

November 19, 2024 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meeting (Tuesday, November 19, 2024)

Generated by Kirsta Albert on Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Members present

Board President, Tyler Bluth
Board Vice President, Kim Dickerson
Board Member, Marianne B. Allen
Board Member, Tom Hansen
Board Member, Cory Holmes

Superintendent, Paul Sweat
Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

A. Study Session - 5:00 p.m.**Discussion, Information: 1. Guest Presenter: Wasatch Community Foundation**

Kathy Carr of the Wasatch Community Foundation emphasized the foundation's commitment to supporting education and the community through partnerships with the Wasatch School District. She highlighted the foundation's mission to enhance well-being through education, health, and other pillars, contributing \$65,000 to initiatives like an all-accessible minivan and food insecurity programs. The foundation fosters engagement through hands-on involvement, collaborations, and inspiring service-oriented youth. Partnerships, like those with Northland Clothing, further enable scholarships and regional support, showcasing the foundation's dedication to improving students' and families' lives in Wasatch County. She also emphasized the importance of meeting students' basic needs, like food and safety, to enable learning, referencing Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. She introduced the Women Rising scholarship fund, aimed at helping women in Wasatch County, particularly district employees, complete their bachelor's degrees. Kathy also highlighted the foundation's community engagement efforts, including a Thanksgiving dinner, a fleece blanket project for senior citizens, and the assembly of Christmas food bags for 1,800 families. She encouraged community involvement and collaboration to support these initiatives, emphasizing the growing needs of the district as the community expands. WHS teacher **Char Dawson**, who oversees the Food Pantry at West Campus also presented, highlighting the support of the Wasatch Community Foundation to address student food insecurity. Programs include a community-supported food pantry, a breakfast program serving 25 students daily, and a Milk Kit Program that discreetly provides meal kits. The Crockpot Club teaches self-sufficiency with slow-cooker recipes and prizes for participation. These efforts focus on reducing stigma, fostering community support, and promoting student independence. **Lindsay Jepperson** of the Transition College highlighted the impactful use of Community Foundation grants to support 18-22-year-olds with disabilities and other students facing challenges. Programs funded by the grants include snack and meal support, community-based activities like dances and haircuts, and cooking classes to promote life skills. Additionally, the grant helps young parents with supplies such as diapers and formula and provides support for students facing significant life challenges, such as working to support ill family members. These initiatives aim to reduce barriers, promote independence, and foster community engagement among students.

Discussion, Information: 2. 2025-2026 Calendar Discussion - Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Education

Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Education, presented the results of surveys regarding the 2025-26 academic calendar. Based on feedback from over 600 parents and 200 teachers, draft three was favored, with key changes including a later start date and a shortened fall break to one week. Teachers appreciated maintaining a two-week winter break. Discher acknowledged the challenges of balancing feedback, especially regarding the length of the fall break, but noted that a compromise was necessary. Discussions also focused on the importance of professional development (PD) days, with an emphasis on ensuring teachers attend these crucial sessions. The calendar changes aim to improve work-life balance for both teachers and families, with further evaluations of its effectiveness to be conducted in the future.

Round Table Discussion

Superintendent Sweat informed the Board of Education that the Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce named Wasatch County School District the Business of the Month for November. The recognition highlights the district's role as the community's largest employer. The award was presented by Chamber Director Mr. Kocher and Jessica Turner, with plans for a follow-up article and potential participation in the Main Street banner program. Superintendent Sweat thanked the Board for their leadership, noting the district's status as a top-performing institution in the state and growing national recognition.

B. Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 6:35

1. Pledge of Allegiance let by Board Vice President Kimberly Dickerson

2. Board Member Roll Call

Members present

Board President, Tyler Bluth

Board Vice President, Kim Dickerson

Board Member, Marianne B. Allen

Board Member, Tom Hansen

Board Member, Cory Holmes

Superintendent, Paul Sweat

Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

C. Information/Celebrations

Discussion, Information: 1. Wasatch High School Marching Band State Champs

*Wasatch High School **Principal Justin Kelly** presented the 2024 State Champion WHS Marching Band, praising them for their relentless hard work and dedication, highlighting their perseverance in overcoming setbacks, practicing late into the evening, and ultimately triumphing at the state competition against tough rivals. **Wasatch Bands Director John Ryszka** reflected on the program's many firsts and the incredible dedication of students, staff, and parents, highlighting their disciplined teamwork, logistical precision in transporting equipment, and standout performances at competitions. The band earned top awards in music, visual performance, and color guard for their show A Sky Full of Stars, which emphasized themes of direction, motivation, and discipline, embodying the highest form of self-love through hard work and commitment.*

Nearly 30 students and parents addressed the Board, sharing heartfelt stories about how Marching Band has provided them with a sense of belonging and community. Video of Marching Band Competition and Award - https://youtu.be/_bj-GeixC9E

D. Community Comment

Discussion, Information: 1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

There were no community comments.

E. Consent Items

Action (Consent): 1. Consideration of Consent Items

Consideration and Approval of Consent Items E 2. - E8.

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. School Board Meeting Minutes - October 29, 2024

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action (Consent): 3. Financials

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action (Consent): 4. School Choice Forms

Resolution: Approval of School Choice applications

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action (Consent): 5. Homeschool Affidavits

Resolution: Approval of Home School Affidavits

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action (Consent): 6. Employee New Hires

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action (Consent): 7. Employee Separations

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action (Consent): 8. Staff or Student Travel

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

F. Action Items

Action: 1. Consideration to Approve the Reconstruction of the Crook Cabin School Building - Superintendent Sweat

Alice Hicken shared a proposal to preserve a historic cabin with deep ties to Heber Valley's history. The cabin, originally built by her great-grandfather John Crook, served as shelter for the first settlers during their first winter in the valley. It was later moved to various locations, including the Homestead, before being dismantled this summer. Alice and her family rescued the logs, now stored on her son's property, with plans to rebuild the cabin. She proposed reconstructing the cabin on a site near the Murdoch Monument, where the peace treaty with Indigenous tribes was signed, and next to the historic North School built with red sandstone from John Crook's quarry. Alice emphasized that placing the cabin in this location would honor the valley's early settlers and serve as an educational tool for the community. Ron Carslile also voiced support, highlighting the cabin's historical significance and potential as a valuable preservation project. Alice stressed the urgency of rebuilding the cabin to prevent deterioration of the logs.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Tom Hansen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 2. Consideration to Approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar - Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Education

Stephanie Discher presented the proposed 2025-26 school calendar to the Board of Education, highlighting the collaborative and thorough process behind its creation. She explained that multiple drafts (five in total) were developed, with feedback gathered from staff and parents. After reviewing this input, Draft 3 emerged as the most balanced option, addressing key concerns such as the inclusion of a fall break.

While recognizing that not everyone would be fully satisfied, Stephanie emphasized that Draft 3 represents a compromise that prioritizes both student and teacher success. She recommended its approval, and the board members expressed agreement, acknowledging the extensive effort put into crafting the calendar.

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 3. Consideration to Approve Apple Lease - Rob Nield, Technology Manager

Rob Nield presented a proposal to the Board of Education to approve a lease agreement with Apple totaling \$268,506. The lease would fund the purchase of new Mac products, including iPads for the high school, iMacs and Mac Minis for both high school and middle school labs, and additional Macs for teachers. This technology investment is intended to enhance educational resources and support both students and staff.

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 4. Consideration to Approve the Sale of Real Property - Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations

Shawn Kelly presented a proposal to the Board of Education regarding the sale of a 0.96-acre parcel of land near the high school to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The property, located behind the school facility near the tennis courts, is an improved lot. The proposed selling price is \$575,000. Shawn requested the board's approval for the sale, emphasizing that the location and transaction would be beneficial for all parties involved.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

G. Board Report

Information: 1. USBA New Board Member Institute

Board Member Allen announced that the USBA New Board Member Institute will be held on December 7 at the Provo Marriott, with the annual conference scheduled for January 9–11 in Salt Lake City, and noted the upcoming legislative session starting January 21. Board Members express appreciation for Marianne's contributions, particularly at the state level.

H. Superintendent Report

Information: 1. Updates/Information

I. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

J. Executive Session

Action: 1. Section 52-4-5 of the Open Meetings Act identifies the topics that may be discussed in a closed meeting.

Discussion to purchase, exchange or lease of real property; character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; and or collective bargaining.