

Minutes of Regular, Closed, and Work Session

Board of Education Ogden City School District

Thursday, September 7, 2017 · 5:00 PM · 1950 Monroe Boulevard, Ogden Utah

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Dr. Rich K. Nye, Superintendent
Zane K. Woolstenhulme, Business Administrator
Paula Bosgieter, Executive Assistant
Adam McMickell, Director of Student Achievement

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.ogdensd.org

President Heiner called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Regular Session, Board Room

a. Student Travel Request - Ogden High School Girls Tennis

District student extracurricular overnight or extended travel request for Ogden High School Girls Tennis team to participate in a tournament in St. George, Utah on September 14-16, 2017.

Joyce Wilson asked several questions regarding chaperones. Adam McMickell, Director of Student Achievement, and Superintendent Nye responded. Don E. Belnap asked a question about the deadline for submission. Jennifer Zundel and Superintendent Nye responded.

MOTION: Joyce Wilson moved to approve OHS student travel request. Seconded by Susan Richards. 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; Douglas B. Barker, 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 5:08 p.m.

2. Closed Session, Room 200

President Heiner called the closed session to order at 5:13 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Dr. Rich K. Nye, Superintendent
Zane K. Woolstenhulme, Business Administrator
Jer Bates, Public Information Officer
Paula Bosgieter, Executive Assistant

Visitors Present:

Tom Christopoulos, Ogden City Community and Economic Department (CED) Director
Brandon Cooper Ogden City CED Deputy Director
Ward Ogden, Ogden City CED Manager
Mark Johnson, Ogden City Chief Administrative Officer

Members Absent:

None

- a. Closed Session as a strategy session to the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property; or strategy sessions to discuss the sale of real property.

Board member Douglas B. Barker was excused at 7:33 p.m.

MOTION: Don E. Belnap moved to adjourn the closed session. Seconded by Joyce Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

President Heiner adjourned the closed session at 7:46 p.m. to reconvene in Work Session.

3. Work Session, Board Room

President Heiner called the work session to order at 7:59 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
Jer Bates, Public Information Officer

a. Bond Initiative Update

Presenter: Jer Bates, Public Information Officer

The Ogden School District is obliged to post an argument in favor of the bond; it must be posted on our website and the Utah Public Notice Website. The statement has been reviewed by our bond council, financial council, and superintendent, and will be sent to board members for approval before releasing publicly. Members of the public have until tomorrow, September 8, 2017, to submit a statement against the bond. If we receive an argument against the bond, there is a period of time when each party can respond. On October 26, we'll have a second public hearing for the bond to discuss the arguments.

Mr. Bates deferred to the board for any further information the board would like released. He proposed the following announcement for the board's approval:

*"The Ogden City School Board of Education has announced their proposal to rebuild T.O. Smith Elementary as the second of three elementary schools that would be replaced with a proposed *\$106.5 million bond, joining Horace Mann which was previously announced.*

The Board also feels it would be a benefit to the community to construct a new school in the east-central area of Ogden. The board is considering replacing Polk Elementary to be combined with Taylor Canyon Elementary. If passed, the proposed bond would not increase the current tax rate.

The members of the Board and the Ogden School District encourage residents to attend Bond Open House meetings at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at T.O. Smith Elementary and Tuesday, Sept. 19 at Polk Elementary to learn more about the proposed plan and the reasoning behind the proposed locations and share your feedback.

**The bond proposal also includes the replacement of the Ben Lomond gymnasium complex and two junior high Professional Gateway Centers (PGC's), one at Highland Junior High and one at Mount Ogden Junior High, to complement one PGC already planned for Mound Fort Junior High. For more bond information please visit ogdensdbond.org"*

Board member Don E. Belnap asked where we are in the planning process for the first professional gateway center to be built. Mr. Bates responded that the RFP for an architect has been released and we should have someone identified by mid-October; shovels in the ground in February.

Board President Jeff Heiner commented that there are so many things we would like to do; we just don't have enough funds to do it all. It's important to seek feedback from communities, and we need to recognize the importance of safety for our students. We need to be mindful of what will give our students the best opportunity for success. If the bond is voted down, we all lose; regardless of whether a new school is built in their area or not. Mr. Bates applauded the statement by the board president and thanked him for his comments.

b. Discussion on School Size

Presenter: Superintendent Rich K. Nye, PhD

Superintendent Nye addressed the board and shared information regarding the issue of school size. He stated the literature on the optimal size of schools has largely been debated since the beginning of the 20th century, with studies supporting one position or another. The Hanover Research organization provides detailed research and analytics to inform decisions, policies, and trends. In a review of the extant and empirical research regarding elementary school size, Hanover reached the conclusion that “experts have yet to reach a consensus on the optimal school size.”

The question regarding school size has been a declining subject of researchers in the last decade due to the reality that less than 3% of the variance in student achievement is attributable to school size. Researchers have found that student-teacher relationships, teacher pedagogy, etc. all play a greater role in student performance than school size.

It is the position of the Ogden School District that the classroom experience is one of the greatest determinants of the educational and social emotional outcomes of students. Furthermore, due to the collective efficacy of our educators, the Ogden School District is able to mitigate and overcome the effects of poverty on student behavior and achievement through a process of continuous improvement. It is the commitment of the Ogden School District to ensure a high quality learning experience as provided by each educator, for each student, every day.

Board members asked several questions and Superintendent Nye responded. Dr. Nye stated he will prepare a future presentation for the board on the value of instructional coaches and how they can improve instructional quality within the school.

President Heiner adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

President

Business Administrator