



BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
92 Lodestone Way – Tooele, Utah 84074-8050

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024 BOARD MEETING

The public Session was held in the Ophir Room at the District Office.

Board Members Present:

Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Elizabeth Smith, Melissa Rich, Julia Holt, Scott Bryan, ValaRee Shields
Excused:

Administration Present:

Superintendent Ernst, Brad Hranicky, Cody Reutzel, Dustin Nelson, Terry Christensen, Marissa Lowry, Charles Hansen, Heather Castagno, Brett Valdez, Andy Peterson, Lark Reynolds, Jeffrey Hamm, Ian Silva
Excused: Jackie Gallegos, Angie Gillette, Sarah Jarnagin

President Rich conducted the meeting. Notice of the time, place, and agenda had been given to each governing body member more than two days before the meeting. The plan was published on the Utah Public Access Website and Transcript-Bulletin. Supportive documentation for this meeting can be reviewed at: <https://www.boarddocs.com/ut/tooelesd/Board.nsf/Public>.

1. Work Session (A work session is intended to provide opportunities for board members to study issues in-depth, gather and analyze information, and clarify situations and potential solutions. While open to the public, these sessions are more informal than the regular board meeting.)

1.1 Welcome and Rollcall

President Rich called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm in the Ophir Training Room at the District Office.

1.2 VCBO Master Plan

Dave Cox from VCBO Architecture along with Whitney Ward, Principal Planner, Brian Peterson, Associate Principal and Cassandra Tavolarella, Designer specializing in facilities assessment presented the district's Master Plan, focusing on how projected growth will impact school infrastructure needs. The plan emphasized the importance of strategic planning to manage future enrollment and maintain existing facilities. VCBO's role was to assess current conditions and provide a long-term roadmap, not to oversee construction. The plan outlines a 5-, 10-, and 15-year timeline for implementation, ensuring the district remains proactive in meeting educational demands.

VCBO's assessment included site visits to all district facilities, evaluating them against industry standards in terms of structural integrity, code compliance, and maintenance needs. Key recommendations included replacing West Elementary and Stansbury Park Elementary due to aging infrastructure and safety concerns. While West Elementary can undergo an occupied rebuild, SPES would require relocating students during construction due to site limitations. Both schools were identified as priorities for on-site replacement.

The presentation also highlighted long-term concerns with Tooele and Grantsville Junior High Schools. Structural issues, including settlement cracks and accessibility challenges, were noted, with recommendations for renovation or eventual replacement. The Grantsville Junior High site may also be repurposed as an elementary school to meet future growth. Tooele High School's Industrial Arts building was deemed beyond repair and needs immediate demolition, while Wendover High School was identified as the district's top replacement priority due to significant structural limitations.

Looking ahead, growth projections show the need for up to nine new elementary schools to accommodate over 8,000 housing units planned for Grantsville and additional developments in Erda, Stansbury, and Lakepoint. Junior high schools are expected to exceed capacity within the next 15 years, and options include renovating existing schools or relocating them to larger sites.

The board discussed future renovation needs at Overlake, Willow, and Stansbury High School, focusing on adding collaborative learning spaces and classroom expansions. A potential new site for Grantsville High School was also explored, with the current high school potentially being repurposed as a junior high.

Board members expressed appreciation for the thorough analysis. Member Syphus asked for clarification on the SPES recommendation, and VCBO explained that structural concerns made replacement more practical than renovation. Member Gowans inquired about the feasibility of occupied rebuilds, which VCBO confirmed would be possible at West Elementary but not at SPES due to space constraints.

The presentation ended with President Rich thanking the team and emphasizing the value of the Master Plan as a "living document" to guide future decisions. The board acknowledged the importance of continuing discussions on certain aspects of the plan, some of which may require executive sessions due to legal considerations. The board looks forward to further conversations with VCBO to finalize next steps.

Adjourn (10 pm Curfew)

2.1 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

MOTION: Adjourn

Motion by Robert Gowans, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Julia Holt, Melissa Rich, Emily Syphus, Elizabeth Smith, ValaRee Shields

Not present to vote: Scott Bryan, left at 7:00 pm