

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

October 20, 2015

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 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 Kristi Swett (leaving at 8:17 p.m.).

Members Excused: Cristian Cortes, Student Member.

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; Christine Marriott, Director of Assessment and Evaluation; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Larry Madden, Secondary School Leadership Support; High School Principals, Chris Jenson, Highland High School, and Paul Sagers, West High School; Interim High School Principal, Greg Maughan, East High School; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Education Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; 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 October 20, 2015, three 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 5:40 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

* (1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, and/or property.
**(Emery 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, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and Flo Vincent, board legal counsel from Prince, Yeates and Geldzahler.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property at 5:45 p.m.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	X		
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

At 5:45 p.m. a motion was made:

* (2) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.
**(Sandberg and Swett)

Present for Closed Session were Heather Bennett, Tiffany Sandberg, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Katherine Kennedy, Kristi Swett, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and Flo Vincent, board legal counsel from Prince, Yeates and Geldzahler.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session for character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual at 6:37 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 6:40 p.m.

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Bennett welcomed everyone to the Board Study Session, and excused Cristian Cortes, Student Board Member. She outlined the purpose of the study session and recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Education Association, Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association, and Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association.
- Sue Tice led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Limited Consent Agenda

*(3) A motion was made that the board approve the one item included in the Limited Consent Agenda. This item is listed below.

** (Sandberg and Ford)

- a. The Purchasing Report dated October 20, 2015, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, and increases to existing purchase orders.

A. STUDY TOPICS

1. Student Achievement Plan. Christine Marriott discussed the most current draft of the 'Salt Lake City School District Pathway to Success Indicators'. She highlighted information that has been added and changed, and said changes will continue as information is gathered and discussed, and as the document is fine-tuned. She noted students who are not at a school for the full year are not included in the measures. She said all students take the SAGE exam, but scores for students who have not been enrolled for the entire year can be excluded, although the students are counted in the participation numbers.

Ms. Marriott talked about WIDA and English Language Arts (ELA) testing, and noted students who are enrolled in the district from Kindergarten through third grade are more likely to attain WIDA proficiency. She said after fifth grade it is more difficult for students to catch up. She said graduation rates should increase as the district implements the 'Threshold of Achievement', and ensures students are reaching goals. She discussed tracking post-graduate certificates and degrees obtained by students who graduated from the district. She answered questions from board members, noted suggestions for changes to the document, and said she would provide board members with the information and data requested.

President Bennett thanked Ms. Marriott for her presentation, and said she feels the process for developing goals has been a good one.

2. High School Schedule Feedback from Principals. Larry Madden, Secondary School Leadership Support, and High School Principals Paul Sagers, West High School, and Chris Jensen, Highland High School, and Interim High School Principal Greg Maughan, East High School, presented the board with the information gathered regarding possible changes to the high school schedule. Mr. Madden talked about his experience with scheduling. He said the time frame for the principals to gather information from all stakeholders in response to the board's request for information, was extremely limited. He said he felt schedule changes should be driven by student needs.

Mr. Maughan said East High School has created an ad hoc committee through the School Community Council (SCC) to study different schedules, but the meetings have not been well attended. He presented the results of a survey sent to faculty, the SCC Chair, and the PTSA President, and said there was not a majority interest in changing the schedule. He plans to expand the survey to include parents and students.

Mr. Jenson said Highland High School has created a subcommittee, whose members are communicating through emails, to study schedules. He said he also surveyed the faculty, and there was not a majority interested in changing schedules. He noted it has been difficult to get traction for the idea. He said the team schedule for freshman has been a success, but changes to the schedule for the entire school would impact transportation and other issues.

Dr. Sagers said he has gathered information from teachers and parents informally, and the numbers are split between those who would like to change the schedule and those who would like the schedule to remain the same. He said the SCC started an ad hoc committee, but they feel they have not had time to study the issue adequately. He said he is concerned about decreasing opportunities for students if schedules are changed.

The principals planned a trip to Juan Diego High School with their SCC Chairs to study the school's unique schedule. They plan to continue the scheduling conversations at the schools, but asked the board if schedule changes are a high priority that should be placed ahead of other issues the schools face. They suggested creating a committee that would include stakeholders from all three high schools and the CTE. The principals agreed a common schedule for the three comprehensive high schools would be preferable, and would allow students to continue to make use of the CTE opportunities at all schools and the CTE Center.

The group answered questions from board members, and asked the board if they should make scheduling a top priority. Board members agreed start times and schedules were separate issues, and asked the principals to continue to gather information about serving student needs, including schedule changes. They noted the stakeholder survey would give further information about the needs of the school communities. The board thanked the principals for working together, and encouraged them to continue to bring information about ways to improve student outcomes, including the graduation rate.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Organizational Structure. Superintendent Withers thanked Patrick Garcia for his service to the district, and noted it was his last official board meeting. He said Dr. Garcia had served in various capacities within the district, and has accepted many challenges. He noted his focus on young people, his kindness, and his ability to listen and mediate, and said Dr. Garcia will assist the district with negotiations next spring.

Dr. Garcia said he has been incredibly fortunate to have worked for the Salt Lake City School District, and to work side-by-side with incredible colleagues. He has been pushed, but has had great support from the school board, administration, his peers, and the Salt Lake Education Association. He said he has great confidence in

the leaders of the district, and believes they are looking for ways to help young people be successful.

President Bennett thanked Dr. Garcia on behalf of the board, and Business Administrator Roberts thanked Dr. Garcia, and said he will be missed.

Priority Investments. Superintendent Withers distributed a pamphlet from the Utah School Board Association (USBA), the Utah School Superintendents Association (USSA), and the Utah Association of School Business Officials (UASBO), listing legislative priorities. He said the Lieutenant Governor is working on a list of priorities, as is the Utah State Board of Education. He said he will continue to bring updates on the preparations for the 2016 legislative session. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes.

2. Other Reports.

Superintendent Withers distributed a document titled 'Fall Enrollment 2015', with district enrollment information. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes.

Superintendent Withers reminded the board of the Special Board Planning Meeting on October 26, 2015. He said the agenda would be delivered electronically to board members, and there would be no exhibits attached. President Bennett said there would be a short Closed Session before the open meeting.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

tyh

Salt Lake City School District
Addition to the Minutes of the Board Study Session 10/20/2015

OFFICIAL EXHIBITS OF BOARD MEETING

Official exhibits provided to the board and made available to the public as part of the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

ADDITION TO THE MINUTES

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District acts by vote of a majority of the board members in an open and public meeting. Statements by individual board members, in or out of board meetings, written, oral or in social media, do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the board or any other board member. Nevertheless, out of respect to the elected office that each board member holds and consistent with state law and board policy, the board allows its members to attach to board meeting minutes any other information that any member requests. When the board votes to approve minutes, that vote signifies that the minutes are a correct record of what occurred and what was asked to be included in the minutes. It does not signify any individual board member's agreement with the substance of the content.

The following information was distributed in the public meeting of the board, and has been included in the minutes at the request of the board member(s):

Legislative Priorities from USBA/USSA/UASBO
Fall Enrollment 2015

[Agenda Item B1](#)
[Agenda Item B2](#)