



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah
October 14, 2024
4:30 p.m.

Present: Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, 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 Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Technology Director Jeremy Cox. Board President Becky Dunn was excused for the Working Session.

St. George City Officials present: Councilman Jimmie Hughes, Councilwoman Dannielle Larkin, Councilwoman Natalie Larsen, Councilman Steve Kemp, St. George City Manager John Willis, St. George City Attorney Ryan Dooley, Mayor Michele Randall was excused.

Minutes: Administrative Assistant Camille Ames

Reverence by Member Seegmiller.

The Board Meeting was called to at 12:08 pm

WORK SESSION

St. George City shared interests and concerns, good solid working relationships with the city. The Board asked the city about projected growth and received the following update: Our city manager John Willis explained the growth has been interesting and isn't stopping. The city expressed that they have more building permits than they have ever seen and the largest numbers of growth. The demographics are many single-family permits and not as high as multiple-family permits. Little Valley has almost hit the residential cap. The temple direction going north is commercial and multiple families. Desert Color has many short-term vacation rentals with low family numbers. Development rates are building strong. They have noticed the future building of family units. Also, many Commercial properties coming in. Utah Tech has a huge property out there with lots of growth potential along with the White Sands area. John updated about the property by Lins, the temple, and the 1550 church substation. Brent Bills mentioned the 3000 exits by Riverside Elementary School. Burke Staheli asked about a trail and three-way stop light. The line behind crimson in Washington. Max Brinkerhoff explained the boundary line to the east 240 w 3210 e Harvest Lane with a two-year timeline. Approvals are in for a Larry Miller complex, bowling alley. Regular updates on the city's public website.

Progress on city office. Steel is going up and projected to be done next September. Fire station beginning of next year. Old bricks from the old church will be added to the fire station to memorialize the old red brick church. Traffic could be a huge challenge. Make the community stronger. The city appreciates all the school district is doing and their partnership is very strong from working together.

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, 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 Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Technology Director Jeremy Cox.

OPENED SESSION

Boundary Change- Cheri Stevenson

School Board members feel the need to change the boundary. Burke the growing divide with the upper 4A school number and boundary change will help this. Also to create a balance of academic programs within each of the schools. Opportunities for the students. Also, High Schools have kids who can do what they want. Cheri walks through the past proposals. Dave Stirland, one of many reasons. Growth of the school. The school is too crowded. Lucky to have a board that appreciates it. Keeping our schools at the size that keeps it personal. Huge benefits like the children feeling connected. Nannette Simmons best for the students based on current counts with projections. Becky Dunn made a High School Projections Data Sheet for 2024. Three different proposals were presented in a PowerPoint presentation. Students living north of Washington Dam Road and east of Washington Fields Road will attend the PVHS Secondary Cone Site beginning in August 2025. Students currently located east of Quarterhorse Drive, south of Thoroughbred Road, east of Horizon Elementary, and north of the Horizon Elementary southern property boundary (to include the Shooting Star development and homes located south of the Washington Dam Road starting at Quarterhorse Drive) would attend the PVHS Secondary Cone Site beginning in August of 2025. Students currently located in Leeds will attend the PVHS Secondary Cone Site beginning in August 2025. Students currently enrolled in grades 6 through 12 would have the option to remain in the Crimson Cliffs boundary (Crimson Cliffs High, Crimson Cliffs Middle, and Washington Fields Intermediate), however, no bus transportation would be provided. Students currently enrolled in grades 6 through 12 would have the option to remain in the Desert Hills Cone Site boundary (Desert Hills High, Desert Hills Middle, and Sunrise Ridge Intermediate), however, no bus transportation would be provided. 1st move students north of Dam Road and Leeds. 3 to 5 years to see the boundary numbers move. 2nd Move All Horizon and dual immersion move to Pine View. Split 50/50 Current Proposal 3rd Move NDR Leeds Desert color Dixie and Snow Canyon. 26 and 27 school year. North of Dam Road and Leed Boundary. Crimson becomes an open boundary school if Horizon moves. Washington Fields Intermediate open next year if the change happens. Shooting Star Subdivision goes along the line. Drainage collection and Long Valley and Okay Coral are possible subdivisions. Pine view boundaries. Not taking Dual immersion. And Leeds. Scenic sunrise. All of Horizon is too much. Majestic goes to crimson. Leeds has been in every proposal to go to Pine View. Transportation information will be affected because it reduces the amount of being unloaded. Leeds don't want to change. They have been part of Desert Hills. Desert Color- make a statement at the next board meeting. Consider a boundary change and across the highway go to Dixie. Growth areas. Everything west of CT High. Grade level by current out-of-boundary DLI Students attending Horizon Elementary. Horizon 20% of students in DLI are out of boundary. Bring balance. Try to put on language per cone site. Hurricane in a few years will be all Spanish. The complex came when we moved the students. It is the Chinese dual immersion program. The best direction would not be to touch the DLI. Pointed that way. Bloomington Elementary out of boundary can go to PVHS or Dixie for secondary experience. Something to clean up and be aware of. 7 or 8 students. Hurricane Cone Site continues DLI in Secondary Schools if the numbers are sustainable. Send a letter to the parents saying this is what the board is considering. All of Horizon or other options. Following the new law. Transportation is not provided if we move DLI. Starts DLI and stops. Policy change. Drop out of DLI in the secondary, go back to the boundary? Open school the administrator allows. Affects high school. 10th grade. Dropped the DLI take another class. State code and keep with the school. Tracking the same students. 9th grade take the AP exam. She finished and

then must change schools? 6th grade at WFIS only if you are in the DLI. Proposal 3- Superintendent suggestion. Coral Canyon has Hurricane, Pine View, and Desert Hills. Horizon has Chinese DLI. Waiting list. Siblings, and then the lottery. 1st or 2nd grade to start. Burke, the foundation is off the charts. DLI. An informational mailer needs to be sent out. Support any direction that you would like. Taking all of Horizon would fill all schools too much. Force to stay. Numbers to sustain it. Cone sites build the culture. Pine View Passion. DLI starts in 1st grade. Good day to be a panther. Dixie High take on Desert Color. Desert Color is in DHHS. Think about it and put a statement on the next meeting. Motion to consider a boundary change. It was suggested that it happen this year because it is not an engrained school.

Board Member Dunn presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:16 p.m. Board Member Stirling seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, 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 Cheri Stevenson, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Technology Director Jeremy Cox.

Personnel Items

Property Items

School Safety

Board Member Simmons presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 2:23 p.m. Board Member Stirling seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Board PLC Training – Wade Jensen

Paid Professional Hours for Educators (HB 396/ UCA 53F-7-202) A handout was distributed and will be further discussed at the October 28th meeting.

Fossil Ridge Color, Name, and Mascot Change Proposal – Principal Brandon Yost

Fossil Ridge would like to add the name Pine View Intermediate School to the Fossil Name. The Board asked Principal Yost to come back with prices on what it would cost to make the change. They want to table this discussion until the next meeting on 10/28/2024.

School Color Change Proposal - Desert Hills High School Student Council

DHHS Student Council came and suggested adding purple as one of the official school colors. Gold, Black, and Royal purple as an accent to the school colors. The shade can be compared to Baltimore

Ravens Purple. If approved the school will have a purple week to celebrate and drink Thunder Purple Mountain Dew donated by Pepsi Products.

October 1 Enrollment Summary – Cheri Stevenson and Nate Esplin

USBA PowerUp Master Class – Superintendent Richard Holmes

Update on Legislation for the Upcoming Session – Superintendent Richard Holmes

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Board Committee Discussions

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

Enrollment

Safe Schools

GRAMA Requests

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 Vice President David Stirland called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were Craig Seegmiller, LaRene Cox, Terry Hutchinson, Burke Staheli, and Nannette Simmons. Staff members present were Superintendent Richard Holmes and Business Administrator Brent Bills. Board President Becky Dunn was excused.

OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

Reverence by Member Staheli

Welcome – Board Vice President Stirland

Pledge of Allegiance by Hutchinson

Cheri Stevenson -Assistant Superintendent Secondary Ed. Boundary changes with further discussion and investigation. Proposal to Upcoming Hearing to Proposal. Not moving DLI and Horizon Elementary Nov 4, 6:00 pm. People are committed and thank you for your commitment to education.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

- a. September 9, 2024 Meeting of the Board of Education
- b. September 23, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- c. September 27, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Education

Financial Report

Personnel and LEA Specific License Items

Enterprise Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Springdale Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Tonaquint Intermediate School LAND Trust 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

Sunset Elementary School – Principal Heather Campbell

Principal Heather Campbell shared that Sunset Elementary has high levels of learning for every student, faculty, and staff. One thing that they have done is to have people nominated for Early Literacy Instruction. Students can turn and talk and then communicate with no more hand raising. The State Board of Education, Deputy, Scott Jones will be coming to Sunset Elementary.

Snow Canyon High School – Principal Kyle Campbell

Principal Kyle Campbell shared that Snow Canyon High School. Two thoughts. Pride and work at high levels. 1st Lunch with the Principal to learn 8 students' stories. 2nd Good news Friday. Focus on the positive. Threads of emails from teachers and staff shared messages about what is good. Good things are happening at Snow Canyon High School.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

There were no public comments on Board Action Items.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Policy 1432 Educator Evaluation – Darin Thomas

The policy on evaluation was presented 30 days ago with no additional comments on it.

Board Member Cox presented a motion to approve Policy 1432 Educator Evaluation. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 2200 Student Dress Code – Cheri Stevenson

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve Policy 2200 Student Dress Code. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Surplus Property Declaration – Brent Bills

Two properties: the old JROTC building at Dixie High School parcel SG-820 and the old Preschool parcel SG-295-B-2-A, which Southwest High declared surplus property. The district doesn't need these properties any longer. After they declare their surplus property, they can sell them off.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Surplus Property Declaration as presented. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Fossil Ridge Intermediate Color, Name, and Mascot Change – Principal Brandon Yost

It has been tabled to decide at a future meeting. More information from Principal Yost has been requested to make a future decision.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the Fossil Ridge Intermediate Color, Name, and Mascot change as presented. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that was tabled and will be addressed later.

Desert Hills High Color Change – Principal Justin Keate

Purple was added as an official purple color rather than an accent color. Black and Gold now with purple. The shade will be like Baltimore Ravens and they have a purple week planned to celebrate. Pepsi has donated Purple Thunder Mt. Dew. Overwhelming passed!

Board Member Simmons presented a motion to approve the Desert Hills High Color change as presented. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Holmes reported about the first annual careers and construction event in September with over 400 7th graders attending CT High School in conjunction with the Utah Homes Builder Association. It was very successful.

The state recently released its Title One Rankings and Water Canyon ranked 15th. This is a school that just began 10 years ago and has been incredibly successful.

LEA 70 percent growth increase from the beginning of the year to the end of the year Kindergarten data. 18 out of 22 schools, more than any other district.

The state office released reading scores at or above the benchmark. South Mesa Elementary and Crimson View Elementary Schools were within the top 10 in the State.

Board

No reports were given

Association

Annette Croucher, WCEA President, thanked the Boards for feedback on the evaluation policy. She said it was great to work with Superintendent Holmes and HR Director Darin Thomas.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

No report was given.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

Jodi Tueller- She requested to speak on the need for equality at Pine View Schools. As a PVHS graduate, she has loyalty to the Pine View Cone Site. She has insight because her children have attended Sandstone, FRIS, PVMS, and PVHS. 1st needs fair boundary changes, 2nd Balanced demographics 3rd facilities are unequal, and middle school “looks like a prison” 4th Athletic programs need help.

Jennifer Shaw- Email sent on September 9th. Leeds boundary. She expressed that their voices are not being heard and that PVHS is landlocked. She would like to keep Leeds going to Desert Hills and feels that boundaries lead to the purchase of homes.

Cami Boudwin- Addressing boundary changes to boost enrollment and morale at Pine View Schools. She volunteers at the school and loves the schools and programs. They don't want the programs to fail. She expressed the need for more parents and families to invest in the school to benefit the school. Support Proposal #2. Enrollment numbers need to rise at PVHS and DLI will help. She believes this needed to happen 7 years ago. Please allocate district funds to make it have a different feeling.

Mike Eads- The Chinese Dual Immersion enrollment count is important. Support of the latest proposal

Aaron Smith- Emphasizes for the Chinese Program. He was able to talk to a Board Member this week and it was made clear that it was best for the students of the district. He appreciates that it's for the right reasons and service. The pledge of allegiance standard makes him proud to be a parent in Southern Utah. Allow all schools to come up and develop their own culture. Remodeling will help rebuild the culture. The program will build on its own.

Jill Wittwer- Currently lives in Pine View Boundaries younger children will go to Pine View. The kids are kind and supportive and the teachers are wonderful. She really likes a small town atmosphere. The facilities need updating. Updates are necessary. We love cheering on two schools. Support the boundary change to bring more students to Pine View.

Wendy Bale- Her children in Pine View Boundaries. She expressed an urgent need to update the Pine View Middle School. Not much has changed in the past years for the gym. All schools must receive the same opportunity to thrive.

Teresa Peterson- Employee of Pine View High School. She has watched the numbers dwindle. Keep the numbers balanced. Students lose opportunities and programs. Pine view being equitable in numbers. The best interest of students at heart.

Brett Nichols- He serves as the DLI council member. DLI programs have so many benefits for families and students. Utah is a leader of the DLI moment. Washington County School District is one of the flagships of Utah. Support keeping the DLI program at Crimson Cliffs High School. Take a program to Pine View High School.

Jackie Freeman- Not here

Susan Belnap- Chinese Program and the Proposal to keep Horizon and Crimson Cliffs a DLI Chinese program. A 12-year program committed and united for the children. Support each other and build a unique culture. Keep all the Crimson Families together. The second language is a gift to children. President Russell M. Nelson learned Chinese many years ago.

Board Member Stirling expressed that the Board listened to the input. He said we care and are grateful you are here to speak up for the students and children. We appreciate you.

Board Member Cox presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 p.m. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT