

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

February 17, 2015

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 5:59 pm on Tuesday, February 17, 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, Kristi Swett, and Josh Whisenant, Student Member (leaving at 9:30 p.m.).

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Craig Ruesch, Interim Executive Director, Human Resources; Barbara Kuehl, Executive Director, Academic Services/Professional Development; Kenneth Grover, Director Career & Technology Education, High School Support; Christine Marriott, Interim Director of Assessment and Evaluation; Ann Cook, Supervisor, Early Childhood; Kim Knettlles, Title I Coordinator; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel 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; Tina Hatch, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Study Session of February 17, 2015, two 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 5:59 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

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

** (Kennedy and Swett)

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

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	2	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			

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session for litigation, negotiation, and/or property at 6:20 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 6:29 p.m.

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

There was no Closed Executive Session for Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Bennett welcomed everyone in the audience. She recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association, and Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association.
- Cindy Mills led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Limited Consent Agenda

*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the two items included in the Limited Consent Agenda. These items are listed below.

** (Kennedy and Sandberg)

- a. The Purchasing Report dated February 17, 2015, included a breakdown of items costing under \$50,000, and increases to existing purchase orders.
- b. West High School Softball Student Trip Request for students to participate in a tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 12-14, 2015.

A. STUDY TOPICS

1. Student Achievement Plan.

- a. Assessment and Evaluation Update. Christine Marriott introduced Kate Arch and Terrilyn Lee, Assessment Specialists; Adrienne Lobato, Adrian Bancroft, Jen

Shake, and Liz Davis, Data Specialists; Maren Lacy, Data Technician; and Beth Thomas, Testing Clerk. She thanked the board for the opportunity to present information about Assessment and Evaluation.

Ms. Marriott's team highlighted the use of DataMart and Illuminate by the Assessment Department. Ms. Shake said DataMart is used to ensure the district has a clean source of data, which includes nationwide, State, and district test information. She said statewide Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) scores are available to the district. She also discussed uses of the data in evaluating which programs are most effective for students in the district.

Mr. Bancroft noted all principals and teachers have been trained to use Illuminate, and described the professional development that has been made available. He said all elementary school teachers use Illuminate to a small extent, but not all are using it to its full potential. Ms. Lacy gave an overview of the interim testing available to all schools, and outlined the variety of question types that can be used in Illuminate. She distributed a 'Fit Gram Assessment Post-Test' as an example of one type of test. She noted the number of interim tests available in each core area and the time necessary to take them, and said interim tests could be adapted for each school's needs. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Ms. Lobato demonstrated reports available to teachers and administrators in Illuminate. She distributed two 'Individual Teacher Action Plan' handouts that highlight how the information in Illuminate can be used to assist in improving classroom instruction. She noted the forms can be customized for each school's needs. Copies of the handouts have been added to the official minutes.

Ms. Davis described how data is used to determine Kindergarten readiness for students enrolled in the district's Early Childhood program. She said the data also helps determine which programs are most effective, and which programs may need to be adjusted. She said there is now a baseline of scores in place to evaluate future scores, and noted only students who have a beginning score and a final score are included in the data.

Ms. Arch discussed writing assessments. She noted scores for the SAGE writing interim help determine which fall interim tests would be most beneficial for teachers and students. She talked about writing tools available for teachers and students. Ms. Lee listed the tests required by the State. She noted WIDA testing may be available online next year, which would cut testing time in half, but could be an issue for schools with computer access problems. She explained the new Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) testing, and said teachers were required to have certification by October. Ms. Thomas discussed how testing has been updated, how data is sorted and stored, and the coordination of test dates, times, and logistics between the district and schools. She said each member of the Assessment Department is prepared to support teachers and students.

Ms. Marriott noted SAGE testing was smoother this year, and said all teachers have access to the data immediately. She answered questions from board members regarding the number of tests given at each school, and said Title I schools do not take more tests than non-Title I schools. She said teachers have latitude in determining which interim tests to use. She noted Illuminate uploads data to PowerSchool, which gives parents immediate feedback on their student's progress. She said the prompts for the SAGE writing assessments have been updated, and the tests should take less time. She noted the State will hand score SAGE writing assessments again this year. She said SAGE tests are available in 18 languages.

Ms. Marriott thanked her team for their dedication and commitment.

Superintendent Withers thanked the team for their work, and noted they have influenced the State by modeling things that should be done. He said feedback from testing is most useful when it informs teaching in the classroom.

On behalf of the board, President Bennett thanked the Assessment Department for the report.

- b. 2016-2021 Student Achievement Plan Development. 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, and led a discussion regarding changes to the Essentials in the 2016-2021 Student Achievement Plan (SAP). Dr. Garcia introduced individuals responsible for Essentials, including Michael Williams, Internal Communications & External Relations Essential; Barbara Kuehl, Curriculum Essential and Instruction Essential; Kim Knettles, Family & School Collaboration Essential; Christine Marriott, Assessment Essential; and Ann Cook, Early Childhood Essential. Dr. Garcia noted he is responsible for the School Choice Essential.

Board members shared their desire to incorporate Equity into each Essential. They discussed the importance of the Advocacy component in preparing students for Career and College Readiness. They shared thoughts on how the Essentials should support each other.

Board members also discussed how to make student success a central part of the plan. They talked about the importance of the students' experience, noting it should be central to the SAP. They also discussed the necessity of tracking student success. President Bennett distributed an example of another district's plan. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes.

Dr. Garcia said he would meet with the owners of the Essentials to discuss the student component. He said the next step would be to convene committees to work on identifying needs and setting short and long term goals, creating objectives and action steps, and determining measurements. He said the work of the committees would be brought to the board for discussion. President Bennett

asked board members to contact Dr. Garcia to share their interest in working on different committees.

Dr. Garcia asked board members to consider the vision and mission statement components for discussion at the March 3, 2015, Board Business Meeting.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Local Revenues. Superintendent Withers said he forwarded to the board an email that was sent to Legislators regarding local revenue.

Priority Bills. Superintendent Withers discussed Senate Bill 104, 2nd Substitute, which would make school board elections partisan in districts with more than 20,000 students. He said the Salt Lake City School District would be impacted by this bill.

Revenue Projections. Superintendent Withers said State revenue projections should be available on Wednesday, February 18.

Be Bold for Kids. Board members received information regarding the 2015 Legislative Day on the Hill. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes. The topic was not discussed.

Following the Superintendent's report, Ms. Emery questioned why the board has two attorneys attending each board meeting. She also questioned the placement of the security officer in attendance. Board members discussed the purpose of the board's attorney and the role of Ms. Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services. They discussed the placement of the security officer.

Mr. Clára distributed a letter titled 'Disparate Treatment on the Board of Education'. He asked that this topic be added to a board meeting agenda. Ms. Emery seconded the request. President Bennett distributed a letter regarding this topic. She said the topic will be added to an upcoming board meeting agenda. Copies of the letters have been added to the official minutes.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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