

**CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
March 1, 2016**

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a study session and business meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 beginning at 5 pm at the Canyons Support Services Building, 9351 S. 300 East, Sandy, UT 84070

Those present were:

Clareen Arnold, Board Member  
Robert Green, Board Member  
Chad Iverson, Board Member  
Amber Shill, Board Member  
Sherril Taylor, Board President  
Nancy Tingey, Board Second Vice President  
Steve Wrigley, Board Vice President  
James Briscoe, Superintendent  
Leon Wilcox, Chief Financial Officer  
Dan Harper, General Counsel  
Charles Evans, Director External Affairs

**1. Closed Session--5:10 pm**

A. For the purpose of discussing the deployment of security personnel, devices or systems.

**MOTION: Amber Shill moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the deployment of security personnel, devices or systems. Steve Wrigley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Chad Iverson, yes; Clareen Arnold, yes; Steve Wrigley, yes; Sherril Taylor, yes; Nancy Tingey, yes; and Amber Shill, yes. Robert Green was not in attendance for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**2. Study Session--6 pm**

A. Legislative Update--Susan Edwards and Charlie Evans

- Charlie Evans updated the Board on the Point of the Mountain Redevelopment Commission. There is now an amendment in the bill that provides a member of the commission will represent all of the impacted school districts-- Alpine, Canyons and Jordan. The area they are looking at is much bigger than the prison and takes in part of Lehi and South Jordan. A representative will be appointed by the Speaker and Senate President to represent all three districts. This will probably be someone from the education community who hopefully will be able to make sure our needs are taken care of. Initially there was resistance to this amendment because a lot of people wanted to be appointed to this commission. Mr. Evans thanked President Niederhauser for weighing in to make this happen.
- President Taylor said in the beginning, our District was left out of discussions. It is nice to have a voice. He is pleased the three districts are willing to work together for a common good. Mr. Evans feels our relationship on the Hill with the people from Jordan has never been better.
- Mr. Evans also gave information regarding SB38--the Charter School Funding Bill. At the beginning of the session, they hoped to set a separate statewide levy for the funding of charter schools. The bill has been amended. We will lower our tax bill by 25% and that will move over to a separate line item on the tax bill. This will be revenue neutral to the taxpayer. This will be the first time taxpayers see the amount of their taxes going to charter schools. When the District raises taxes, charter schools will also benefit. The deadline for raising taxes is March 4. A few details still need to be worked out. This will keep us from fighting with charter schools so much at the legislature. As charters become more like public schools, our interests will align more. This is a big step forward.

- Mr. Iverson said in some ways we are responsible for allocation of the funds we receive from taxpayers but we have no say in how the money is spent by charter schools. Are local school boards responsible for charter schools or not? School boards are the only ones elected to raise taxes for education in the Canyons School District. There are charter school boards but they are not elected officials. Mr. Green feels we need a new format as to how taxpayer funds are being used. Now money coming from taxpayers will go directly to the charter schools and not through our District. This will increase transparency.
- Mr. Wrigley asked about a bill that would allow teachers to come back after retirement. Mr. Evans said all of the bills related to that topic are not getting traction.
- In regard to budget numbers, Mr. Evans said there is \$53 million less in the General Fund and there was \$45 million added in the Education Fund. The Governor's Office said they thought a 4.75 WPU was possible but it is not guaranteed. Higher ed is also coming after some of those dollars.
- Mr. Evans recognized the work of Susan Edwards at the legislature. She does a great job. Dr. Briscoe pointed out that Mrs. Edwards facilitated the dual-immersion event held at the capitol. It was pretty amazing. Nancy Tingey also thanked Charlie and Susan and their intern, Scott. They are working long hours. People know them and respect them. They are a resource at the capitol. We are being well represented there.

B. Elementary Schedule/Brain Booster Update--Joanne Ackerman and Alice Peck

- Joanne Ackerman said the information they have to share is very positive. On March 16, 2015, the Board approved this schedule. Recently, a survey was sent to all elementary teachers with the same questions asked in 2014-15 when a new schedule was implemented. 426 of the 508 teachers who responded said the schedule this year was either very helpful or extremely helpful. Last year they had about the same percentage say that schedule was not helpful.
- The survey asked if there are any components of this year's schedule that is causing any kind of anxiety or frustration. Seventeen teachers out of the responding group said yes. When asked what was causing them anxiety, most of the issues could be addressed at their own schools to modify their schedule for next year. Conversations are already taking place with BLTs, PTAs and SCCs to see how they can improve the schedule next year.
- The question was asked if the protected teacher planning time has improved teacher's instruction. 444 teachers felt it had improved their instruction. We still need to look at testing data.
- Teachers were asked if the Brain Boosters were worthwhile. Initially teachers felt if the Brain Boosters weren't well trained, it would only give teachers more work. The Instructional Supports Department has done a marvelous job training these instructors. 440 out of 508 agree or strongly agree that the Brain Boosters are worthwhile. Parent input was also overwhelmingly positive.
- Alice Peck said they asked the teachers two open-ended questions. First, they asked what they liked about this year's schedule. The majority of teachers said they enjoy having the protected planning time. They like having the early-out Fridays back. They like having IPLCs during school hours and they have time to collaborate during the school day. Teachers loved the consistent schedule and the Brain Boosters. Kindergarten teachers like having additional time between their am and pm classes.
- Teachers were also asked for any ideas they had to improve the schedule. A lot of the suggestions were part of the individual school decisions. Calendaring concerns were addressed in this area.
- Three schools did not have an opportunity to meet with their SCCs and PTAs to gather feedback. That information will come to the Board at the next meeting. There were a few people who didn't like the early-out Fridays or wanted to change the Brain Boosters offered at their schools. Overall the response was extremely positive. Parents really like this and hope it continues. Parents also appreciated being included in the discussion.
- We still have some problem solving areas that are ongoing with the schedule. We need to address PLC time for Kindergarten teachers. We also need to provide time for Special Ed and cluster teachers. Mrs. Peck reviewed how this time looks at different schools. We need to increase the amount of training and support we give the instructional technicians to help them work with cluster students. Brain Booster time is an incredible way for cluster students to be mainstreamed during some of the fun activities of the day. Where the clusters work, it has shown really positive results for all of the students.
- Nancy Tingey asked if there is a process set up for those schools who want to change their Brain Booster offerings. Joanne Ackerman said schools have flexibility but they have been asked to get input from the BLT before the decision is made. Principals have also been asked to work with another school if they want to change Brain Boosters so personnel can be traded and we don't have to rehire or retrain. We don't know

how many schools want to change. If they do switch we want to make sure we have the ability to support them from the District perspective. They don't plan on adding boosters that we haven't had in the past. Some schools want to discuss the STEM curriculum and see if it can be changed.

- Mrs. Tingey also asked how many of the Brain Booster instructors will be returning or if there is a high turnover. They will gather that information for the next Board Meeting. Mrs. Tingey is curious if those employees are feeling satisfied with the program. Dr. Briscoe said as he has visited schools, he has found the staff is really proud of the Brain Boosters they have. The quality of these technicians is very high. These people like having the opportunity to share what they love to do. Dr. Roderick-Landward said they have the impression that most of them are staying because they are already planning for next year. Mrs. Peck said these technicians need the tools to be successful and the District has done a fabulous job supporting them.
- Ms. Ackerman said right now we are projected to come in under the amount of hours that was approved for this program.
- Mr. Wrigley said in talking to students, he has found they really like the schedule. Mrs. Peck added that the parents say the kids love it and they are coming home excited and talking about what they are doing. The kids are having fun but the information they are learning is still aligned to the core.

C. LAND Trust Final Reports 2014-15--Alice Peck

- On February 8, 2016, Susan Edwards and Mrs. Peck received an email from the Natalie Gordon, LAND Trust Financial Manager. She reported that the final reports for the 2014-15 school year were ready for district review. These reports have already been submitted by the principals but there has been a change for final reports going forward. Now the school board must approve final reports.
- The financial manager gave some suggestions on things they found in the final reports that the District needs to pay attention to. Most of these concerns were addressed last year. 1) Some schools have too much carryover. A few of the schools overspent but that money was subtracted from the next year's allotment. 2) They suggested the Leon and Alice reconcile some differences in the numbers the principals put into their final plans with the numbers the business administrator put into the plan. They found that conflicts were just clerical errors. The numbers did reconcile. We will make sure principals have accurate information to put in their final reports.
- There is no way to edit or change the actual plan. There is a place in the comment section verbiage can be added. Mrs. Peck has made changes in the comments section.
- Principals will not be able to submit their upcoming plans for next year until the final reports have been submitted with the Board's approval.
- Mrs. Tingey reminded Board members that in the spring the Board approves the plans to be implemented the following school year. These plans are for the completed school year. In the spring, they also review progress reports for the current school year. So they are dealing with three different school years.
- The Board is basically accepting the reports. No signatures are required.

D. Diamond Ridge Logo--Jeff Haney and Karen Sterling

- The Communications Department and Student Advocacy and Access Department have been working closely with Amy Boettger, Principal, to design the new logo for Diamond Ridge. Jeff Olson our fantastic graphic designer did the work in house.
- Jeff Haney presented the logo and suite of materials they are proposing to use to brand the school.
- The colors for the school are blue, black, silver and gold. The mascot is the Raptor. All of the talons on the raptor take the form of a diamond. The raptor is fierce and they would like these students to be fierce.
- The school can use these graphics in their letterhead, t-shirts, signs, etc.
- The Board gave permission to move forward.

E. Board Vision Goals--Nancy Tingey and Steve Wrigley

- Nancy Tingey explained that for a while the Board has been wanting to pull together some of the statements regarding the vision, mission statement and tenets. When the District was first formed, a tremendous amount of work was done with community input about what the community wanted the District to focus on as far as values and priorities. The original leadership worked very hard to put things in place that became a strategic plan. Then everyone rolled up their sleeves and got busy putting things in place to support those values and mission.

- Last summer the Board discussed the need to pull together all of the pieces that are out there guiding this District so people could look and see how all of the actions were supporting our goals and vision. Nancy presented several working drafts that were prepared by the Communications Department for discussion purposes only. The drafts contain information that has been previously published in official publications. That information was then used to create a graphic that tells at a glance what Canyons District is about. Tyler Toone and Jeff Olson created the visual.
- The mission statement is the center of the circle--Every student college- and career-ready. The four tenets set up by the original board encircle the mission statement--Student Achievement, Community Engagement, Innovation and Customer Service. Listed are the things we have accomplished under each tenet the last few years. This is a snapshot showing how everything is connected and focused on achieving the mission of the District.
- There weren't any clear cut goals and indicators for measuring and setting the goals so that is something the Board can work on. They can also determine the values.
- Steve Wrigley added that other districts list on their websites what the board stands for and the direction they are heading. This would allow a parent coming to the district to easily recognize what is important to the board. Everything the Board discusses should tie back to our mission and our values. This is a good start. They would like feedback from all of the Board members.
- Mrs. Tingey said they don't expect the Board to make any decisions tonight. They just wanted to give members time to review and study the information. They will then schedule a work session to brainstorm and discuss it.
- It would be helpful if the Board could identify a handful of indicators to see consistently in the reports from the administration to measure student achievement. Key indicators could be graduation rate, ACT scores, third grade reading level or eighth grade math scores. Research indicates there are some things that are key indicators of how likely a student is to be on the path to being college- and career-ready. Benchmarks and milestones in reaching targets could be monitored.
- Mr. Iverson commented that he liked the idea. Indicators should be selected for all of the tenets. The Board could then measure how we are doing.
- President Taylor added that we are doing wonderful things. We're not here to change anything. We just want to organize it so the patrons can see at a glance what we are doing and what we expect. He thanked Nancy and Steve for providing this draft. This is a good starting point. We need to put together a document that is easy for a patron to see where we are at and where we are going. This is a legacy document. We thank everyone who has put their heart into this.
- Nancy Tingey said the values are applied to everything we do. They are not a goal or a program. We apply them to everything.
- Mr. Wrigley said he appreciates that the reports the Board receives tells the good things that are taking place and also points out where we have weaknesses that we can work on. That makes it more transparent.
- Mrs. Tingey acknowledged that all of this was put in place by the initial leaders in our District. They did this in response to extensive community input.
- This will help with consistency for future Board members and leaders. It can also be used in recruitment.
- Mr. Green shared that he feels this is a great list of values but he would like to add integrity.
- President Taylor said they will schedule a retreat this summer and work on creating this document.

### **3. Business Meeting Opening 7:35 pm.**

#### **4. Opening Items**

A. President Taylor welcomed everyone to the Business Meeting.

B. Approve Agenda for March 1, 2016

**MOTION: Steve Wrigley moved to approve the agenda for March 1, 2016. Robert Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

C. Pledge of Allegiance-- Troop 3347 from Sandy Elementary, Eddie Snow, Leader

D. Reverence and School Highlights--McKay Robinson, Principal, Sandy Elementary

- Principal Robinson read a quote from Rita Pierson that said "Every child deserves a champion." He shared how his third grade teacher was his champion. Mr. Robinson is the educator he is because Mr. Miner

believed in him and inspired him. Every person has had an adult who has been their champion. He hopes we can all remember where we came from and those champions in our lives. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to be the champion for 560 students at Sandy Elementary.

- He reviewed some of the programs at Sandy Elementary. They include: preschool, full-day Kindergarten that allows for early intervention, IPLCs that are taking place on a regular basis, and a Care Team where they have a partnership with Valley Behavioral Health. As a Title 1 school they have established many wonderful partnerships with their community. They have a fantastic Family Learning Center where parents of the students can come to learn English and computer skills that will allow them to find success in their lives. Because they are acquiring those skills, those parents are now comfortable volunteering in the school. They offer wonderful before- and after-school programs that include enrichment activities. They have an orchestra and a school play.
- They have focused a lot on reading this year. They are making tremendous progress.
- They also have behavior related goals. Teachers set a goal to increase their Shark Pride distribution (recognition of good behavior). They have distributed 20,588 positive recognitions throughout the year. Last year they were at 16,000. Behavior is improving every day.
- He challenged everyone to be the champion children deserve.

## 5. Patron Comments

- A. President Taylor reviewed the guidelines for Patron Comments.
- B. Jen Butters, CEA President, said: Last weekend I attended the NEA Leadership Summit in Dallas where association leaders came together from across the nation. During this amazing conference, I was able to attend sessions on educating the whole child and overcoming institutional prejudice. Just as I've heard all of you say that when you get with your peers you realize what a progressive district we have. I had the exact same experience and realized how progressive the work that Canyons School District does is. We got to listen to David Johns from the White House. He's the executive director of something that has to do with institutional racism. It is a really long title. He spoke to us about institutional prejudice. I was struck by the work you as the Board this year has done with the United Way Partnership and the Hillcrest Feeder System Proposal that you approved last meeting. And, how you are truly confronting the needs of the children who live in poverty and who come to us without being English language proficient. Who come to school with disadvantages that we cannot imagine. By approving expenditures to help them. I get a little teary because those are my kids. Those are the kids that I teach and those are the kids that are my own children in my house. I was reminded of Martin Luther King Jr.'s statement the budgets are moral documents. You have demonstrated that you take your moral obligations to all of our Canyons District students very seriously. You have asked yourselves the hard question--How do we leverage our resources to best serve our students? In the sessions that I attended about teaching the whole child, we were referred to Dr. James Comer's statement about with every interaction in a school we are either building community or destroying it. That happens at the District level as well. I thought about the work we have done over the past two years as a district and the community that we have built in Canyons School District and the ways that we all work together. That is what motivated me to write this and come and talk to you. Really, I'm so filled with gratitude for the work that we do. It is beyond the formal work that we do in this meeting and in all of the other meetings that we sit across the table at with each other. It goes to the way that we greet each other as human beings. I think about last week we came out of a meeting with Joanne and several of us were in the hall and it was like a grand reunion. Oh, I haven't seen you in a whole week. We have those friendly relationships. The way that we meet and we talk about things like budgets and calendars and evaluations and ideas for reaching students. Leon is always so responsive to any questions that we have. Steve, Karen, School Performance...everybody is just so willing to help out. Karen spent an hour of her time last week helping me understand how Title 1 budgets work because I wasn't sure. We were late into the evening and she is explaining her passion and letting me ask all of these questions. The way that district personnel work to find solutions to different concerns, specifically, today I just found out about some work that Hal Sanderson and Eric Taylor had done to help a fourth grade teacher. That fourth grade teachers happens to be me. I had this weird situation and they really just said--hey what's best for kids in this situation and made things happen. So, the way we are ultimately all focused on every child succeeding. That's the Canyons District way. In this time of a teacher shortage, it's the way that we're going to attract and retain the very best of the best. I just wanted to say that I'm proud to work with all of you. Thank you for everything that you do.
- C. Steve Van Maren said: I appreciate all of you--seven of you--and how hard you must work for listening in those work sessions. There is a lot that goes on. There are three of you up for election and the filing period opened in

January. I'd like to see the other two of you file and come back at the discretion of your communities and serve for another term. Thank you very much.

- D. President Taylor concluded by saying how much the Board appreciates those who address the Board. They look forward to patrons sharing their ideas and concerns.

## 6. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2016 Board Meeting
- B. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- C. Approval of Student Overnight Travel
- D. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- E. Approval of LAND Trust Final Reports 2014-15

**MOTION: Amber Shill moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items A-E. Nancy Tingey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## 7. New Business

- A. Policy Review: Graduation Requirements and Open Enrollment and School Moratoriums (Second Reading)-- Jeff Christensen and Policy Committee
- Jeff Christensen explained that the Graduation Requirements Policy states the graduation requirements that the Board is able to establish as set forth in Utah State Law. There is one minor revision from the first reading. One change was made in provision 2.1 and 2.2 where an additional sentence was added and language was modified to indicate that commencement exercises are under the direction and administered by the local high school. When students complete their graduation requirements it is up to the individual high school institution to administer the commencement exercises. High schools have traditions and things that are unique to their schools. Whether a student participates in commencement is up to the high school. On BoardDocs an exhibit was also modified that addresses the Canyons Basic Diploma which is available for students with extenuating circumstances. The provisions that were provided by Assistant Superintendent Robert Dowdle were added to the exhibit. So, the graduation requirements and administrative procedures are both included on the exhibit. Mr. Iverson said he feels this makes the criteria for someone to qualify for the Basic Diploma much more objective.
  - A redline version and a corrected draft of the Open Enrollment and School Moratorium Policy are on BoardDocs. The Board of Education asked for the Policy Committee to review the Open Enrollment Policy and align it with state statute for open enrollment permits. They were also asked to review when a Board can designate a school on moratorium status. This policy defines school enrollment moratorium as when the Board designates a school not open for permit enrollment for non-resident students because the school is operating above the 90% open enrollment threshold. Several modifications were made since the first reading. In state statute there is a provision that provides that once you exceed the 90% open enrollment threshold the Board can engage in a process of non-renewal of permits. The Policy Committee determined that although that is within the Board's discretion, only the Board of Education will make that determination in an open meeting. Provision 6 in the draft policy states that the Board retains sole authority for non-renewal of permits and if they do that it will be in open meeting by vote.
  - State statute provides that if a parent submits an open enrollment permit, there is a review process to determine whether or not to accept or reject that permit. Under state statute, the student may appeal to the Board of Education regarding a denial of that permit. However, it's not "shall" appeal to the Board of Education they "may". An internal procedure with a panel of administrators designated by the superintendent will review those appeals. Then a secondary step is they may appeal to the Board of Education but only in cases of procedural error or new evidence. Ultimately that gives the discretion to that internal appeal to really review the issues. The Board is only brought in when there is procedural error or new evidence to consider.
  - The Policy Committee also was able to address when a school is on moratorium status and provisions are provided if a school is on moratorium status and a new student is registering at that school, they will provide proof of their residency through the District's residency procedures to verify they are within that boundary.
  - The transportation language was modified to state that students accepted on open enrollment permits are responsible for their own transportation to and from school.

- Mr. Wrigley said he appreciates the addition of the appeals to the Board of Education. He had a question regarding sibling enrollment. There was a discussion if this refers to ninth grade students during a boundary change. He asked for large families if this referred to any student who happened to be in the school. Mr. Christensen a statement which said: "Sibling enrollment under a boundary change. In the event of a boundary change the Board of Education may allow current students who became non-resident due to the boundary change to remain at the school. The Board of Education may also allow siblings of the above students who were those that are in the contemplated group that are remaining at the school to permit at the school." This allows for those families that may have a younger sibling to potentially permit into the school. Mr. Wrigley thought we were talking only about ninth grade students coming in after a boundary change. Mr. Green said he thought it was up to the Board of Education to define that. Mrs. Tingey said the policy was written not to address a specific situation but to give the Board leeway to react to specific situations. The intent of the committee was to allow the Board as much flexibility as possible. Mr. Iverson said the Board needs to determine what the Sibling Rule is for Corner Canyon for 2017. That decision hasn't been made yet. Mrs. Tingey said those are two separate decisions and we need to address that at a different time. We need to decide if this policy is a governing document that could be applied to multiple situations. Dr. Briscoe said the vote on the motion regarding Corner Canyon was in 2017 when the boundaries go into effect, if you have a sibling at Corner Canyon and it is on moratorium and you have an incoming freshman they can go to Corner Canyon. Those kids have to get their own transportation. Dr. Briscoe thinks in these situations we will have to work with individual families. You may have a freshman every year. It is going to be a transition period. In the situation of the prison, we need to make sure developers are telling new students that they are going to Alta. The administration will work with families and do as much as they can to accommodate students.
- Mr. Iverson commented on the section regarding non-renewal of permits. He is uncomfortable with any board not renewing permits and taking kids out of a school midstream. He feels it is unnecessary and it could damage students in their relationships. He greatly appreciates the change that has been made in this version of the policy that requires the Board to vote on non-renewals in open meeting.
- Nancy Tingey reminded the Board that the non-renewal language was in the policy because it is part of statute. The Board is allowed to do that. But, in the end it is the Board's decision whether or not they enact that ability to take that action. By including it in the policy, it allows flexibility for boards over time to handle situations as they arise.
- Mr. Green said we discussed that even though it makes an allowance for taking children out of the school it doesn't mean the Board will do that. He doesn't intend to ever do that. He feels it would be detrimental to the students.
- President Taylor asked Mr. Christensen to bring this back for Third Reading at the next Board Meeting.

B. Campaign to Encourage Idle Free Zones at CSD Schools--Jeff Haney

- Jeff Haney presented information regarding an initiative Dr. Briscoe asked them to undertake. The idea came from a patron who called in after sitting in line watching parents pick up the kids from their school and letting their cars idle. This was in the midst of all of the gunky air. Dr. Briscoe asked them to look at what we could do to encourage people in Canyons School District to turn the key when they are dropping off kids and picking them up.
- They brainstormed how to encourage patrons to have a no idle community. The aim is to reduce the air pollution and improve the environment in our community.
- The Environment Defense Fund has said that for every 10 minutes your engine is off, you'll prevent one pound of carbon dioxide from being released. Carbon dioxide is the primary contributor to global warming.
- With the Board's approval, we hope to launch a community campaign to ask patrons to turn off their cars at the drop off and pickups. This will be voluntary. We will work with school communities to encourage environmental friendly behaviors. Each school community will determine how they will spread the message that we will have no idling spots in front of our schools. He displayed a proposed sign the schools could use asking people to turn off their engines. It has also been translate for communities who have large numbers of parents who speak Spanish. They would like the Board's approval to encourage the schools to post these signs. The District will create messages and graphics that can be used to spread the message through social media.
- He asked for the Board's approval to move forward to work with schools to create a voluntary no idling campaign in Canyons School District.

- President Taylor said he doesn't feel this requires a vote. They are just seeking the Board's permission to move forward
- Steve Wrigley said he feels it is a great idea. He asked if we have contacted The Department of Environmental Quality to see if they will contribute any money towards the signs. Mr. Haney said we can do that.
- Nancy Tingey agreed this is a great idea. PTA and other organizations have similar objectives and programs by encouraging the Walk to School Day. By coordinating with them, we can magnify this effort and make a difference. She has tried harder to turn off the key before she checks her phone. Those seconds add up over time. She hopes everyone will look at our habits and see what changes we can make to make a difference. Mr. Haney said we want to dovetail with school communities to promote environmentally friendly policies in their own communities.
- Amber Shill said Canyon View and Oakdale already have campaigns going. It is a great idea. It is something little we can each do that will help.
- President Taylor said the will of the Board is to move forward. He asked if they would check to see if there is any funding to help pay for the signs.

## 8. Staff Comments

### A. Superintendent Report

- Superintendent Briscoe thanked Jeff Haney for how quickly he put together the preliminary communications for the idle free zone. Besides educating students, we have some responsibility for their health and future health. The projected enrollment in Utah is supposed to double in this area over the next thirty years. He is thankful that Canyons School District is willing step up and be a leader in this cause. He appreciates Jeff's efforts. We will work with our principals and keep the Board posted. He recognized a parent named Cindy Boyer from Altara for making this suggestion. She is very passionate about keeping all of our children healthy. He appreciates the Board's support. At the last meeting, we had a patron ask the Board to consider forming a parent committee to be a liaison to our Dual-Immersion Program. Dr. Briscoe wanted to tell the Board where we are at so they know we are taking action. After a constituency meeting a few months ago, Nancy and Amber called to say they had a few parents who were very concerned about what was happening in the Advanced Language Dual Immersion at the middle school. They asked him to hold forums for parents to get their feedback. We followed up on that and Dr. Roderick-Landward and her staff solicited feedback from parents. From there they generated specific questions and held parent focus groups. They then used the data to determine how the advanced pathways would look and that was shared with the whole Board. As a result of the parent feedback they received, they set up additional parent meetings inviting the dual-immersion parents in. Two more annual district meetings where all of the dual immersion parents can come in were added. The purpose of these meetings is not to talk but to listen and get feedback. They hold annual meetings to share information at all of the schools. They also meet with the principals and teachers to get feedback on adjustments they need to make. We currently have a Chinese parent community that established their own network four or five years ago and they respond to their constituents and meet with the Department. Dr. Briscoe said he appreciates Amber's department reaching out to form two more public forums to get feedback and he suggests that we continue on this route to reach out to all parents. He likes what they are doing and their responsiveness. We need to have reports on that feedback annually. Today he was able to read Morris Goes To School to second graders at Ridgecrest. Sometimes teachers act surprised that he shows up. If he is free and he is asked to interact with kids, he is there. He loves interacting with our students. It is fun and it re-energizes him.

### B. Chief Financial Officer Report

- Leon Wilcox thanked Charlie and Susan for the support they give us at the State Legislature. Nancy Tingey had been up there a lot representing the USBA and Amber Shill was there last week. He has spent a lot of time there this session. There is a lot going on. Right now there are over 700 bills that have been filed. In a 45 day session, that is a yeoman's work. The one topic that has caused the most attention is SB38 on charter school funding. He was on the task force that served last summer. He thanked Representative Steve Eliason and Senator Howard Stephenson for sponsoring this bill. We are optimistic that it will go through. We think it is a good change for both charters and school districts. There has been a lot of work on this and other bills. We still don't know the funding. There are nine days left in the session so a lot could still happen. We have the Valley High property under contract to be sold to the Wadsworth Group. In



the meantime, the Larry Miller Group has asked to rent that parking lot to park some cars there while they do paving on one of their neighboring lots. Cars will be there in March and April while they pave. Wadsworth has entered into this agreement and they can still go about doing all of their inspections they need to do. Lastly, we received Gaylene Halvorsen's retirement notice today. She will be with us for a couple of months. We will miss her. Some people just can't be replaced. We will have a new person starting in June. It is hard because she has been with us since Day 1.

## 9. Board Comments

- A. Chad Iverson acknowledged the attendance of Mr. Carson who is one of his constituents. Hopefully he is learning a little bit. He attended the Spelling Bee at Crescent Elementary and that was a neat experience. He attended the Canyons District Ski and Shred at Brighton. There were more people than usual which was good. So, he hopes there will be more funds going towards the Canyons Education Foundation. He appreciated Steve Van Maren's kind comments tonight. Mr. Iverson said he greatly appreciates the opinions of everyone on the Board and the administration. It is a pleasure to serve with all of them. He stated we will miss Mrs. Halvorsen. It has been a pleasure to work with her.
- B. Claren Arnold thanked all of the people who helped with the cleanup of Mount Jordan Middle School. That was a surprise and a lot of work on everybody's part. It was done quickly and the response was fast. She thanked all of the parents and teachers who attended parent conferences last week for the high school who attended, learned and supported that process of parents getting information to help their students. She thanked Gaylene. It has been a joy and pleasure to work with her and she will miss her.
- C. Steve Wrigley thanked Mrs. Halvorsen. It will be hard to replace her. As a Board of Education we often talk about college- and career-ready. His third daughter will graduate this year. At these times the college- and career-ready really hits you. She has gone to five universities and she has scholarships to all five. The reason she has those scholarships is the great teachers she's had. It's the great education she's been able to get. You don't value that until it is one of your own kids and you go, wow, this is college- and career-ready. She has got people wining and dining her all over because she has the grades because she had the good teachers. She wants to be a secondary math teacher. She is so impressed by the level of education she has received and the teachers that she has had that she is looking forward to becoming a teacher herself. Maybe she will teach here someday. Who knows? Mr. Wrigley is thankful for the education our District provides our kids. All of his kids have had an excellent level of education and have done very well because of their education. We are really meeting our mission for his family. He has felt when his kids have graduated they have been college- and career-ready. His second daughter is about ready to graduate as a nurse. The first one just graduated in public communications. Thank you for all of the educators we have with the fine jobs you do with our kids. It is noticeable in the Wrigley family.
- D. Nancy Tingey expressed her appreciation to Gaylene. We appreciate everyone and all they do. She was able to visit with the Student Advisory Council and a delightful hour with them. She was so impressed with their leadership, wisdom and insight. Dr. Dowdle had asked them to come prepared with things Canyons District is doing well and some things we can improve on. They had good things to say about course offerings, College Week and individual teachers and programs. What we can do better revolved around the food offerings in the cafeteria and vending machines. We felt disappointed that we couldn't help them with those concerns but we referred them to the federal government. We had a conversation about what quality teaching means to them. They are seniors and they are ending their public education career. Their responses were so insightful and wise. It comes down to passion about the teacher is doing and caring for individuals. The qualities of knowledge, respect and being predictable and reasonable were also mentioned. She hopes to have a conversation with our Instructional Supports people and let them know what high school students see in quality teachers. Leon mentioned about all of the legislation and there has been a lot of talk about that. State Interim Superintendent Sydnee Dickson said there are nearly 200 education bills and their office has reviewed over 500 fiscal notes. Mrs. Tingey is appreciative of those putting forth effort to come up with good policy for our schools and for education in Utah. She mentioned tonight when the young men were conducting the Pledge of Allegiance is struck her when the young man said "Honor your colors." She thought how do we honor those colors. What we are doing here with the work of public education is a

way of honoring those colors. Being involved in community and serving is honoring those colors. We should all ask ourselves--How do we honor our colors?

- E. Amber Shill thanked Gaylene. She is going to miss her. She spent Friday at the legislature and she really enjoyed that. She appreciates everything Charlie and Susan do for our District and Nancy and Leon. She felt cool to be there with them. She hopes to spend more time there. Last night she attended the play at Brighton High School. It was The Giver. That was really enjoyable. The cast and crew did an amazing job. She announced she and Nancy will be holding a town hall on Wednesday, March 9 at Butler Middle School in the Media Center at 7 pm. She invited parents to come and give them feedback and ask questions.
- F. Robert Green had the wonderful opportunity to go with Principal Greg Leavitt and the United Way representative and others to the homeless shelter in Midvale. It was a very interesting experience. He hadn't seen the new building. They tore down the old building and rebuilt it. It was interesting to see the living conditions some of our students have to be in. Eleven buses go there to pick up students and take them anywhere in the Valley. Federal law allows them to stay at the school that they left. You have three hundred beds in one big room. It is hard to imagine how people can sleep and feel safe there and have any type of privacy or place to think or do homework. It is an eye opener. Parents sometimes go through emotional crisis and kids go through quiet emotional crisis. After the kids met with them, they were all playing together and having fun as if everything was OK. That was good to see. Last Friday, Mr. Green volunteered downtown at the St. Vincent De Paul soup kitchen. The whole Jordan High School baseball team was volunteering that night. It was awesome to see those boys with the encouragement of their coaches who were there to come in and do service to others. They were building true character through helping other people. He gave kudos to the boys and their coaches for doing that. He encouraged everyone to find new ways to serve the community. He acknowledged Mrs. Halvorsen's retirement and said he would miss her.
- G. Sherril Taylor also thanked Gaylene for her patience in putting up with the quirky Board. Board members are always out in the community interacting with patrons. Last week a patron asked if he was on the Board and what he thought of the District. President Taylor responded that he thinks we have the best district in the whole country and explained why. His mind went back to the beginning and all of those who have served in the District and all of the effort and work that has gone into the District. It is all for the kids. He reflected back on all of those who were here early on until now. This has been quite an adventure for us to get to this point. This was nothing in the beginning and look where we are now. From Mr. Haney's perspective, we are leading out across the state. People look to us as leaders. It is all of those who have served in the District who have put us in this position. Mr. Taylor is proud to have been a very small part of this. He hopes when people go home tonight, they feel proud for all they do every day for the kids in this District. That is why we do it. Often time in education, you don't get the thanks you deserve. He is talking about everybody who serves and works in the District. We're going to get even better because the people here are not complacent. They always want to do greater things.

**10. Closing Items**

- A. Adjourned at 8:36 pm

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ATTEST

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Sherril Taylor

President

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James Briscoe

Superintendent