



**AGENDA**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Washington County School District**  
**121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah**  
**November 17, 2025**  
**4:30 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 HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Susan Harrah, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, Professional Learning Director Brian Stevenson, and Student Services Director Brad Christensen.*

*Present from Santa Clara City: Mayor Elect Jarett Waite, Councilman Mark Hendrickson, Councilwoman Janene Burton, Councilman Ben Shakespeare, City Manager Brock Jacobsen.*

*Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer*

**Reverence by Member Seegmiller.**

**WORK SESSION**

**Municipality Visit**

David Stirland welcomed Santa Clara City officials and expressed appreciation for the relationship with the city. Jarett Waite shared growth in the city and mentioned that another townhome project was just approved behind Harmons which should all be for individual families. There are also some single-family homes that are part of that project that will be on small lots. He also mentioned there are also rentals around that area. He mentioned the Pioneer Pointe project on the Pioneer Parkway. David Stirland asked about the kind of families they see coming in as the schools in the area have seen decreasing numbers. Brent Bills said we are seeing about a 1% loss in students in brick-and-mortar schools. It is coming in lower with a lower number of kindergarten students. Mark Hendrickson said the area around Arrowhead is pretty much done growing, but there are areas with development that should start seeing some transitional growth. Ben Shakespeare said some of the developments are retirement communities outside the community. The development is coming and there is potential to swing and bring in younger families buying some of the older existing homes with the price of new homes. Mark Hendrickson said the council is looking at affordability housing. It is on the table right now and would be a big pivot for them. Superintendent Richard Holmes said with less students there are lower FTEs. He mentioned the concern the District is having is seeing kindergarten enrollment at 1700-1800 students and the senior class is about 2800 students. The growth seems to be in the middle and high school grades. He shared enrollment for some of the elementary schools near Santa Clara. Brock Jacobsen said it is hard to predict who will come for the developments. Black Desert could have 1400 units but the developers have warned about slowing there. Jarett Waite said that Santa Clara is investing in their parks and they have family activities to help encourage families to come and are doing their best to make property more affordable. Ben Shakespeare mentioned impact fees and costs of building a new home. The existing homes already have those fees paid and are on large pieces of property and he feels they need to find ways to incent families to come. He also suggested that the District needs to help educate students on the value of money and home ownership, what that looks like, and how they need to save for a downpayment. He feels that is the single best investment we can make and we need to teach and educate everywhere possible about that value. Mark Hendrickson said we have great parks and phenomenal school. He mentioned they have been talking about grant programs. He feels that they also need to encourage local people to not just keep their home to rent instead of selling the

home. Ben Shakespeare said they have some great trails and have a great quality of life, but he is concerned Washington County is pushing families out with pricing. Mark Hendrickson mentioned a builder who has stopped building in Washington County and is now building in Iron County as the property is cheaper and the impact fees are less. Santa Clara is in a good spot as they have a lot of aging homes that are ready for families. They have restaurants and shopping that they never had before. Jarett Waite shared that he appreciates the water partnership at Santa Clara Elementary. Ben Shakespeare suggested that the schools do some desertscapes and not just put in rocks when taking turf out. He would like them to follow what the conservancy district is doing. Superintendent Richard Holmes mentioned that the District is pulling out the section of lava rock and will be putting it into parking. Janene Burton also expressed appreciation for the youth council students who are doing great services in our community. She loves having them involved. Steven Duham recognized Santa Clara City as one of the cities that has the most partnerships with the WCSD Foundation. Jarett Waite mentioned the new mural done by the Snow Canyon High Art Club in the Lava Flow tunnel under Pioneer Parkway.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 3:02 p.m. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

*Present: 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 HR Director Darin Thomas, Executive Director Susan Harrah, Executive Director Rusty Taylor, Executive Director Wade Jensen, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, Professional Learning Director Brian Stevenson, Student Services Director Brad Christensen, Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer, and District Counsel Terry Hutchinson*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **Property and Personnel Items**

Property, legal, and personnel items.

**Board Member Staheli presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 3:38 p.m. Board Member Gunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

## **FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING**

### **PLC Data and Learning Evidence Report – Brian Stevenson**

Brian Stevenson shared how our students are doing with growth. The growth data has recently come out and is a pretty level playing field when you compare school-to-school and how it is calculated. He shared the growth scores for math, science, and language arts compared to the state. He identified 8-10 different school districts that are similar to Washington County School District to show how we compare as far as how we move students comparatively within the state. The growth percentage is calculated using the Student Growth Percentile (SGP) and the Median Growth Percentile (MGP). Students take an assessment in the different subjects at the beginning of the year and receive a score. All the scores throughout the state are identified and students receiving the same scale score are put in a comparison group. The next year as they take their assessment and receive a scale score and are ranked from highest to lowest in the comparison group for the SGP. Taking the SGP into larger groups can identify the MGP. Looking at the MGP of a class can help to see the impact that teacher is having on their students. Brian Stevenson said that a 40 SGP is considered a year's worth of growth. Anything below that is insufficient. Growth will reflect whether we are having an impact on them. Burke Staheli said growth is a fair comparison. Brian Stevenson shared the District growth compared to other districts in the state. The state will always be at 50 as they take every student in the state and the median will always be that middle. The data shows for the past few years that even though we did not start on top for growth we have kept an upward movement year over year. We are moving kids more. Improving our MGP and helping our teams that are below 40 has been a focus for our district. We need to help our classes get at least a years plus growth. In 2018 the District started tracking teams that were below the 40 MGP. Over time, as they have focused on those teams to provided help and support the MGP has increased. We have gotten better over the years of

identifying things and targeting things to help teams improve. The Professional Learning Team has the belief that if the student fails or if the school fails it is the failure of all they will relook at what is needed to add additional support layers for them. They are fine-tuned with the District mission and he feels they are doing an amazing job comparatively. Brian Stevenson reported that not only are we reducing the number of teams below 40 but we are also increasing the number of teams with 50 or higher. He gave a shout out to the Board for keeping school open during COVID. We had so much more growth that year and have continued the trend upward than other schools who did online learning. Brian Stevenson also shared the Acadience scores for reading and math that run the same format. The District Language Arts is at 78.7% at the end of the year compared to the state at 70 and we are above compared to other districts in the state. We are at 73% with math and show impressive growth there. Ron Wade asked if similar structure and support exist for charter school teachers. Burke Staheli shared the watch dog system of our District and schools that is not part of the charter school structure. Cheri Stevenson mentioned that oftentimes charter schools will reach out to us to try and get professional learning resources. David Stirland mentioned that we take every student, even the low performers, and are getting these student growth rates.

## **WORK SESSION**

### **Insurance Renewal Timeline – Tammara Robinson**

Tammara Robinson presented the insurance timeline for renewal. The Board will be asked to approve the renewal timeline in the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Insurance Committee will get the renewals with GBS in January and would like to present the recommendations during the first meeting in February and get approval in the second February meeting or the March meeting to have everything ready for open enrollment to begin in April. She said the latest utilization report came in at 95% for the last year on medical which is good. We always want to be below 100% so that was good especially with inflation and the cost for medical equipment and procedures. Brent Bills said we were higher the year before and did have an increase. We may not have to do another increase if we continue the current trend. The summer months are worse than others so we made it through those months. Craig Seegmiller asked about families with a child on the family plan that is turning 26 in the middle of the year. Tammara Robinson said it does automatically adjust in the following month.

### **Policy 3700 Technology Acceptable Use Policy – Federal E-Rate Requirement – Jeremy Cox**

Jeremy Cox said that Policy 3700 Acceptable Use Policy governs all of the devices used in the schools. The policy has to be reviewed at least every three years by the Board, but the industry standard suggests every two years is best. The policy basically identifies a couple of key pieces. One is that as we give access to technology there is no expectation of privacy. When individuals are using the technology, there are responsibilities of the user and disciplinary actions if used inappropriately. There are requirements that they have to follow in the treatment and care of devices and they must follow digital citizenship practices. The responsibilities of the District are to provide filtering on our network and acknowledge that the filtering is not enough. We have to have supervision when kids are using our equipment. When students take the devices home, parents have to supervise in our place. Lastly, that we have a digital citizenship program that teaches kids how to use the Internet and technology appropriately.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD**

### **Board Committee Discussions**

Craig Seegmiller briefly reported on the audits. The acting superintendent for Alpine School District is still helping conduct our audits. Currently, the Online program is being audited to see how much impact it has on our schools. They are looking at the number of students from each high school taking online courses and how that is affecting sizes. They are measuring what the impact is on a high school. LaRene Cox briefly reported on the water in Hildale. They have been working on the contract. Hildale City is working on the pipe toward Maxwell Canyon. They are hoping to meet with the city next week. There is concern with the number of hookups. They are planning to put in meters so they will have to pay for the water. She also reported that things are going well with Dixie Tech. They recently had a fundraising event to raise funds for student scholarships. She mentioned their enrollment and how many people attended their graduation last year. They are doing a great job.

Burke Staheli reported on the FCAOG. Their last meeting was the day before the government shutdown so most of the meeting was on the budget and what was being cut to survive. Most of the federal money goes to the other four counties as they are more rural. He also gave a brief report on UHSAA.

Ron Wade reported on Healthy Dixie. This consortium does small but good things for the community. In the past they have donated bikes and done things like that. They help educate on bicycle safety and are doing good things.

Heidi Gunn briefly reported on USBA. They have been discussing a little bit about legislation. The Foundation has been working to open the grants application period for teachers. She also mentioned that the Foundation will have the giving machines again for several weeks. Southern Utah is one of three places that will have the machines the whole time. She mentioned the USBA Day on the Hill. They are trying to get as many schools as possible to come. They want school choirs to come and perform and student councils to come and share what is happening in their schools so the legislators can see the good things happening in public education. Heidi Gunn also reported on the delegation trip to Japan. She said the students were incredible and really did a great job interacting and representing us.

### **Review of Action and Discussion Items**

Nate Esplin briefly reviewed the proposed boundary change between Coral Canyon and Hurricane Elementary.

Darin Thomas said that Policy 3110 Emergency Preparedness and Policy 1330 Employee Leave were brought to the Board last month and there have been no comments on the proposed changes.

Brad Christensen said Policy 4300 Home Schooling has had no comments on the proposed changes. He did receive feedback on Policy 2310 Child Abuse and Neglect regarding training for teachers so false claims are not made to DCFS. He assured the individual that there is training provided every year.

Jeremy Cox said the proposed changes to Policy 1730 Code of Conduct/Appropriate Behavior Policy are very simple with a couple of verbiage changes to be compliant with state code. It talks about the reporting process at the bottom of the website pages and tells them where they can go to get the parent hotline.

### **UHSAA Update – Rusty Taylor**

Board President David Stirland briefly reviewed the history in Washington County School District. The Board approved lacrosse with a two-year probationary period and the District is entering that second year. Those who presented and asked the Board to sanction lacrosse as a District sport said it was a growing sport with a lot of interest. They said there was a fairly significant number of coaches, parent involvement and students who wanted to participate. It was a difficult decision for him based on the fact that we have so many spring sports already and there is a pretty significant burden on the administrators to be at those events and arrange for transportation needs. He has also heard that the schools are having a difficult time finding officials. Kyle Campbell and Luke Udy representing Snow Canyon High School, Daniel McKeehan and Chad Oliphant representing Hurricane High School, and Gabi Hasenbeck from Crimson Cliffs High School shared their perspective on lacrosse. Principal Kyle Campbell said they have had very good participation with both boys' and girls' lacrosse. There are a lot of kids that don't play other sports but now have that opportunity which is positive. From the administrative standpoint it is a hard balance because they care about the kids and want them to have opportunities, but it does mean another couple of nights for them to figure stuff out on their end which is difficult. He said his coaches have done a tremendous job working with the soccer teams and girls' lacrosse team to coordinate the use of the field. They do have a rugby field but it is not turfed and lacrosse wants to be on a turf field. It is difficult but they have managed to work through it. Principal Daniel McKeehan said they have had a great girls' program. They have had a club for 14 years and they're fantastic and have a huge following. They only have a varsity team because they do not have enough field space. The boys' team also has a huge following but has not been as successful as the girls' program. He shared that fields are a challenge and infrastructure is an issue. It is a challenge in the spring and is hard, but they don't do the sports for administrators, they do them for the kids. He suggested looking at options to help the programs to relieve some of the pressures like infrastructure and fields, including the use of middle school fields being utilized. Modernizing some of the fields would be helpful and could also be a revenue source for schools. It is a challenge because it is not just soccer and lacrosse, there is also track going on. They can't share

the field with balls flying everywhere, so students are staying late for games and practices and getting home at 10:00 p.m. every night and that is late for kids. More kids are involved and that is a huge plus. He shared that they run the data every quarter and kids that are involved in activities have higher GPAs and credit earnings versus kids that are not involved. Board President David Stirland feels that the sport needs quality officiating for the sport. Assistant Principal Gabi Hasenbeck said not everyone is keen to what lacrosse looks like and it can look very scary as administrators and has brought some challenges. She mentioned that it has also been necessary to have two SROs for the boys' games because of how aggressive the boys' games can get which has been an added cost, but safety is the number one priority. She mentioned that there are only six officials in Southern Utah for girls. The girls' games require two officials, so basically there are only enough officials to cover three games at one time which is not enough to cover the region games in a single day. She has had to work with UHSAA on scheduling to buddy up the games to allow officials to travel from Cedar City for our games. We do have enough officials for the boys' games but it does affect them also as they play the same day and we have to have enough officials timewise. They have also had to move lacrosse games to Wednesday which impedes Fine Arts. That has been a concern as a lot of lacrosse kids are also involved in Fine Arts. The girls' program looks different at each of the schools as some did not have enough interest for a program, but the boys' program is fairly consistent with teams at all of the schools. She mentioned that it can be a cost of \$300 to bring officials down for a game and can include a hotel cost if they have to stay for a game the next night. Unlike football and basketball, region lacrosse decided to not charge a fee to watch the game, so that is something that could be considered. The coaches shared their thoughts on lacrosse. It is an easy sport to fall in love with and has been successful for over 14 years. They do like playing on turf fields. The grass here has been a challenge. They like the shorter grass which makes the game more fun to watch and the kids aren't digging holes rather than playing the game. That is one of the challenges but the program has been successful. Some of the better lacrosse players come out of Southern Utah. Another challenge is not having a JV program. They are having to rebuild the program every year with new kids. The principals feel they would not have the facilities needed for a JV team. They would love it for the kids but it would be very difficult. It was mentioned that the Snow Canyon team has grown from 17 to 45 kids. Utah does have a professional lacrosse team and Utah is the number one PLL professional market. Many of the freshmen players won't get to be on the field and that is unfortunate. The momentum is coming and we need to figure out how to deal with the popularity of the sport. It has helped many kids and those on the team are thriving in school. They want to help with solutions. It was mentioned that Utah Tech University has a program with students graduating and SUU has a program and could possibly be a resource for refs. The coaches feel it is working and can continue to work as we work together. It was also mentioned that Las Vegas has opened up and sanctioned lacrosse, so in the following year there would be opportunities for our teams to go to Las Vegas to play teams. It was suggested that ref clinics could be done to help people get certified. Craig Seegmiller said our biggest problem is refs. We have got to have more refs between now and spring. Brent Bills suggested offering to pay the refs more to get those needed. Burke Staheli mentioned his concern with the need for SROs. A few years ago, soccer was put on probation and a couple of games were taken away because of the bad behavior. He doesn't feel the answer should be to allow the behavior but hire SROs to be there. It was mentioned that the parents are right behind the team and need to be on opposite sides of the field. It is a physical sport similar to football. We do have two SROs at football games. Separating the parents from the team could help alleviate some of that. Gabi Hasenbeck mentioned that they have communicated to parents that they are to sit on the other side but getting them to do it is the hard part. Burke Staheli suggested passing the message on this we are in the second year of the probationary period and that is being a concern. Rusty Taylor said as a region they will address whether or not to charge for games. The costs are high and they ought to be taking tickets. It just has never been done for spring sports. The principals reported boys' volleyball has been going great. The group discussed including JV in the sport. Burke Staheli suggested holding a JV tournament on Saturday. Coaches feel that the freshman and sophomores are really suffering right now and then when they are a junior, they haven't had enough experience in a real game. They feel that until we can solve that problem, Southern Utah will never really truly compete for state titles as they are starting over every year. Brent Bills said up-front the District was told that lacrosse did not need to play on the artificial turf and could play on the grass fields. It was mentioned that girls' lacrosse does not work on the thick grass as they can't drag across the ball to pick it up. The boys' is a

little different as they can't drag the stick or it is a penalty, but for girls' lacrosse it is a game killer. Brent Bills said many of the districts in the state don't have any artificial turf and none of them have it at their middle schools. We have it at our high schools as our grass gets blown up so badly here and doesn't have time to recover. We would have to have football practice and other sports elsewhere. We did it to have everything on one field. We can't build a whole different field for one sport. We would have zero revenue to help maintain the field.

### **Special Education Update – Hollee Cullen**

Holley Cullen shared an update on Special Education. There are currently 4947 Special Education students in the District. They are down about 118 students total from last year; about the same percentage the District has dropped. They have increased the Medicaid reimbursements by 6.38% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. In 2024-2025 they have increased claims and can provide some additional resources. Currently there are 347 paras in the District under Special education and only have 27 openings. She feels the increase in pay is helping with retention. She also mentioned that additional training has really helped. They have also seen an increase in students with disabilities. They have seen an increase in proficiency and growth math scores. She reported on some of the monthly compliance trainings and quarterly professional trainings they are doing. They are also doing a lot of curriculum training and instructional strategies training within the department. They are focused on actually making a difference with kids, data, curriculum, and moving kids. Compliance is also important and they are trying to hit that through emails, weekly memos, and additional training. She reported that they do have some difficult students and the support plans for those students.

### **BTS/Fine Arts Update – Rob Schmidt**

Rob Schmidt shared an update on BTS and Fine Arts in the District. He reported that there are 99 Fine Arts teachers this year. There are 82 of the teachers in secondary schools with 19 of them teaching at multiple schools and 17 elementary teachers teaching in the BTS program. The BTS Arts program was created a little more than 20 years ago by Beverly Taylor Sorenson. At that time there were very little arts in elementary schools and it was a way to get the arts back into the elementary schools throughout the state. It is now funded through the legislature which covers part of the teacher's salary and the district or school(s) cover the balance. All but four elementary schools in our District have a BTS Arts teacher. About half are music teachers with several having art teachers and two having dance teachers. The four schools without BTS do have paraprofessionals teaching either music or art, so every elementary school is receiving some arts education. He mentioned a recent national report talking about the 10 best schools in each state. In Utah, nine of the 10 best schools were BTS schools. One of those schools on the list was Crimson View Elementary. Statewide about 2/3 of the elementary schools have BTS. He mentioned some of the teachers who have been involved in leadership organizations and some of the Fine Arts teachers receiving awards. He also reported that all six of our local high school jazz bands, four school choirs, three school orchestras, and three school bands qualified for state. He reported on instrument inventory and repair. They have been training teachers how to better care for their instruments and have provided them with the necessary supplies and equipment to better care for them and keep them in good shape longer. He mentioned the honors orchestra performance being held celebrating America 250.

### **Transportation Update – Darin Thomas**

Darin Thomas said for the first time in many years transportation has a driver for every route. They also have two super subs that can fill in anywhere. They also have six subs available on a limited basis and three subs for specific trips only. They have held meetings with school secretaries to discuss issues at the beginning of the year. This year they are using a software, Viewfinder, so they have been working with them on the program. A lot of the calls that come in are from parents putting in the address wrong. It has taken some time but they have been working IT to get that resolved. He mentioned that transportation has also had a few issues with dual custody of parents. They have also had some issues with buses being overloaded and are looking at different options. As a last option, they may have to revoke some of the space available requests. He said that Anthony Horrocks is trying to help with bus behavior. He is using the three-tier system for discipline and is trying to establish discipline across the District. Anthony has been doing a great job working with bus drivers and schools. Darin Thomas also mentioned that although

we did okay with drivers last year for spring sports, we do need more drivers to help transport students for sports.

### **Legislative Update – Superintendent Richard Holmes**

Superintendent Richard Holmes said every year we hear there is no money. He feels it is going to be really tight. He met with the local legislators and they were very complimentary of us. They indicated that public ed has a target on their back. The inflationary adjustment is at 4.2 this year. He is concerned that we may not see that amount. He reviewed some of the proposed education related bills that will be part of the general session this year. Brent Bills said many of the legislators were not there when the inflationary adjustment was promised and don't have buy in for it. Superintendent Richard Holmes said there will be a lot of education bills this year.

### **ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW**

1. Enrollment
2. Safe Schools
3. GRAMA Requests
4. Department Reports

*A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Washington County School District was held after due, legal, and timely notice being given to all members and interested parties. Board President David Stirland called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were Craig Seegmiller, LaRene Cox, Burke Staheli, Ron Wade, and Heidi Gunn. Board Member Craig Hammer was excused. Staff members present were Superintendent Richard Holmes and Business Administrator Brent Bills.*

### **OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.**

#### **Reverence by Member Gunn**

#### **Welcome – Board President Stirland**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance by Member Staheli**

#### **Dixie High FFA Recognition – Jon Butler**

Jon Butler said the FFA student organization was able to compete nationally during October in Indianapolis. Typically, the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) in our District have roughly 50-300 students. The FFA chapter has over 1000 students in Washington County. There is no doubt that Dixie High earned this celebration in Indianapolis. Shylee Emmett, Dixie High FFA president, expressed gratitude for the continues support of CTE programs, resources, and vision that make student success possible in Washington County School District. They are proud to be the 2025 national champions for FFA Agricultural Issues. It is a historic accomplishment not only for the chapter at Dixie High, but for the entire State of Utah. This achievement represents the highest honor available in the Agricultural Issues Career Development event. Over 40 state champion teams from across the nation compete for a single national title. Dixie High FFA was the first winning team from Utah. The championship required months of research, practice, community engagement, and public presentation. The eight-student team presented, defended, and discussed their issues before industry experts and judges from across the country. The competition evaluates not only knowledge and communication skills but also leadership, teamwork, and civic responsibility. It is one of the most demanding and respected events in the national FFA organization. She said that this year's agricultural issue was both timely and significant, is the 1971 Wild Free Roaming Horse and Borough Act in need of reform. Their team worked extensively with local stakeholders, federal land managers, ranchers, advocacy organization, and community member to accurately portray both sides of the complex issue. They demonstrated the ability to research deeply, communicate respectfully, and engage thoughtfully with a topic that directly affects Southern Utah and the entire American West. Receiving the national championship stands as a testament to their dedication and the powerful impact of agricultural education programs, which would not be possible without the Board support. She mentioned that they have also been invited by Congresswoman Maloy to meet with the Department of Interior and the National Resource Committee next spring as they revise and work to improve the issue with the 1971 act. President David Stirland expressed how proud

the Board and District are of the students. They have accomplished a great thing for the school and the community. Burke Staheli mentioned the representation of the FFA jackets the students were wearing. Superintendent Richard Holmes also expressed how proud the District is of those students. He also expressed gratitude for their teacher Mr. Gust, the advisors, and families for their support.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE**

**The Washington County School District is proposing a boundary change between Coral Canyon Elementary and Hurricane Elementary. Currently, there are no students attending either school in the area affected by the proposed change. The proposal consists of moving the boundary line between the schools to 2800 West, continuing across 600 N to the back of the homes on 2760 W in the Eagle Pointe Subdivision. Homes in the described area will be moved from the Hurricane Elementary boundary to the Coral Canyon Elementary boundary. The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Boundary Hearing on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 4:35 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed boundary changes.**

*Maps of the proposed boundary considerations are available on the Washington County School District website <https://www.washk12.org/transportation/boundaries-and-routes/>.*

There were no comments given on the proposed boundary change.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE**

**The Washington County School District is proposing a boundary change between Desert Canyons Elementary, Bloomington Elementary, Little Valley Elementary, and South Mesa Elementary. Proposed Boundary Changes:**

- **Desert Color Area:**  
Students living in the Desert Color area south of the Southern Parkway to the Arizona border, and east of I-15 to the River Road on/off-ramp—would attend **Bloomington Elementary School** beginning in August 2026.
- **Southern View and South Desert Neighborhoods:**  
Students residing in the Southern View and South Desert neighborhoods in the area between Lansky Drive and Weehawken Lane on the west and Hamilton Drive on the east, extending south to the Southern Parkway—would attend **Little Valley Elementary School** beginning in August 2026.
- **Undeveloped Area East of Hamilton Drive:**  
The undeveloped area east of Hamilton Drive, north of the Southern Parkway to 4150 South, and west of Desert Canyons Parkway and the airport, is currently zoned for Desert Canyons Elementary, and Little Valley Elementary. The proposal would rezone this area to **Little Valley Elementary School** beginning in August 2026.

**The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Boundary Hearing on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 4:40 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed boundary changes.**

*Maps of the proposed boundary considerations are available on the Washington County School District website <https://www.washk12.org/transportation/boundaries-and-routes/>.*

President David Stirland said that the Board is aware of these proposed boundary changes and have had this up for public discussion. There have been parent meetings. Superintendent Richard Holmes mentioned that this is the first hearing and there will be another hearing in December. He shared a map showing the area with a large development coming in. Nate Esplin said the area Superintendent Holmes was talking about is near the airport and is currently undeveloped property. It is anticipated that there will be many homes built there, starting soon, over the next several years. That area is currently in the Desert Canyons and South Mesa boundary. The proposal for that undeveloped area would be to move those students to Little Valley Elementary. There is also an area with currently about 25 students going to



Desert Canyons that is also being proposed to move to Little Valley Elementary. The Desert Color neighborhood is being proposed to move to Bloomington Elementary. A parent meeting was held and another public hearing will be held during the December Board Meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Minutes**

- a. October 13, 2025 Meeting of the Board of Education**
- b. October 27, 2025 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**

### **2. Financial Report**

### **3. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items**

### **4. UHSAA 150-Mile Requests**

### **5. Paradise Canyon Elementary School TSSA Plan Change**

**Board Member Cox presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items numbered 1-5.**

**Board Member Gunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

## **WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSO SCHOOLS**

### **Bloomington Elementary – Principal Susan Moore**

Principal Susan Moore shared some of the good things happening at Bloomington Elementary. She shared pictures of some of the things they do to bring fun and build their culture at the school. Academics are very important. She was excited to share that last year 62% of the student body ended on blue. This year the students came in at 61% so there was not much of a summer slide. One of the fun things they do is having the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students design the school shirt. This is something the 4<sup>th</sup> graders look forward to every year. The designs are put in the library to be voted on. They are a PBIS school. They formed a committee that came up with an “Anchor Myself” theme since they are the Buccaneers. They have different values they focus on such as hard things, kindness, actions, honesty, potential, and respect. The rules at the school go with those values. They also had students help create an anchor. Fridays are their “spirit day.” They do their song and pledge together. They give out “golden anchor” awards and celebrate one of the values each month. Teachers nominate a student and parents come for an assembly to recognize students. They involve their student council heavily. They help take care of the doors at recess to help free up teachers to monitor recess more closely and they help set up Art Night. They acknowledge students who go the extra mile by giving them wild cards and letting them sign the graffiti wall. One thing new this year are the brag tags for their backpacks. The goal for students is to try to collect as many colors as they can in the year. That is just a visual representation to show the students are going the extra mile. They are a Chinese Dual Immersion school. The past couple of years they have held Chinese nights and invited parents so they could show the talents of the students in the Chinese language they are learning. They have also partnered with a school in China and have been able to share artwork with them. They have sent pen pal letters and have their art hanging throughout the school. They have also incorporated *Read Your Way to College* and acknowledge the great things they are doing in reading. They have a choir, drum, and ukulele club at the school and encourage the arts.

### **Lava Ridge Intermediate School – Principal Launa Williams**

Principal Launa Williams and Assistant Principal Greg Bozarth shared some of the great things happening at Lava Ridge Intermediate School. Greg Bozarth said that Lava Ridge Intermediate opened August of 2002. He said the school is in excellent hands and the teachers are amazing. He is so impressed with the faculty and how much they care, and he is so impressed with the group of students they have. They shared a video of their school. The video showed enrollment of 684 students, life skills, student safety, Touch Gold, academic excellence, advisory reteach time, Math Counts, Gila Warriors, the Veteran’s Day program, Astronomy Club, orchestra, band, participation in Swiss Days, student leadership birthday recognitions, and assemblies.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

There were no public comments on Board Action Items.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approval of Proposed Boundary Change Between Coral Canyon Elementary and Hurricane Elementary – Nate Esplin**

Nate Esplin said this proposal is basically to clean up an area that wasn't very clear. In Hurricane there was a boundary line between Coral Canyon Elementary and Hurricane elementary school that was a landscape right across the ridge. The ridge is being developed up and over it now so we need a little bit more of a clear line to distinguish the boundary. The line is proposed to be moved to 2800 West. The students that the west of that line would be in the boundary for Coral Canyon Elementary. We currently don't have any students living there, but they are starting to build homes there but right now there are no residents.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the proposed boundary change between Coral Canyon Elementary and Hurricane Elementary. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Policy 3110 Emergency Preparedness – Darin Thomas and Michael Lee**

Darin Thomas said Policy 3110 Emergency Preparedness was presented last month for review. A lot of it is the name changes and how we refer to things. We are just updating the policy to match state code. We did not receive any comments on the changes.

**Board Member Wade presented a motion to approve Policy 3110 Emergency Preparedness. Board Member Gunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Policy 1330 Employee Leave – Darin Thomas**

Darin Thomas said Policy 1330 Employee Leave was also presented last month. Specifically, under section 3.2.1.1 a change is being made to allow certified employees two days of personal leave at no cost and two days with the standard payroll deduction in the first year of employment. In the past, certified employees had to wait for two years, but we want to bring this into compliance with our classified employees receiving their personal days in year one. Both certified and classified will receive their personal days in year one instead of waiting until year two. He has received no comments and said the WCEA would like to see this as well.

**Board Member Gunn presented a motion to approve Policy 1330 Employee Leave. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Policy 4300 Home Schooling – Brad Christensen**

Brad Christiansen said this was necessitated because the legislature changed the rules for homeschooling. We used to need a notarized affidavit that said they wanted to home school that has changed and it just has to be notification. There were no comments received. Changes are just to be in compliance.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve Policy 4300 Home Schooling. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Policy 2310 Child Abuse and Neglect – Brad Christensen**

Brad Christensen reviewed the changes to Policy 2310 Child Abuse and Neglect. This is one that had not been reviewed for several years so he went through and made changes to make sure it was updated with code and the references. He did receive one comment making sure that teacher receive training on not making false allegations of child abuse and neglect. He assured the individual that we do that training every single year with our staff. We are mandatory reporters so we make sure we have training for our teachers, counselors, administrators, and anyone who is working with kids.

**Board Member Staheli presented a motion to approve Policy 2310 Child Abuse and Neglect. Board Member Wade seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Policy 1730 Code of Conduct/Appropriate Behavior Policy – Jeremy Cox**

Jeremy Cox reviewed the changes to Policy 1730 Code of Conduct/Appropriate Behavior Policy. He said this is a simple compliance update. The state passed R277-123 which basically says that districts need to have in policy a way to comply with what they call the public education hotline. This allows parents the opportunity to give feedback specifically for violations to the school district and how we handle them. Section 3.2.5 was added and says: In compliance with R277-123, individuals may report violations of

law, board rule, or district policy to the public education hotline as outlined in notice N005. Notice 005 is basically a copy of the state's procedure. Jeremy Cox said that number will stay the same and is a permanent notice that is equivalent to an administrative letter. It just shows the basic outline of how we handle that requirement. The notice link is at the bottom of the District website and every school website. It is a simple link that says public parent feedback. This policy is just putting us in line with statute.

**Board Member Wade presented a motion to approve Policy 1730 Code of Conduct/Appropriate Behavior Policy. Board Member Seegmiller the motion that passed unanimously.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Policy 9100 Adult Education and High School Completion – Cheri Stevenson and Jan Goodwin**

Rusty Taylor presented the proposed changes to Policy 9100 Adult Education and High School Completion. The policy change adds a new program that the State School Board has allowed called the Focused Graduation Pathway. It allows students who are significantly behind in credit during their junior or senior years to take the GED. If they pass those sections of the GED test, they can actually get graduation credit that would go towards their diploma. This opportunity allows them the chance to actually earn a diploma as opposed to just the GED. They would actually be dual enrolled and would stay at their school where they are doing classes and then they would be enrolled with Southwest Adult High where they would take those GED classes. If they can pass those tests it would apply the credit towards their diploma. He said it has been around for a little bit and was originally designed to be just at the boundary high school. Since we do our GED through the Southwest High, we have had to kind of work in a new program. Principal Jan Goodwin has done a fantastic job putting this together. We think this will work so students can stay at their boundary school but still go and if they can demonstrate that competency with the GED tests, allow them to get that credit towards the Washington County diploma. In order for students to qualify, they have to have a meeting with Southwest High, show literacy proficiency, and then take classes to prepare for the test. It is not show up and take the test; it is actually going to the classes to practice and get the information and then pass the test. They do not anticipate the enrollment will be huge. In order to qualify the students have to be pretty deficient in credit. This gives one more chance to help students stick it out and get a diploma with their class at their boundary school. It is not a simple thing and there is some accountability for their learning.

### **Policy 1200 Pay and Compensation – Darin Thomas and Wade Jensen**

Wade Jensen said that Policy 1200 allows secondary librarians to get compensated for extra days. Currently the high school librarians get nine extra days, middle school librarians get three days and the intermediate librarians get 12 days because under the current system, they are responsible to train the elementary librarians within their cone-site. Proposed changes to the policy would still have high school librarians receiving nine days but would change the middle and intermediate school librarians to five extra days. The District would have our media specialist do all the training for the elementary librarians. He will it will be much more efficient. It does mean that the intermediate librarians will lose some pay as they will have less days during the summer. The intermediate librarians have received communication about the proposed change to the policy.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

There were no information items.

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendent**

Superintendent Richard Holmes recognized the Crimson View Elementary kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers and their learning coaches. Crimson View Elementary was one of only two schools in the state having all of their K-3<sup>rd</sup> students above 70%. It is a really big deal and he congratulated them and recognized them for their accomplishment. He recognized Principal Jenny Leavitt, the current principal at Crimson View Elementary and former Crimson View principals Adam Baker and Anthony Horrocks who all had a key role in helping. Jenny Leavitt recognized the work of the former principals and teachers. They all have high expectations for the students and sees on a daily basis the work and effort of

those teachers. They do everything to help their students succeed. They are pretty amazing and she is not surprised that they are in the top for the state.

Superintendent Richard Holmes said our November 1<sup>st</sup> kindergarten scores for upper-case and lower-case letters are at 96% of the students knowing them districtwide. For upper-case and lower-case sounds, we are at 95% of the students knowing them districtwide.

Superintendent Richard Holmes also recognized the school sport teams who represented our District very well.

### **Board**

Burke Staheli shared that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teams from across the District got involved and made over 1500 thank you cards that were handed out to the Veterans. All the schools were involved and he thanked them for being involved.

### **Association**

Jake Shewmake, WCEA, presented the Public Service Hero Awards to Ben Coulter and Matt Ainsworth. Matt Ainsworth is a Fine Arts teacher at Lava Ridge Intermediate. His favorite part of being a teacher is the students. He loves getting to work with students and help them succeed. He loves helping students believe in themselves. His peers shared that he strives to provide meaningful activities that are engaging. He goes above and beyond to help students and provides a safe place for all to learn and feel welcome. He is an amazing educator who brings passion, creativity, and excellence to everything he teaches. He is always willing to step in and teach new subjects when needed and does so with remarkable skill. Matt loves his students. His energy is contagious and his classroom is a place of excitement and creativity where students enjoy learning. He is a valued member of the Lava Ridge team. One of his former students shared her experience in his class and how he made a difference.

Ben Coulter is the counselor at Coral Canyon Elementary and is the elementary lead counselor for the District. He said the most rewarding part of this work is those moments when a student comes into his office at their lowest point and together, they find a way forward. Seeing them leave with hope, confidence, and smile reminds him why he chose his profession. His colleagues said he has an unwavering commitment as an advocate for every student and their family. He selflessly sponsors and advises numerous student groups including the student council, Lego League, and the friendship club. These activities showcase his ability to mentor students across different interests, helping them to develop leadership skills, critical thinking, and essential social emotional competencies. He ensures that every student feels a sense of belonging. He teaches whole group lessons in each classroom every month. He works with outside agencies to build partnerships with community resources to meet student and family needs. He is a powerful advocate. His efforts yield positive results for the students. One former student shared that he was the best counselor and was loving and kind. Another former student shared her experience with Mr. Coulter as he helped her with strategies and tools to help with anxiety. Her father shared that he has always been impressed with Mr. Coulter. He can be counted on to provide meaningful solutions that make a difference. He has made a huge difference for students.

### **PTA/PTO/Community Council**

Brittnie Bonham, Snow Canyon Council president, shared some of the things the PTA is doing in the Snow Canyon cone-site schools. Arrowhead Elementary has a mileage club. They had a goal to run enough miles to reach the Grand Canyon. They have logged over 1,593 miles as a school. They did a character pumpkin contest where the students do characters from books and they all vote on them. They also have a read-a-thon as a fundraiser which was a huge success. They start the year off with that to get the kids back into reading. They also entered the Swiss Days Parade. Their 5<sup>th</sup> grade student council and read-a-thon winners got to ride on the float. They also did a big Halloween carnival instead of doing individual class parties. The Paradise Canyon PTA helped with the book fair. They also have a mileage club and did a walk or ride to school day. They helped with the Storytelling Festival, Day of the Dead activity, and a Fall Festival. They also helped with several assemblies. Santa Clara Elementary PTA helped with a family week. The families were invited to come eat with their students each day that week. On Thursday night they had a dance for the families. On the last day they invited the first responders to come and hand out stickers, donuts, and milk to students and parents. Their hope was that the kids would

have a good experience with the first responders so if they were ever involved in any type of emergency, they would remember that good experience and how kind they were. They also participated in the Swiss Days parade and their choir performed. The Sunset Elementary PTA runs their school store and provides items the kids can purchase with horseshoes they earn. A PTA member is also Sunny the Stallion. Sunny comes to every assembly and gives a spirit award to the class with the highest percentage of kids wearing their spirit shirts that were provided to every student by the PTA. They get to keep it in their classroom until the next assembly. The PTA helps with teacher appreciation, snacks and meals for teacher conferences. They also do the Reflections competition which all of the schools participated in and most moved on to the next level. For Red Ribbon and White Ribbon weeks they have members from each of the schools get together to plan a theme for all the schools so that the same message goes home to every single student in the cone-site. This year the Red Ribbon theme was, "The best me is drug free." They had messages that went home about drinking, drug, vaping, and healthy living. Messages are talked about at school and go home to parents so they can have conversations. They were also able to partner with the St. George Police K9 unit for assemblies in the middle and high school on how their canine unit searches for drugs. She shared that all information in the cone-site goes out in English and Spanish. She is grateful for the Board and loves serving on the PTA.

**PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each**

No public comments were given.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Board Member Wade seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**