



AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah 84770
July 14, 2025
4:00 p.m.

Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Vice President LaRene Cox, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Ron Wade, Board Member Heidi Gunn, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Director of Teaching & Learning Brian Stevenson.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Member Seegmiller.

A. DISTRICT #7 INTERIM SCHOOL BOARD APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Greg Brooks introduced himself to the Board and shared some of his work experience. He is from St. George and attended Dixie High. He is interested in serving on the board from a past experience that involved the School District. He wants to be more involved and give back to the community. He has served on the Dixie High School Community Council. He was planning to run for the board position in 2026. He feels he has a lot to give from a different perspective. He would like to support the students and community. He feels public schools are great. The focus needs to be on the students so that they are provided what they need for a great education. He feels the board need to be unified and give that message to the community. As an independent board member working on the board, he feels it is important to listen and understand all board members and to learn from them. He feels it is good to have differing opinions, but the board members must support whatever decision is made. He would like to see WCSD be a pipeline to bring jobs and opportunities in our communities. Greg Brooks feels there is a big divide between what some parents want and what is best for the majority of the students. He feels it is important to involve the parents and community members in the decisions. He realizes that you can never make everyone happy, but we have to do what is best for students. Greg Brooks shared an example where he had an issue with a decision made and how he communicated with both sides of the issue. He feels that the pantries in the schools are making a big difference.

Craig Hammer introduced himself to the Board and shared some of his experience in WCSD. He is interested in serving on the board with his past experience. We need people who are champions of public education and care about kids. He was the first college graduate in his family. He had a coach and teacher who helped him. He has a passion for what he does and feels good people are needed in the position. He said teachers and students need the support. He feels his background and career have created the love he has for education. Education changes lives. He feels we need people on the Board who will stand up for kids. He feels this is an opportunity to give back. He feels the board has to be united. When a decision is made the Board has to be united. The Board has to be a team. He mentioned he is still serving on the UHSAA Board. He feels that this Board has always been united. Craig Hammer said without the growth there is time to catch up. He feels we need to keep moving in the direction of staff development. We are in the business of saving kids and want them to stay and be in school. He feels getting ahead of growth and managing kids as it relates to social media is important. He feels parents also need to step up. He feels that we don't toot our own horn enough and need to do better at

that. He said we need to toot the horn about academics. He also feels we need to share what we have done financially as a District.

Laura Hesson introduced herself to the Board and said she served on the Board for 18 years previously. She knows how the board works. She loves public education. She feels the Board does need to be better at shouting it from the rooftops. She suggested that maybe a member of the Board could attend the city meetings and share a good news moment. A student council member could also go and share to give them experience. She shared her experience with PTA and being involved with her kids and helping other kids. She said the one thing you can give others is education. She feels that parent involvement is important. Many parents are busy and don't know what to do. She feels that it might help to send information out to the community to help make a connection. Public Education helps to level the playing field. Everyone can attend public education. It helps kids become a better person with the diversity. It is vital that we have public education, and it does well. She said although the board members all have individual voices, the best decisions are made collectively. Being able to think outside the box in a safe space is important. Once the decision is made, the biggest thing is present that unified front. Laura Hesson said PLC is so critical and is the way teachers help students. The group helps the students to get it, know it, and do it. PLCs help the kids who don't know it and those who already know it. Elementary schools are where the foundation happens. She feels we need the brightest and best people in kindergarten with the resources they need. She also feels intermediate school can make or break a student. Those students need help from administration and teachers to build self-confidence.

Board Member Cox presented a motion to go into a closed session at 4:58 p.m. Board Member Wade seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Vice President LaRene Cox, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Ron Wade, and Board Member Heidi Gunn

CLOSED SESSION

Personnel Items

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 6:11 p.m. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Selection of District #7 Interim School Board Member

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to select Craig Hammer for the District #7 Interim School Board Member. Board Member Gunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board Member Cox presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. Board Member Wade seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT