

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2025

Board Meeting

The Murray City School Board met in a regular board meeting on January 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Jaren Cooper, Kelly Taoalii, Kami Anderson, Elizabeth Payne, Jill Weight, Jennifer Covington, Superintendent, and Richard Reese, Business Administrator. The meeting was held at the District office, located at 5102 South Commerce Drive, Murray, UT.

Swearing-In of New Board Members

Nikila Venugopal, Salt Lake County Deputy Clerk, swore in recently re-elected board members Kelly Taoalii and Jaren Cooper.

Pledge of Allegiance

The audience was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by students of Riverview Junior High School.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2024, claims, financial reports, and SP 962 Email and Mass Communications Policy – 2rd Reading.

Elizabeth Payne made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Kelly Taoalii seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Delegations

PTA – Lisa Sheffield, PTA President at Riverview Junior High School, said that the PTA has been working to support teachers, involve students in PTA meetings, and support the Riverview Raptors Program.

MEA – Crystal Norman, Board Member, said that MEA is encouraging its members to be active in the legislative process. She also said that the Utah Education Association has upcoming elections for the positions of President and Vice-President. Ms. Norman said that teachers appreciate the two extra teacher work days.

MAA – No comment.

MESPA – No comment.

Foundation – Doug Perry, Director, said that the Pinnacle Award nominations are due on January 31, 2025 and that the gala is scheduled for March 20, 2025. A pickleball tournament is being organized to benefit the Unified Sports Program. He said that support for the “Angel Tree” fundraiser was phenomenal. Mr. Perry said that applications for the Laura Baker grant will soon be available.

Patron Statements – Nate Hildebrand, a representative for the local youth lacrosse program, urged the Board to support the sanctioning of lacrosse as a UHSAA sport.

Robert Cordova, a concerned parent of three children with a SPED student at Longview Elementary school, shared his concerns with “multiple instances of personnel issues”. He advocated for clear guidelines, policies, and direction. Specifically, he recommended that the District establish clear policies, address unique needs, and have administrative accountability.

Report of the Board

Kami Anderson – Ms. Anderson thanked the outgoing Board leadership for the fabulous jobs they did. She was also interested in the concept of student board members.

Kelly Taeoalii– Ms. Taeoalii said that the Angel Tree fundraiser had amazing participation. She strongly supports efforts to support the Unified Sports program and the MEF Pickleball tournament fundraiser. She enjoyed the USBA Conference and was interested in the student board leader concept and in the turnaround leadership presentation.

Jill Weight – Ms. Weight said that she is grateful for the reelection of Jaren Cooper and Kelly Taeoalii. She enjoyed the USBA conference and learned a lot regarding her duties as a board member. Ms. Weight also thanked Doug Perry for his work with the Education Foundation.

Elizabeth Payne – Ms. Payne congratulated Kelly Taeoalii and Jaren Cooper for their recent election success. Her favorite session at the recent USBA conference involved having student school board leaders.

Jaren Cooper – Mr. Cooper said that he enjoyed the USBA session on Special Education. He serves on the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Board and said that there has been a recent change in leadership. He highlighted the fact that the Parks and Recreation Board funded free passes for 70,000 students. He suggested that perhaps the Murray City Parks and Recreation Board could offer the same benefit to students in Murray City School District.

Election of Board President and Vice President

Elizabeth Payne made a motion to nominate Kelly Taeoalii as Board President. Jill Weight seconded the motion that was approved with a 5-0 vote. Elizabeth Payne then made a motion to nominate Jill Weight as Board Vice President. Kelly Taeoalii seconded the motion that was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Board Assignments

The Board discussed and agreed to the following assignments:

Murray Education Foundation – Jaren Cooper
Region 19 PTA – Jill Weight
Finance Audit Committee – Kelly Taeoalii, Kami Anderson
Salt Lake County Parks and Rec – Jaren Cooper
Technology Committee – Elizabeth Payne
Safety Committee – Kelly Taeoalii
Facility Planning Committee – Jaren Cooper
MCSD Delegate Assembly – Elizabeth Payne
MCSD Delegate Assembly (Alternate) – Jill Weight

Report of the Staff

MCSD 2025 CoSN Award Recipient

Scott Wihongi, Assistant Superintendent, informed the Board that the Consortium for School Networking, CoSN, will be awarding the annual CoSN award to Murray City School District on April 1, 2025 at their annual conference in Seattle Washington. Jason Eyre, Technology Director, said that this award is the biggest award in the Education Technology Industry. Mr. Eyre and Jennifer Covington, Superintendent, will accept the award on behalf of the district.

Superintendent

TSSA Framework – Jennifer Covington, Superintendent, provided the annual required Teacher Student Success Account, TSSA, training to the Board. She also presented the 2025-26 TSSA plans for approval. Kami Anderson made a motion to approve the 2025-26 plans. Elizabeth Payne seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Board of Education Conflict of Interest Disclosure – Superintendent Covington informed the Board that each of them was now required to complete a Conflict of Interest disclosure by January 31, 2025.

The Board was polled at 6:01 p.m. and was unanimous in holding a closed session for personnel, property and legal issues.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.


Jaren Cooper – Board President

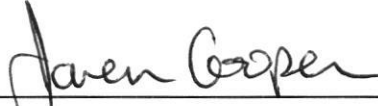

Business Administrator – Richard Reese

STATEMENT AFFIRMING THE PURPOSE OF A CLOSED MEETING

I, Jaren Cooper, certify that I am the member of the Board of Education of the Murray City School District who presided at the closed meeting of the board held on January 16, 2025. I hereby affirm, pursuant to Utah Code § 52-4-206(6), that the sole purpose of holding this closed meeting was to discuss personnel, property, and legal issues.

I certify under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 13, 2025



Jaren Cooper, Board President