

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Business Meeting
and Closed Executive Session

February 3, 2015

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Business Meeting and Closed Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Heather Bennett, Vice President Tiffany Sandberg, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Katherine Kennedy, and Josh Whisenant, Student Member.

Members Excused: Kristi Swett

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Kenneth Grover, Director Career & Technology Education and High School Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Joann Price, ELP Supervisor and Elementary School Support; Martin Yablonovsky, Principal Open Classroom; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Ricky Martinez, President, Buildings & Grounds Employees Association; Florence Vincent, board legal counsel from Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy; Lorena Riffo-Jenson and Bob Fuehr, VOX Creative; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Lisa Alleman, Superintendent's Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Business Meeting of February 3, 2015, five motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Bennett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION
- A. Litigation, Negotiations, and/or Property

At 6:07 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

Board Business Meeting

February 3, 2015

^N(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, and/or property. The motion passed on a vote of five to one, with Mr. Clára voting 'no'.
**(Emery and Kennedy)

Present for Closed Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property were Heather Bennett, Tiffany Sandberg, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Katherine Kennedy, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and Florence Vincent, board legal counsel from Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property at 6:25 p.m. and returned to the Board Business Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	2,3,4	1	
EMERY	X		
FORD	X		
KENNEDY	X		
SANDBERG	X		
SWETT			X
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

B. Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual

There was no closed session for Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

2. BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

- President Bennett welcomed everyone in the audience. She recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; and Ricky Martinez, President, Buildings & Grounds Employees Association.
- June Rose, an 8th grade student at Open Classroom, led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- President Bennett recognized Cara Baldree, one of 36 teachers nationwide, who received a Raytheon-Engineering is Elementary Teacher Scholarship. She is the full time science teacher at Lincoln Elementary. As part of the award, she will get to spend two days at a training in Boston, and will receive science and engineering supplies for her classroom. Ms. Bennett presented her with a Certificate of Recognition from the Board of Education and thanked her for her good work.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

President Bennett asked that the 2015-2016 School Instructional Calendar, which was listed on the Consent Agenda be tabled and added back on to the Limited Consent Agenda for the February 17, 2015 Study Session.

*(2) A motion was made to approve six of the seven items, including three policies, included in the Consent Agenda. These items are listed below.

**(Emery and Kennedy)

1. The Purchasing/Accounting Report, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, increases to existing purchase orders, a payment voucher report that includes travel and professional expenditures, and a Budget Report for December 2014.
2. The Human Resources Department Report, included new contract employment for ten employees, and changes for seven.
3. Minutes of the Board Business Meeting held January 6, 2015.
4. Minutes of the Board Study Session held January 20, 2015.
5. 2015-2016 Board Meeting Schedule.
6. 2015-2016 School Instructional Calendar. *This item was tabled and will be added to the Limited Consent Agenda of the February 17, 2015 Board Study Session.*
7. Board Policies:
 - a. I-8, Student Progress and Academic Achievement
 - b. I-11, Religion in the Curriculum
 - c. I-21, Access to School Media

B. REQUESTS TO SPEAK

There were no requests to speak.

C. REPORTS

1. Highlights from School Improvement Plans:

Open Classroom. Martin Yablonovsky, Principal, Open Classroom, introduced Tim Phillips, past Steering Chair; Nicole Laird, Steering Chair; Carolyn Turkanis, Mentor; and June Rose, 8th grade student.

Mr. Yablonovsky explained one thing that sets Open Classroom apart from other schools is the parent co-op. All parents donate three hours per week in their children's classrooms. Parents who cannot participate during school hours find ways to support the class outside of school time, resulting in nearly 100% parental participation. Parents with more than one child attending Open Classroom are not asked to co-op more than six hours per week. He said parents help to make the adult-to-student ratio smaller, and their participation in committees and meetings brings new ideas to the school. He said the teachers are extraordinary because they know how to work with parents in their classrooms.

Mr. Yablonovsky discussed Open Classroom's five-year strategic plan. One area of focus is improving test scores and instruction in math. He said the last five years of Criteria Referenced

Tests (CRT) showed Open Classroom's students at or above the district average, but with Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE), they were below. He said they are not sure why the scores were low, they are still working to answer that question. He noted they have hired a half time math specialist to help bridge the gap.

Mr. Yablonovsky explained other areas of focus include the reintroduction of a full-time kindergarten and a music program. He said the return of full-time kindergarten is going very well. He said music is important, and they have music teachers working with students in each grade to incorporate a wide variety of music skills.

Ms. Rose spoke about her experience as a student and how Open Classroom has prepared her for high school. She explained the benefits of being in blended classes and the positive experience she has had with parents in the classroom.

Mr. Yablonovsky and his team answered questions from the board. He explained each year about a third of the students who apply are enrolled and there is usually a waiting list for each grade. A frequent comment he hears from high schools regarding students from the Open Classroom is they know how to talk to adults and are self-directed learners. Mr. Yablonovsky thanked the board for the opportunity to report on Open Classroom.

D. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. 2016 – 2021 Student Achievement Plan (SAP). Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support and Bob Fuehr and Lorena Riffo-Jenson, Vox Creative, provided updates from their meeting with the owners of the Essentials to determine if the existing Essentials should be a part of the 2016-2021 Student Achievement Plan, and to determine if the current language captures the district's goals. They provided a handout describing the current Essentials. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Mr. Garcia said the owners of the Essentials believe they are still important, but said two sparked further discussion. He said they felt the term "School Choice" was not accurate because the Essential includes not only a choice of which school to attend, but options available within each school. He also said they felt the Equity and Advocacy Essential should be a different component of the SAP. They believed the language can be difficult to understand and should be updated.

Board members asked questions about the existing Essentials, the process that created the current list, and shared their opinions about which Essentials they feel are most important and should be the focus. Board members decided a conversation should take place at the Study Session on February 17, 2015, to provide them a chance to hear each other's ideas and discuss them as a group. Mr. Garcia explained there may need to be multiple opportunities to have these discussions in order to focus on the different components, such as determining which Essentials to keep, if there are Essentials that should be added, and determining the priorities. They stressed the importance on having measurable outcomes associated with each Essential.

Mr. Fuehr provided two handouts that were created as a result of discussions he had with individual board members. One handout provided a working draft of the vision statement, and the other a working draft of the mission statement. Mr. Fuehr explained vision statements are more

long term and global than mission statements, but both are important. A copy of the handouts has been added to the official minutes.

President Bennett thanked them for their presentation. She asked board members to think about which Essentials they feel are the most important, which should be revised, and on which committees they would like to serve.

2. 2015 – 2016 Student Fee Schedule. Kenneth Grover, Director Career & Technology Education and High School Support, presented the 2015 – 2016 Student Fee Schedule and said items that have been added are highlighted in yellow. He explained the fees listed are the maximum fees that can be charged, but schools can charge less.

Board members expressed concerns including inconsistencies in Advanced Placement (AP) test costs, as well as confusion about which fees are waivable and which ones are not, and exactly what is included in the fee.

Mr. Grover explained there are maximum charges per child, as well as per family, to avoid situations where a family with multiple children, or a child playing multiple sports, pays exorbitant fees. He noted one problem that exists when fees are waived is the cost is still there, but income is not. Fees can come from booster clubs or other fundraisers. Board members expressed concern that there are too many fees, and expressed a desire to find a way to simplify them and find a funding source beyond principals' discretionary funds, for the fee waivers.

Board members expressed concern about financial inequities determining a students' ability to participate in student activities. They acknowledge that most faculty members do their best to help all students participate, but inequities do have an impact.

Mr. Grover said there is a meeting of athletic directors tomorrow and this can be discussed there for additional input and clarification. He said the revisions would be ready for the March 3, 2015 Consent Agenda.

E. RECESS

1. Municipal Building Authority Action

* (3) At 8:50 p.m. a motion was made that the board take a short recess from the Board Business Meeting and enter into a meeting of the Municipal Building Authority.

** (Emery and Ford)

* (4) At 8:55 p.m. a motion was made that the board return to the Board Business Meeting.

** (Sandberg and Emery)

F. ACTION AGENDA

There were no items on the Action Agenda.

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Legislative Update and Priority Bills. Superintendent Withers passed out a list of numbered Bills going before the Legislature, as well as a list of Bill requests. He highlighted those that would have an impact on the district. A copy of the handouts has been added to the official minutes.

Superintendent Withers distributed a hand out titled 'Minimum School Program a 2% Budget Reduction Exercise' from the State Board and explained its impact on our district. He believes that this is an unequitable way to cut funds because it takes money from the neighborhood schools, but not charter schools so it has the greatest financial impact on those who can least afford it. He expressed concern about this and believes there are better ways to express local control. A copy of this handout has been added to the official minutes.

Superintendent Withers distributed a handout titled 'Guiding Principles for Education Legislation' from the Governor's office, which offers some helpful explanations, as well as an outline of their approach to develop a 10-year plan. The Governor is encouraging local control, putting money into the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU), and trusting local school boards. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Superintendent Withers reported on information he received from the Governor's Budget Office defending criticisms made about their revenue forecasts, and clearly showing the trend analysis to be conservative. He will send additional information to the board in the weekly memo.

Superintendent Withers said Senator Stephenson is proposing a new distribution method for available funds that differ from the current Base Plus method which gives every district the same base amount, plus an additional dollar amount per student. Senator Stephenson's technology approach is to distribute funds based on tax effort and relative wealth of the school district. This would impact the district with a lower amount per child than the state average, and some districts, would get more.

Superintendent Withers said the President's budget was released on a Federal level and it proposed healthy increases for both Title I and Special Education. He said it provides advocacy that is helpful for district students.

Simplified Legislative tracking documents will be provided by the State, and can be downloaded from the Utah State Office of Education Web site.

2. Other Miscellaneous Reports.

Ms. Kennedy expressed interest in having a discussion at a future meeting about program development in the district, and specifically about a Dual Immersion language program at Bryant Middle School.

Mr. Clára expressed concern that Glendale Middle School has more testing than other schools, and said they have a desperate need for more computers.

Ms. Emery encouraged board members to be cautious about using Board of Education letterhead on things that were not voted on by the board.

Mr. Whisenant expressed his view standardized tests are ridiculous. He said they mess with the structure of school for a month or more and said students can't use computers because they are tied up. In addition, he said the network is impossibly slow.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Ms. Sandberg, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

lba