THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Meeting and Closed Executive Session

October 17, 2017

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Meeting and Closed Executive Session at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 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 Katherine Kennedy, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Michael Nemelka, Tiffany Sandberg (leaving at 8:55 p.m.), and Kristi Swett

Members Excused: Alexandrea Vasquez, Student Member

Also Present: Alexa Cunningham, Superintendent; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Mozelle Orton, Executive Director of Human Resources; Tiffany Hall, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning; John Goldhardt, Executive Director of School Leadership and Performance; Yándary Chatwin, Executive Director of Communications; Claustina Mahon-Reynolds, Supervisor of Equity, Robyn Giovacchini, Early Childhood Supervisor Karen Kempe and Becky Bissegger, representing the Salt Lake Education Association; Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Tiffany Stanley, Policy Advisor, Utah State Board of Education; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Lisa Alleman, Superintendent’s Office, and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Meeting of October 17, 2017 two 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. **Board Convenes:**
   - General Pronouncements

2. **STUDY SESSION**
   A. **Reaching and Teaching Students in Poverty – Book Study**

   President Bennett welcomed Claustina Mahon-Reynolds to co-facilitate the book study.
Board members discussed chapters 2, 3, and 5 of the book *Reaching and Teaching Students in Poverty*. Board Members Ford and Swett agreed to facilitate the next discussion.

At 6:25 p.m. President Bennett called a recess.

3. **BOARD MEETING**

   • At 6:34 p.m. President Bennett welcomed everyone in the audience. She recognized the presence of Dr. Dickson, Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Tiffany Stanley, Policy Advisor at Utah State Board of Education. She also recognized Karen Kempe and Becky Bissegger, representing the Salt Lake Education Association.

   • Audrey Powell, Early Childhood Coordinator, led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   *(1)* A motion was made to approve the one item included in the Consent Agenda. These items are listed below. **(Sandberg and Swett)**

   1. The Purchasing/Accounting Report
      a. Purchasing Report

B. **REQUESTS TO SPEAK**

   1. There were no requests to speak.

C. **REPORTS**

   1. **Update on ESSA State Plan.**

      Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Tiffany Stanley, Policy Advisor, Utah State Board of Education, provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A copy of the slides have been added to the official minutes.

      Dr. Dickson complimented the district on the good work they are doing and thanked Dr. Cunningham for her positive energy. She thanked the Board for their hard work.
Dr. Dickson said ESSA is not a Strategic Plan, it is a funding source. Ms. Stanley explained the process of developing this plan and shared their goals. They answered questions from the Board.

Board members and Superintendent Cunningham thanked them for the report and for the work they do to support local schools.


Board members Ford, Kennedy, and Emery, who comprise the Finance Committee, explained the board’s statutory responsibilities for budget reports and procedures and made recommendations for each.

The first group of recommendations was to include the School Financial Report with the monthly board agendas, and for Superintendent Cunningham to send the same report to all principals monthly. The second group of recommendations was to provide a summary of the district budget as well as the Student Achievement Essential budgets on the district website. Both of these recommendations will be on the Consent Agenda for the November 7, 2017 Board Meeting.

3. Early Childhood.

Robyn Giovacchini introduced members of her team, Audrey Powell and Liz Davis. They said their program is unique in the state because it provides full inclusion in a center-based learning environment. Ms. Giovacchini explained how they use a screening tool to identify students who need intervention before school starts. She said this has been very helpful to improve student success since without it, these students wouldn’t otherwise be identified until the end of September.

Ms. Giovacchini thanked the board for making Early Childhood part of the Student Achievement Plan. They answered questions from the board and said the biggest hurdles for reducing or eliminating the waitlist are teachers and space. Board members thanked them for their presentation.


Tiffany Hall explained the process of reviewing and replacing textbooks within the district. She said she uses a solid rubric to evaluate materials and is very careful to follow all state requirements. She also explained the procurement process.

Ms. Hall said there are four states that have historically decided the content of text books, but that is starting to change since the core curriculum has made things more standard. She said there are increasing options to print smaller text books more often allowing individual states to include things more relevant to them. She said her team looks at all sources available and tries to think outside of the box. She answered questions from the board.
5. Professional Development Progress.

Tiffany Hall provided information on the goals and priorities of Professional Development. She explained the changes made for the 2017-18 school year and said there have been questions from teachers regarding the length of a day for professional development compared to the length of a school day. Ms. Hall explained the differences and said the length of a day is not defined in the negotiated agreement which has contributed to some confusion.

Ms. Hall shared an overview of the Eureka Mathematics Program and the implementation of Office 365. She also provided information about the two conferences that have been held this year and said they were great. They had wonderful attendance and included some new science sessions. Coaching is also available in all the schools and there are eight different endorsement opportunities for teachers.

Ms. Hall answered questions from the board. Board members shared feedback they’ve heard that this year’s Professional Development was the best it’s ever been.

D. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Student Achievement Plan Reporting.

President Bennett asked Superintendent Cunningham for a recommendation about how much reporting on the Student Achievement Plans would be good. Superintendent Cunningham said after discussing this with Dr. Goldhardt, the recommendation is to provide quarterly updates from the Network Directors and reports twice per year from Sandra Buendia on the focus schools.

Board members discussed the recommendation as well as a suggestion to hear additional reports once or twice a year from each network specifically about things unique to their network. Board members discussed alternatives to learning more about the individual networks, but agreed they like the framework of learning about the networks together since this is a new structure. President Bennett said they would proceed the rest of this year following the Superintendent’s recommendation and add this topic to the board planning session at the end of the year to discuss if they’d like to see changes next year after they see how it goes for a year.

E. ACTION AGENDA

There were no items transferred from the Consent or Discussion Agendas.

F. BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Board Member Swett said she attended a USBA committee meeting where a comment was made that funding for turn around schools should no longer go through the local districts since they are the reason the school is failing. Ms. Swett clarified this was a committee discussion and not the full board, but she believes this will be brought to the board and feels written testimonials from our board members would be helpful.
Vice President Kennedy thanked Superintendent Cunningham for coordinating recent tours of Newman and West. She said it has been very valuable to go on school tours.

President Bennett said she will be making changes to the draft of the yearly calendar and will send it out. She also asked board members to reduce chatter when people are presenting reports.

G. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Fall Enrollment Update:
   Superintendent Cunningham thanked Sam Quantz, Chief Information Officer, for finalizing the fall enrollment numbers. She followed up with board members on a request and said she has been meeting with networks and leaders to gather input regarding late start and has plans to complete her research within the next few weeks. Superintendent Cunningham answered questions from the board regarding the enrollment report.

4. ADJOURNMENT

  *(2) At 9:18 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn the public meeting.
  **(Swett and Ford)

5. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation; Negotiations; and/or Property

   There was no Closed Executive Session for Litigation; Negotiations; and/or Property.

B. Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual; and/or Deployment of Security Personnel, Devices, or Systems

   There was no Closed Executive Session for Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual; and/or Deployment of Security Personnel, Devices, or Systems.

   ___________________________________________________________________________
   Janet M. Roberts
   Business Administrator

lba
Salt Lake City School District  
Addition to the Minutes of the Board Meeting 10/17/2017  

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):  

PowerPoint Slides on ESSA State Plan Presentation  
Agenda Item 3C1