

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Washington County School District**  
**121 W Tabernacle, St. George, Utah 84770**  
**August 9, 2016**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Reverence offered by Member Stirland.

*Present: Board President Laura Hesson, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Vice President Debbra Zockoll, Board Member David Stirland, Board Member Ralph Brooks, Board Member Kelly Blake, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Lyle Cox, Communications Director Steve Dunham, Communications Coordinator Cody Plumhof,*

*Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer*

**Member Stirland presented a motion to go into a closed session at 12:14 p.m. Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

*Present: Board President Laura Hesson, Craig Seegmiller, Debbra Zockoll, David Stirland, Ralph Brooks, Kelly Blake, LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Brent Bills, Richard Holmes, Rex Wilkey, Craig Hammer, Lyle Cox, Steve Dunham, Cody Plumhof, Kajsia Boyer*

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Property Items

**Member Zockoll presented a motion to go into a working session at 1:05 p.m. Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **WORK SESSION**

##### **Board Professional Development – Laura Hesson**

Laura Hesson shared the comments from the July meeting. The Board is meeting at 5:30 p.m. on August 18. She asked the board members to come with ideas for a goal to work on.

##### **Board PLC Training – Bob Sonju**

Bob Sonju said one goal this year is to educate parents in the PLC process. Bob Sonju shared the PLC video that will be shared at Back-to-School Nights. He recognized Steve Dunham and Cody Plumhof for their help with the video. The video will arm parents with the right questions to ask. All the principals and learning coaches have seen the video. It is also available in Spanish and has been sent out for all schools to use. It is also showcased on our website. The video shares three very clear messages: our teachers work in teams – not individually – to make sure students are learning, we want parents in the school, and we want parents asking PLC questions of schools.

Laura Hesson asked the Board to email their constituent meeting dates to Kajsia Boyer.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade SAGE Testing - Brad Ferguson**

Brad Ferguson shared the Language Arts, math and science SAGE results from May 2016 by grade level trends and ethnic subgroups. He said we are above our baseline from 2014 in most areas. He shared a simple comparison to the big eight school districts in the state. He mentioned that our District has a very high free and reduced rate compared to the other districts. Our District has done well in Language arts and science, and even in most grades of math. Brad Ferguson reported that the number of students opting out in elementary is fairly low, but the numbers go up in intermediate, middle and high school. Our District's overall opt out rate is about 5% district-wide. Brad Ferguson said since all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students take the ACT test, districts have been given the option to administer the ACT only or ACT and SAGE. The Board discussed how legislation has removed the accountability of the test. The high school principals would like to eliminate the SAGE Test for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Laura Hesson suggested including the ACT prep class as part of the curriculum for all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students since that is the test they are taking. The Board will consider it as an action item next month.

### **Pine View High School Auditorium Remodel – Craig Hammer and Mel Ashcraft**

Craig Hammer and Mel Hammer reported on the findings at Pine View High. The cost to fix it will be about \$157,000. A second opinion quote has been sent out and should be back this week. Students have a lot of interaction with the theater equipment. Lyle Cox said the legal advice was to shut the stage down completely until it has been fixed. A letter has been issued to the school. The vocational and tennis courts look really nice.

### **Physical Facilities – Craig Hammer**

Craig Hammer reported on the new construction and capital improvement projects. It is almost impossible to get everything done in 60 days. The new middle school plans are going well, but they found a dry cavern 260 feet under the ground. Majestic Fields is coming along fine. The brick masons and steel crew working on Legacy Elementary have been slow and have had a few problems. It is still anticipated that they will complete the school by December. The plan is to move the school in at Christmas time. Plans for the high school will be ready the end of next month. The bid will be awarded in October and ready to start in November.

### **Annual Calendar Review – Larry Bergeson**

Superintendent Larry Bergeson reviewed the calendar dates for 2016-2017. He has received some comments on the Elementary SEOP in February being the last week of the trimester. The February SEOPs were moved because of the Monday holiday. Board members mentioned receiving comments from parents and county fair officials about starting school the weekend of the fair. Superintendent Larry Bergeson also mentioned that Fall Break does not align with UEA, but it is the same week as Dixie State University.

### **Follow-up from Previous Meeting**

Rex Wilkey reported on the boundary planning. He said that all the elementary principals were pulled in and asked what they would do. The committee then looked at boundaries and what would make sense in the future. Secondary boundaries have not been looked at yet. The committee still needs to put numbers into each of the areas and look at growth for the areas. It will be a challenge to keep the high schools similar in size with feeder schools only going to one middle and high school. Dual Immersion schools will still need to be looked at also. Steve Dunham said only a couple of schools had concerns with supportive parent areas being moved or safety concerns. Rex Wilkey said the projections are based on future growth. He reviewed the current enrollment of several elementary schools that were higher than projected. Portables have been moved to Crimson View Elementary, Little Valley Elementary, Hurricane Elementary, and Riverside Elementary. Debbie Zockoll mentioned that there is movement all over the county. She said there are 537 active

developments in Washington County. Rex Wilkey said he is also concerned that numbers will be too high in the downtown area and boundaries will need to be adjusted for Legacy Elementary also.

### **Open Discussion of the Board**

#### **UHSAA Update – Craig Seegmiller**

Craig Seegmiller said he is concerned about the Desert Hills High School enrollment. We will have to see where the numbers fall. The school may be peeled off from our region and moved to the 5A region.

#### **USBA Update – Kelly Blake**

Kelly Blake mentioned the Delegate Assembly scheduled for next weekend. Laura Hesson, LaRene Cox, and Kelly Blake will be attending. Brad Last, Lowry Snow and Senator Ann Milner will be there for questions and answers.

#### **MBA Update - Laura Hesson**

Laura Hesson emailed the list of requirements to the board members. She reminded the board members to get their constituent meeting dates to Kajsia Boyer.

#### **DXATC Update – David Stirland**

Dave Stirland said the construction is continuing. They will be meeting next week.

#### **FCAOG & Foundation Update – LaRene Cox**

LaRene Cox had nothing to report on FCAOG. Foundation has brought someone in to help manage Spooky Town. The Foundation is working hard on Spooky Town, the golf tournament, and the kite festival. Steve Dunham will be helping with public relations for the Foundation.

#### **Boundary Committee Update – Debbra Zockoll**

Debbra Zockoll mentioned that the Boundary Committee would be meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Ed Burgess has a program that shows where the growth is happening. The committee will save the District thousands of dollars in consulting fees.

#### **Audit Committee Update – Ralph Brooks**

Ralph Brooks had nothing to report from the Audit Committee. A schedule still needs to be set for the meetings.

#### **Items for Board Review**

1. Enrollment
2. Safe Schools
3. GRAMA Requests

Laura Hesson asked about changing the policy for electronic voting. The state will allow the board to set the policy to allow electronic voting. Cody Plumbhof said UEN offers so many more secure options. Lyle Cox said Iron County has a policy, but the public has to be able to use it the same way. The board can participate and monitor at the anchor location electronically. Laura Hesson said it would be good for electronic meetings that are called quickly. All could participate on the phone. Brent Bills reviewed the law. The board could set it up on an exception basis. Lyle Cox will draft the policy.

Richard Holmes reported that all middle schools are up by about 70 or more. High schools are coming in as projected. Fossil Ridge Intermediate is up and Sunrise Ridge Intermediate is up about

100 students. The count will drop a little with students who do not show up. The Washington Fields and Hurricane areas are seeing the most growth.

Ralph Brooks shared his thoughts on the school visits he attended this morning and appreciation for the district administration.

Bob Sonju encouraged the board to notice the teacher commitments around the boardroom.

The board discussed the schools, school administration, teachers and students. Secondary and elementary are different cultures. Part of the Board focus this year is to help teachers through positive feedback. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the administration will continue to keep track of their visits this year and will make sure to not leave any schools out. Laura Hesson suggested sending an email out from the board to welcome employees back. Kathleen Cheshire suggested the contact should be regular. Kelly Blake said he would love to attend school staff meetings as well.

Laura Hesson shared information on the Truth in Taxation rates. The Board discussed growth and construction in the area. Depending on the cost of building the new high school, the District should be able to build an additional elementary school with the current bond funds.

*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 Laura Hesson called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were Craig Seegmiller, David Stirland, Debra Zockoll, Kelly Blake, and LaRene Cox. Board member Ralph Brooks was excused. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson and Business Administrator Brent Bills.*

#### **OPEN MEETING – 4:00 p.m.**

Board President Welcome – Laura Hesson  
Pledge of Allegiance – Member Zockoll  
Reverence – Member Cox

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes
  - 1. June 14, 2016
  - 2. July 12, 2016
- B. Financial Report
- C. Personnel Items

Craig Seegmiller asked about expenses on the \$10,000 report to Yang's 5<sup>th</sup> Taste. Brent Bills said it was a purchase for the school lunch program.

**Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A through C. Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

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

No comments were given.

#### **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

##### **Policy 3510 Bullying and Hazing – Lyle Cox**

Lyle Cox said changes to the policy were due to a recent audit. Suggested changes included adding a definition on verbal bullying. The policy now includes the definition. Instances of verbal bullying will be determined by the event and would be more of a management issue. He recommended

approving the policy changes as they are. Schools are training employees through the Safe Schools training and through staff meetings. Character training is also done in the schools for students. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the school websites include information on bullying and where to report it. The policy allows the building administrator to deal with concerns.

**Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the changes to Policy 3510 Bullying and Hazing. Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **Policy 1710 Non-discrimination - Lyle Cox**

Lyle Cox said the policy is being updated to be consistent with recommendations from the Equity Assistance Center.

**Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the changes to Policy 1710 Non-discrimination. Member Zockoll seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **Policy 2110 Safe Schools Policy – Richard Holmes**

Karen Bess reviewed the policy changes. The policy has been submitted to legal council and a policy review committee. Many changes have been made. She briefly reviewed the procedure changes. Only the Superintendent can expel a student for over a year. If a student is expelled the due process would bring it to the Board. Segments about restraint and the process for expulsion were added. She said that the District does provide services for students suspended. Duration of time should always be on a case-by-case basis.

**Member Blake presented a motion to approve the changes to Policy 2110 Safe Schools Policy. Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **Policy 3400 School Fees/Solicitation of Funds – Richard Holmes**

Karen Bess said the amount was increased based on the actual amount for students and a \$100 fee.

**Member Zockoll presented a motion to approve the changes to Policy 3400 School Fees/Solicitation of Funds. Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Policy 3630 Student Activities - Michael Lee**

Michael Lee reviewed the changes to the policy and said that aircraft and balloon events will be removed from the policy and be more comprehensively included in an administrative letter. Other items could receive the same treatment down the road. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said there has been a lot of discussion on the policy. Michael Lee said he did contact the Utah State Risk Management who verified that anything caused by an incident would not be covered through them.

### **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

#### **Instructional Technology – Tony Campbell**

Tony Campbell gave a brief report on the Future Ready Summit and the Essential Elements Grant. He shared the outcomes from attending the summit which included: Expanding our understanding of the Future Ready framework, reviewing the stakeholder input gathered regarding where we are with the use of digital tools and resources, developed final collective commitments to articulate the vision of where we want to be, prioritizing digital teaching and learning goals, outlined strategic plans for HB 277 Essential Elements Grant, and reviewed the three year professional learning plan for digital teaching and learning. He shared a link with the board that includes statements on all of the pieces and briefly reviewed each of the areas. Our priorities with the Essential Elements Grant funding would include the following priorities: professional learning, support curriculum instruction with a learning management system, support Future Ready innovative leaders with tools and resources. A three-year professional learning plan has been developed. Superintendent Bergeson said we have to become more efficient and more effective in our teaching.

## **What's Right in WCSD Schools**

### **Riverside Elementary**

Presentation postponed.

### **Dixie High School**

Sharla Campbell thanked the Board for the many new improvements at Dixie High School. The school is so visible. She noted that the boy's basketball took the state 3A championship. She reported that that Elder Jeffrey R. Holland made a surprise visit to the school and congratulated the team. The school drill team also received the state championship. Dixie Football also had a respectable run. Dixie High recently honored Doug Jolley. She said it was good to remember Dixie's heritage. Dixie High students took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Leadership Academy, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the SUU robotics competition, and had the 1<sup>st</sup> place parade marching band. The Madrigals choir was able to tour Salt Lake City, and government students went to the state capital. She also mentioned students involved with FFA competitions, and student service projects such as the Dixie Angel Tree - which raised over \$9,000. The JROTC has been a stellar program with over 4600 hours of community service. She said that the JROTC brought in Colonel Gail Halvorsen "Candy Bomber" to visit the school. She shared a demographic snapshot of the school and mentioned how the demographics are changing.

Sharla Campbell said the school goal is to "improve students for the next level." The graduation rate at Dixie High School is going up with help from school programs such as Rebound, Math Tutoring program, Math Support class, credit recovery, and an Outreach aide. She shared the academic successes at Dixie high school and SAGE data from the past three years. The school has created a high visibility of college prep at the school with teacher name plates, a counseling college wall, ambassador activities, FAFSA for every senior, application fees waived at DSU and SUU, and an ACT Prep Class with over 100 students participating. The ACT Prep Class included three models. The school was recently invited to present to other counselors in the state on their counseling website as everything on the website is college based.

## **Reports**

### **Superintendent**

Superintendent Larry Bergeson encouraged everyone to look around the walls and see what it takes to make good teachers. He said that beginning of year school visits are being made at each school. The District is growing at a steady rate and is nearing 30,000. Boundaries are being looked at in preparation for opening a new school. He is excited for the school year and to get everyone back in session.

### **Board**

No reports were given.

### **Association**

Amy Barton, WCEA, reported that six teachers attended the UEA Teacher Leader Academy and bring information back to share with teachers. In July, three teachers attended national NEA conference. The training was on ESSA. NEA has been working hard to understand the legislation and get information back to teachers. She said WCEA welcomed the new teachers back yesterday and held a kick-off dinner last night. She said WCEA is looking forward to an exciting year and will continue to work with teachers on evaluations and ESSA

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

Becky Dunn said the PTA is working on back-to-school nights. They are excited to be back.

## **PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 min. each**

### **TRUTH-IN-TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00 p.m.**

The Washington County School District is proposing to increase its property tax revenue. All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase.

Brent Bills explained that the Board is required to go through Truth-in-Taxation to get inflationary increases. Washington County School District has proposed adjusting levies. The basic levy is set by the state. The bond levy is set at what it takes to pay off the bonds. He reviewed the rates proposed that would generate is just over \$700,000.00

### **Laura Hesson opened the hearing for public comment.**

- 1) Marsha Goates, Santa Clara, asked why Pine Valley is high compared to Santa Clara. Brent Bills said the county sets the assessment areas every five years. The county should answer that question.
- 2) Dean Terry asked how often Truth-in-Taxation happens. Brent Bills said the increase is for inflation and the board decides every year whether to go to Truth-in-Taxation. Growth is considered separately. The District collects taxes on new homes but cannot receive additional funds on existing homes. He explained that the levy will be lowered even with the adjustment, but about 1.85% more will be collected. The money will go to pay teachers more due to inflation. The cost of utilities and everything has gone up. Dean Terry said that businesses have to find ways to save. The buildings are not being used year round for school. He is concerned about lawns being maintained all summer long. He suggested holding school year round. He suggested looking at ways to change and save money so taxes don't need to be raised. Dean Terry asked the board to keep cost of new buildings down. Build learning institutions, not monuments. Brent Bills said our building costs are about 20% less than state average costs with our tilt up buildings. Laura Hesson said the Board is constantly taking a hard look at ways to save.
- 3) Amy Barton, represents teachers and appreciate opportunity to participate in these conversations. It helps maintain great public schools for all our students. There is link between strong public schools and a strong economy. Investing in public schools stimulates and benefits all the community. Teachers spend their money at local businesses. Businesses want to operate where they can find a qualified pool of trained employees. Companies consider our state and local education funding when they consider moving here. Little bits add up from all the agencies, but part of being a responsible citizen is supporting these entities to do the job they are assigned to do. The economy and society depend on our ability to educate students. Every year we ask the legislation to raise our funding, but we don't get what we need. As taxpayer and teacher she is willing to pay.
- 4) Richard Ososki, Apple Valley, shared that he supports public education and doesn't mind paying a few bucks more, but his assessed value of property went up. He asked about the growth. Brent Bills said much of the new growth is from students moving into the area. Richard Ososki pointed out that every year it adds up. He asked about the State Basic School fund and how it is used locally. Brent Bills said everyone in the state is charged the same rate and pays for education on the state level.
- 5) Kathleen Cheshire, teacher, encouraged support of increase. She shared that as a teacher in Washington County School District for 24 years, the board has been very responsible. We are the lowest funded state. She said that the state leaders have encouraged local districts to find funding. Washington County School District is still trying to catch up from previous years. We need to educate students to be good employees. We need to attract quality

teachers, even with a teacher shortage in the state. Teachers will go where there are higher wages.

- 6) Garry Pierce said he is not opposed to paying taxes for this purpose, but feels someone should look into how many do not own property or pay taxes on property, but send children to school. There should be a way for these people to pay their share.
- 7) Kathryn Parry, educator, said even on a fixed income she supports the increase. She had six children who went through the system. She wants her grandchildren to have the same quality educational opportunity. She is concerned about the lack of teachers and teachers going to other areas with more pay. She would like to keep quality educators in our schools and to be competitive in the job market for teachers.

Kelly Blake said legislators have said local support is important. There were many years that the District has done nothing. Even with no increases teachers have continued on. He is concerned that if the District doesn't do something, the District will lose more teachers.

Debra Zockoll noted the growth coming to Washington County. She reported that there are 532 new developments in the county. She recognized that educators have a huge job and can't be expected to continue to work for a pittance without losing good educators.

Craig Seegmiller said teachers deserve more and inflation is real. He pointed out that we have a good borrowing rate and the District has saved the taxpayers millions of dollars. The District has to keep certain reserves to keep that rate. He is also concerned about those who are not doing that great in the community. Every agency only adds a little, but it adds up. He feels there are compelling reasons for both sides.

David Stirland said best investment of money is in the education of children. It is never a negative thing to invest in our children. He agonizes over raising people's taxes, but can't think of any better use of money than educating children and keeping quality educators. He feels we all need to do our part to keep good teachers. The Board could raise them more, but feels it is best to compromise.

LaRene Cox said although it is hard, she raised her children here and wants the same for her grandchildren. She feels we need to retain quality teachers. Teachers are working hard and test scores are above the state level. She feels they are deserving.

Craig Seegmiller said he would not vote to raise the rate, but the tax rate would just not lower the rate as much as it would have been lowered without the vote.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEM**

### **Adoption of Tax Rates and Proposed 2016-2017 Budget**

**Member Blake presented a motion to approve the advertised tax rates as posted and accept the 2016-2017 Budget. Member Zockoll seconded the motion. Members Cox and Stirland approved of the motion. Craig Seegmiller opposed the motion. The motion passed.**

**Board President Laura Hesson adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m., as there was no further business to discuss.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**