't been able to reach agreement with Kanab City over proposed language in agreement.
- O. School Board Meeting Dates Review
- P. Future Board Items
Josh Dambara and Deborah Aravis Dencer will present to the board next month, a summary of their services.
Robin Coleman will discuss the data from last year's reading programs.

Lisa moved and Jarad seconded a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the character, professional competence, or mental health of an individual.

Roll Call Vote –

Karen – yes
Danny – yes
Lisa – yes
Jarad – yes
Marc - yes

IX. Executive Session

- A. Discussion of the Character, Professional Competence, or Mental Health of an Individual

X. Return to Open Meeting

- A. Motion to Move Out of Executive Session
Lisa moved and Jarad seconded a motion to move out of executive session and back into regular session.

Roll Call Vote:

Karen – yes

Danny – yes

Lisa – yes

Jarad – yes

Marc moved and Lisa seconded a motion to approve the re-enrollment of a student who was discussed during executive session.

XI. Adjourn - Board meeting adjourned shortly before 10:00pm.