

MINUTES
Board Regular Meeting
Iron County School District
Tuesday, October 22, 2024
The meeting was held at Canyon View High School
166 West 1925 North, Cedar City, Utah

Members present

Ben Johnson, Dave Staheli, Jeff Corry, Tiffiney Christiansen, Megen Ralphs, Stephanie Hill, Michelle Tullis
Also in attendance: Superintendent Lance Hatch, Business Administrator Todd Hess, Kevin Garrett, Roy Mathews, Steve Burton, Janette Stubbs, and Monica Torres

MEETING OPENING

President Ben Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mike Hudson offered a prayer. Denny Heaton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- Approval of Minutes of the September 17, 2024 Work Meeting and the September 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- Audit and Approval of Warrants
- Motion to approve the items of the Consent Agenda.
- Employment of Personnel
- LEA Specific License Approval
- Home School/Exemption from School Attendance
- Recommendation for Release of Students from School (JEG-R)

Mr. Staheli made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Christiansen seconded the motion and the board members passed it unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Recognitions

The Board recognized the Cedar High School Unified Soccer Team. They won the State Championship Coach Jon Fontano highlighted the team and their success. The team recently won a local tournament in Cedar City, which qualified them to compete at the state level. Last Tuesday, they played at Real Stadium in Sandy, where they defeated Cypress High School with a score of 4-0. Unified sports pairs students with special needs with general education students, allowing them to compete together as a team. The Board congratulated them on their achievement.

Public Comment

Mary Saylor, teacher at Launch High School, spoke about the proposed district bond. An Alternative Programs building that would house Launch High School is one of the proposed bond projects. She explained their mission at Launch is to bridge the gaps in student understanding and provide authentic project-based learning experiences. The school has reached notable achievements, but faces significant space and resource challenges. Some of the challenges include: lack of adequate classrooms, lab facilities, and basic amenities like adult bathrooms. She urged the community to vote in favor of the bond.

Tyrel Eddy spoke about the 2025 Board schedule that is on the agenda for approval. He shared insights from ChatGPT regarding the schedule's advantages and disadvantages. He ultimately expressed a preference for the schedule to remain the same as the 2024 schedule.

Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Todd Hess, reviewed the monthly budget report. Overall, the spending is in line with the budget expectations across various categories. There were no further questions from the Board. looks good and right where we should be in each of the categories.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hatch introduced student body officers from Canyon View High School to highlight their school. Addy Young, the student body president, shared their theme, "Strengthen Others and Rise". She emphasized the importance of teamwork and soaring together in all aspects of the school. Senior class president Makaeli Adams spoke about the senior class present that compliments the previous year's, a sign with a falcon and school years at the front of the school. This year, Student Body Service Representative Derek Belnap is leading a Christmas Socking Project, where students assemble and distribute stockings to homeless children in the district through partnerships with local organizations. Additionally, they fulfill anonymous Christmas "wishes" for students in need. Historian Delaney Richards manages the school blog and a newspaper section, News from the Nest," dedicated to highlighting school events, sports, and achievements. She reviewed recent accomplishments including the theater program's top three finishes at a Shakespeare competition and the school's fall sports teams performing strongly, with volleyball remaining undefeated and qualifying for state playoffs. Several athletes are recognized for both academic and athletic excellence, with six students achieving a 4.0 GPA and earning Academic All-State honors. The students expressed gratitude for the school's new building addition and the bond that funded it, noting the positive impact it will have on current and future students.

Principal Denny Heaton next highlighted the exceptional students and supportive adults at Canyon View High School, including staff, custodians, librarians, teachers, and paraprofessionals. He spoke about the school's inclusive environment and robust

support systems for all students, whether they need extra help, are high-achieving, or fall somewhere in between. Key programs at the school include, Falcon Academy for ninth and tenth graders, a unique 5x5 schedule,, and a flex period allowing students to manage their workloads more effectively. Canyon View offers a range of academic options, such as 47 AP and concurrent enrollment courses and support programs including a college application week, Falcon Pantry, and career and technical training. They also maintain a 1:1 Chromebook ratio, supporting technology access. Additionally, they use bilateral tap devices to help students manage anxiety and provide varied resources for academic and emotional support. The school's new nine-classroom addition, weight room, and collaboration spaces will facilitate better resource allocation, including dedicated spaces for dual immersion Chinese and the Falcon Academy. This expansion will support the growing student body and address program needs.

Board Member Report

Mr. Corry reported on recent visits to district schools. At Cedar Middle School, he observed the new music facilities that allow for the orchestra and bands to practice comfortably. He praised the beautiful new addition to the school. He also visited Escalante Valley Elementary for Back to School Night and commended the strong academic environment they have there. In September he visited North Elementary and highlighted their structured approach to reading and math support through tiered groups. He also visited Canyon View High School where he visited with administrators and student government leaders. He spoke of their food pantry initiative providing weekend bags of essentials. Mr. Corry also praised the custodians for the way they keep the school clean and tidy.

Vice-President Tullis also toured the new Cedar Middle School addition and attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the band area. In her interaction with the students, she noted they all seemed very grateful and appreciative of the addition to the school. She visited North Elementary and praised student leaders there. In October she visited Escalante Valley Elementary and spoke of a second grade class of 12 students she was able to observe and noted their eagerness to interact. Vice-President Tullis also attended the Utah School Board Association meeting and noted it was a valuable experience.

Superintendent Evaluation

President Johnson led a discussion on the Superintendent Evaluation process. He asked for feedback on whether or not the Board would want to change anything, or if there are any concerns. The online form will be open for one month with a due date before the next board meeting. Mrs. Christiansen clarified that the survey will collect feedback confidentially. The responses will be broken out by different groups (teachers, administrators, etc.). Superintendent Hatch pointed out that even though the survey results are not public, they could potentially be subject to a records request. Board members agreed with the survey format and to proceed with the current evaluation method and will review the feedback at the next meeting.

Update on Canyon View High Addition and Remodel Project

Business Administrator Todd Hess updated the Board on the Canyon View High School project. This project, currently in the planning stages, is made possible by the closing on lease revenue bonds. The project is currently in the planning stage. Hunter Shaheen is working on the request for proposal (RFP) for the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) on the project and we should have a contract to approve in the November meeting. Mr. Hess presented a rendering of what the addition will look like inside and out. The expansion will nearly triple the weight room size, add a dedicated wrestling space with cubbies to maintain hygiene, and provide a new dance lab. It will also include nine new classrooms with additional breakout rooms for small group work, designed with glass walls for visibility, similar to college study rooms. He also confirmed that the expansion does not affect parking. The Board praised the design and planning efforts and expressed their excitement for the project.

ACTION ITEMS

Designation of Schools for Open and Closed Enrollment

Mr. Staheli made a motion to approve the designation of schools that are open or closed to out-of-boundary enrollment. Mrs. Tullis seconded the motion and the board members passed it unanimously.

Positive Behavior Plans

Mrs. Ralphs made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Positive Behavior Plans. Mr. Corry seconded the motion and the board members passed it unanimously.

Comprehensive Guidance Plans

Vice-President Tullis made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Comprehensive Guidance Plans. Mrs. Christiansen seconded the motion and the board members passed it unanimously.

Work-Based Learning Program

Mr. Corry made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Work-Based Learning Program. Mr. Staheli seconded the motion and the board members passed it unanimously.

2025-2026 School Calendar

Mrs. Christiansen made a motion to approve the 2025-26 School Calendar. Mrs. Hill seconded the motion. Voting aye were President Johnson, Vice-President Tullis, Mr. Staheli, Mrs. Christiansen, Mrs. Ralphs, and Mrs. Hill. Voting nay was Mr. Corry. The motion passed.

2025 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Staheli voiced his concern with holding only one meeting per month. He noted that one monthly meeting could limit public engagement, as issues may be delayed by 30 days. He pointed out a weekly gap between meetings has been effective, providing sufficient time for public outreach without long delays. President Johnson indicated the public would have more engagement with one meeting a month as they would have a full month to think about the agenda items that would be voted on.

Mr. Staheli made a motion to table this agenda item. Mr. Corry seconded the motion. President Johnson asked for further discussion, if any. The Board continued to discuss the pros and cons of holding one meeting per month compared to two meetings a week apart. **Mr. Staheli amended his motion to leave the meeting schedule in the same format it is currently for 2025. Mr. Corry seconded the motion.** President Johnson again asked if there was further discussion. President

Johnson pointed out the Board cannot make a motion on a schedule they do not have. **Mr. Staheli again amended his motion to table the agenda item and discuss it further in the next work meeting. Mr. Corry seconded the motion. Mrs. Ralphs called for a division of the house roll call.**

Tiffiney Christiansen - nay

Megen Ralphs - aye

Stephanie Hill - aye

Ben Johnson - nay

Michelle Tullis - nay

Dave Staheli - aye

Jeff Corry - aye

The motion passed with a four-three vote in favor of tabling the motion.

Policy 614a Employee Acceptable Use of Personal Electronic Devices

The Board reviewed and dicussed Policy 614a Employee Acceptable Use of Personal Electronic Devices as a first reading.

Mid-Year Stipend

Vice-President Tullis made a motion to approve the 2024 mid-year stipend as discussed in last week's closed session. Mr. Corry seconded the motion. Mrs. Christiansen, Mrs. Ralphs, Mrs.Hill, Vice-President Tullis, Mr. Corry, and Mr. Staheli voted aye. President Johnson abstained. The motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board did not enter into a closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:18 p.m. President Johnson adjourned the meeting.