

# Minutes of Regular and Work Sessions and Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

## Board of Education Ogden City School District

Thursday, August 3, 2017 • 5:00 p.m. • 1950 Monroe Boulevard, Ogden Utah

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### Members Present:

Jeff N. Heiner, President  
Jennifer Zundel, Vice President  
Don E. Belnap  
Nancy Blair  
Susan Richards  
Joyce Wilson

### Members Absent:

Douglas B. Barker

### Staff Present:

Dr. Rich K. Nye, Superintendent  
Zane K. Woolstenhulme, Business Administrator  
Paula Bosgieter, Executive Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.ogdensd.org](http://www.ogdensd.org).

President Heiner called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

## 1. REGULAR SESSION

### a. Administrator Appointment

Superintendent Nye recommended for board consideration to appoint Adam McMickell as Director of Student Achievement over assessment, curriculum, data and statistics, and instructional technology. Mr. McMickell is currently the Assessment Coordinator.

**MOTION:** Joyce Wilson moved to appoint Adam McMickell as Director of Student Achievement. Seconded by Don E. Belnap.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Jennifer Zundel moved to adjourn to a recommended closed session for the purpose of a strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange, sale, or lease of real property. Seconded by Don E. Belnap.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Jeff N. Heiner, aye; Jennifer Zundel, aye; Don E. Belnap, aye; Nancy Blair, aye; Susan Richards, aye; Joyce Wilson, aye. The motion carried.

President Heiner adjourned the meeting for the foregoing purpose at 5:13 p.m.

## 2. WORK SESSION

President Heiner called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m.

### Members Present:

Jeff N. Heiner, President  
Jennifer Zundel, Vice President  
Don E. Belnap  
Nancy Blair  
Susan Richards  
Joyce Wilson

### Members Absent:

Douglas B. Barker

### Staff Present:

Dr. Rich K. Nye, Superintendent  
Zane K. Woolstenhulme, Business Administrator  
Paula Bosgieter, Executive Assistant

### a. Board Meeting Schedule Review

1. Addition of Special Session on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 to canvass election results.

We are required by law to wait ten days after the election to review election results. This meeting will be added to the 2017-2018 Board Meeting Schedule.

2. Reschedule Work Session on April 5, 2018

National School Board Association is scheduled for the same weekend, April 7-9, 2017. Board leadership recommends we cancel this meeting.

### b. First Day of School - August 21

Many families have interest in heading north to view the solar eclipse. Board leadership recommends that we should stay with our approved calendar and begin school on Monday, August 21, 2017.

The board took a short recess at 5:35 p.m. and reconvened at 6:00 p.m. for the Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation.

### 3. Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation

President Heiner called the Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Jeff N. Heiner, President  
Jennifer Zundel, Vice President  
Don E. Belnap  
Nancy Blair  
Susan Richards  
Joyce Wilson

**Members Absent:**

Douglas B. Barker

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Rich K. Nye, Superintendent  
Zane K. Woolstenhulme, Business Administrator  
Paula Bosgieter, Executive Assistant

Mr. Woolstenhulme presented information to the board and the public regarding explaining the truth in taxation process and how it affects the public. We are proposing an overall decrease in the total district levy from .007600 to .007011. There will not be an increase in rates due to the bond.

Mr. Woolstenhulme stated that part of the challenge for homeowners is the increased value in their property, affecting the amount of taxes they must pay. He also discussed several homeowner property tax relief programs.

President Heiner and Mrs. Wilson asked questions about tax relief programs, the charter school levy, and the four tax levies for our district. Mr. Woolstenhulme responded.

Dr. Nye commented that property taxes are just one piece of statewide funding for education.

At 6:31 p.m., President Heiner opened the meeting for the public hearing.

a. Public Comment for Truth in Taxation

Patricia Boor-Stevens, 3619 Van Buren Avenue, Ogden UT 84403. Ms. Stevens stated that she doesn't understand percentages and levies, she just knows what she sees on her property tax. The value of her property has raised over \$50k. She hasn't had a child in school for over thirty years. She is concerned that senior citizens continue to pay more and more to the schools. This year it has gone up over \$100. She would like to know why there isn't a tax break for senior citizens. She voted no for the last bond, and she mentioned the \$9M private donations for Ogden High auditorium, but there were no new books. The pools were also not included in the bond. She stated that someone was quoted in the newspaper that now that the pools are paid for, the money generated by the tax levy could be used for something else. She asked that our budget be published yearly in the newspaper so she can see where the money goes.

Jim Clemens, 137 N. Fowler Avenue, Ogden UT 84404. Mr. Clemens asked if there any way he can get a tax break for seniors. Because he's been frugal and has money in the bank he doesn't qualify for a tax break. He doesn't understand the difference between a charter school and the public school. His neighbors who send their students to a charter school say that the students have a better chance at education.

Dr. Nye responded to questions regarding charter schools and how they are designed. The charter school levy now appears on tax notices for transparency to taxpayers.

Mr. Clemens doesn't have anyone in schools and it upsets him that he is paying more taxes than most of his neighbors who have several children in school. His house value is now more than he paid for it originally. He'd like to see some

leveling for senior citizens on fixed income. People who don't hold property don't pay any property taxes. He'd like to see an equal tax for everyone.

Rafael Hernandez, 2625 Liberty Avenue, Ogden UT 84401. Mr. Hernandez is concerned about the property where he lives and he disagrees with the value stated. He owns two properties in Ogden, 2625 Liberty Avenue and a flag lot behind 2633 Liberty at 2635 and 2637 Liberty Avenue. He lives at 2625 Liberty Avenue and installed solar panels last year. The value increased \$20k and his taxes increased by over \$700. He is medically disabled. He also mentioned that the home on his second property is less than 360 sq. ft. with a carport and shed. It used to be valued at \$25k, this year it went up to \$50k. There is no kitchen in the home, the street is a mess, the sidewalk is a mess, and there is no one around to help him. He asked the board for help. He feels the tax value is not right for his property. He expressed frustration that there is no one to listen to his concerns.

Gary Carson, 1652 Wildcat Lane, Ogden UT 84403. Mr. Carson asked if anyone could tell him when the buildings on our campus were built. The oldest building on the campus was built in 1913. He grew up in Dillon, MT and came to Utah to find a companion. He purchased property in 1965 and paid his first taxes of \$575.94 in 1967. His taxes for this year are over \$3,000. He mentioned a school in South Ogden that has changed hands, Dee School has been rebuilt, Social Sciences building at WSU being rebuilt and a new Science building is being constructed, Grandview school is closed and shuttered. He's not sure if all this new construction relates to needs or wants. Is fifty years the legitimate lifespan for a school? He sees the continuous increase in taxes year after year. When he retired, his salary flat-lined but his taxes didn't. He asked the board to use the funds judiciously and use wisdom in the way funds are expended.

President Heiner summarized questions and asked folks to contact board members for more information if needed. Ms. Boor-Stevens commented that we should focus on getting kids reading at an earlier age so we can reduce our dropout rates.

Mary Khulaf, 2114 Monroe Boulevard, Ogden UT 84401. Ms. Khulaf addressed the board and asked what taxes our undocumented workers pay.

Mr. Woolstenhulme responded to questions and explained that our budgets and audits are posted on our district website. Patrons are encouraged to call Mr. Woolstenhulme with any questions or clarification. He stated the legislature would need to change the law to provide exemptions for senior citizens or others who need relief. He recommended folks refer these types of questions to their legislators, and also look at the back of the property tax notice to seek any remedies possible.

Mrs. Zundel commented that the Weber County Clerk Auditors office is located on 24<sup>th</sup> and Washington Boulevard. She also stated she has spoken with Representative Gage Froerer about freezing property taxes for retirees. She recommended that patrons talk with their legislative representatives to express their concerns.

Mr. Carson stated that he has spoken with State Senator Ann Millner about property tax for retirees and freezing the amount until the property sells, such as they do in California.

Mr. Woolstenhulme announced the Bond Initiative Open House on Monday, August 7 at New Bridge School, 2150 Jefferson Ave, at 6:00 p.m. and invited all to attend.

President Heiner thanked members of the public for their attendance and encouraged all to contact the board with any questions. Seeing no other patrons step forward to speak to the board, the public hearing ended at 7:17 p.m.

## b. Board Action

**MOTION:** Susan Richards moved to approve the property tax rates and revenues for the tax year 2017 as proposed. Seconded by Joyce Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

President Heiner adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

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President

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Business Administrator