

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah 84770
September 11, 2018
4:30 PM

Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Vice President Kelly Blake, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Bob Sonju, Technology Director Lawrence Esplin, Executive Director Steven Dunham, Communications Specialist Cody Plumhof, Chief Jim Keith, Chief Lynn Excell, Chief Marlon Stratton, and Deputy Chief Rich Farnsworth.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Member Seegmiller.

WORK SESSION

Local Police Chiefs

David Stirland said one concern of the School Board and District administration is school safety. The Board appreciates the school resource officers and the relationship with the officers in each department. Having officers present at the schools and various school events is appreciated.

Chief Jim Keith, Washington City, said they now have their first full-time SRO in a school at Crimson Middle School. They have received great feedback from the officer. They will have another in the high school next year. He suggested that the Board consider SROs in elementary schools also. They do have officers take time to go and help at the elementary schools when possible. It has helped keep some things from occurring. He would also support the opportunity to have an officer in the intermediate schools. He mentioned that Washington City has worked out some of the concerns with traffic around the middle school. He said the transportation department has been awesome.

Chief Lynn Excell, Hurricane City, reported that there are three SROs in Hurricane schools. They have assigned officers to work with the elementary schools also. He feels having officers in the elementary schools is critical. They used to have the DARE program and are bringing it back and will be hiring an instructor. The city will fund the program this year. They want to start at a younger age to interact and improve the relationships with the students. He suggested even assigning an officer to two or three elementary schools as a resource. The city would need help from the District to cover the cost to fund the officers. He briefly mentioned the incident that occurred this past year with a Hurricane students and feels we dodged a bullet. The officers need to interact with students. He suggested that the District does need to look at security at the schools. Security cameras are needed in all of the school levels. The assistance of the cameras would help with investigations. He asked the School Board to start looking at plans for how security items can be funded. She suggested that the District also needs to look at how they will protect students and staff. He said the SROs have reported that bullying is still an issue in the schools. He has challenged them to come up with a program to teach children how to deal with bullying. Parents also need to have an understanding. He said the department would be glad to have any interactions to assist with needs at the schools. Kelly Blake said safety improvements at the schools has been included in the bond election this year.

Chief Marlon Stratton, St. George, reported that St. George has 12 SROs and about 22 crossing guards. Safety and security of schools is very important. The department has a book with all of

the plans and layouts of the schools. He said some teachers are more involved and take security more seriously. Access to schools is a concern, with some schools doing better than others. He said there are being a lot more incidents of violence in St. George than previously. In discussions with principals, many students live in homes where they do have access to drugs, etc. He said the District needs to make sure that there are resources to have officers in all of the schools. Some of the students have real strong tendencies for violence. The department sends letters to the Superintendent and the schools when they are aware of concerns of students. Safety and security are important. Schools also need to be aware of students who have a tendency for violence. Many children grow up in difficult homes and are allowed to play violent video game. It is great to have everyone collaboratively working to provide safety for students. It is hoped that letters to the Superintendent and schools can provide some help for the students. It also helps students to have officers as a positive influence in their life. He suggested that the District work to get support from teachers on taking security seriously.

Deputy Chief Rich Farnsworth, St. George, reported on the debriefing of the Pine View incident last year. There are some things that even in the best-laid plans might need to be done differently. We need to be more forward thinking to be more prepared. Teachers need to be trained on what to look for as they are at the ground level.

Chief Jim Keith said it needs to be a priority from the top level down. As training is done, it needs to be taken seriously. There needs to be consistency throughout the District.

Plans on file give them information about the building, doors, and names of staff at the school. Officers need to know where cameras, utility shut-off valves, etc. are at the school.

Deputy Chief Rich Farnsworth said communication will be critical moving forward. Officers in the department would be happy to help with training of staff. It needs to come from the top down that these things are important. David Stirland said the School Board and District administration will work on buy-in from the teachers.

Chief Marlon Stratton said there is concern with drugs. Many students are smoking drugs through the e-cigarettes.

Chief Jim Keith said they are seeing drug use in younger students. The officers could take time in the schools training staff on what to look for to recognize when there are drug concerns.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson expressed appreciation to the agencies and for the relationship and partnership with the District.

Member Blake presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:25 p.m. Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Vice President Kelly Blake, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Technology Director Lawrence Esplin, Executive Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel

Member Blake presented a motion to go into a working session at 3:05 p.m. Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Strategic Plan Update – Larry Bergeson

Larry Bergeson shared with the Board the public brochure rough draft from the graphic designer. There will be one for employees and one for the public.

Transportation/School Safety – Craig Hammer

Craig Hammer said there are cameras on only 30 of our buses. It would be about \$100,000 to put cameras on the other 50 buses. Brent Bills said the cost is an ongoing cost suggested finding a revenue stream to cover the cost. School Board members feel that it is a safety issue. Launi Harden said she would like to be able to monitor what is happening on buses once in a while. Having cameras would help parents feel better about having their student ride the bus. Cameras are purchased with new buses. Lyle Cox said the cameras would have an impact on liability and would be significantly helpful. Many Special Education parents want to make sure that things are okay on their child's bus. Brent Bills will create a list of security items discussed today and put a cost with the items. David Stirland would also like the administration to lobby for the specific items they feel are important.

Crimson Cliffs High School Eligibility – Richard Holmes

Rusty Taylor shared a draft of the proposed eligibility rules of Crimson Cliffs High School. Students are currently eligible at whatever school they attend. Students in the new school boundary will have eligibility transfer. Those changing boundaries to attend previous school will need to turn in their enrollment by October 31. After that date, students wishing to change eligibility will need to follow District and UHSAA transfer rules. Mike Mees said parents have received the rules well.

Administrative School Visit Sheet – Larry Bergeson

Superintendent Larry Bergeson shared a copy of the tracking sheet in the Board packet.

Enrollment Summary – Richard Holmes/Rex Wilkey

Richard Holmes reported on the projected and current enrollment. Last year the count was 30,025. This year we are currently at 30,912. Adding a dual immersion program increased the enrollment at Diamond Valley Elementary. Santa Clara Elementary saw a decrease in numbers. Rex Wilkey suggested adjusting boundaries to move students in the District that direction. Hurricane Intermediate School is up the highest for Intermediate Schools. Crimson Cliffs Middle School is also up from the projected numbers. Bloomington Elementary, Three Falls, and Crimson View are all higher than projected. Desert Hills High School and Dixie High School are also higher. The enrollment at Water Canyon High School saw an increase, but the elementary enrollment was down.

High School Schedules – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes asked the high school principals to report on their focus of interventions.

Darin Thomas and Daniel McKeehan said Hurricane High provides “Tag Time” for interventions that is targeted, timely and specific. It creates opportunities for students to receive intervention and enhancement activities. Teachers have time to collaborate and create common learning targets. Students who are tagged report to the specific class they are tagged for to receive intervention help. “Tag Time” is held twice a week for 30 minutes. Last year about 1/3 of the students were tagged at any time. Students who were not tagged for the intervention receive enhancement opportunities.

Rusty Taylor said Desert Hills High does interventions during homeroom time. Homeroom is held between 1st and 2nd period. Teachers or students can request a pass to receive help. It is usually less effective at the beginning of the term, but has been really effective at the end of the term.

Mike Mees briefly explained his 5x5 block at Pine View High School. Interventions are built into the schedule everyday with math. The results have been successful. Those in Concurrent

Enrollment still have the opportunity to receive math everyday. The 5x5 block has given the school flexibility. A homework period is provided everyday. Identified needs for learning are based on what students need. This year the school has also focused on minority group needs.

Paul Hurt said Snow Canyon High School has 32 lab classes built into their schedule. There are AP Study Halls, Chemistry Labs and Physics Labs. Lab classes allow time for students to do priority projects. There are still some students who need the lab classes, but won't sign up for them. The school has hired three teachers to oversee online courses at the school.

Richard Holmes said the schools are responding how we want them to and are allowing time for students to get the interventions needed.

JROTC Expansion (Hurricane) – Brent Bills

Brent Bills reported on the request from JROTC to expand to Hurricane. He has talked with Hurricane High to see if they would be able to house the program. The JROTC will be putting in an application. If accepted, the Board will need to decide if they will approve expanding the program. The program builds comrade and provides opportunities and resources for students. Brent Bills mentioned that there has been a military academy that is advertising in our area to open in 2020.

Naming of New Intermediate School – Craig Hammer

Craig Hammer said that the Board would need to determine the name of the new intermediate school. He mentioned it is hard when using the same name for several schools. The Board was asked to think of names to consider.

Policy 2350 Handling Students with Lice Infestation – Karen Bess

Karen Bess share some of the questions and comments received on the policy changes with the Board. She shared references from health agencies that suggest students should remain at school. Laura Hesson said Policy 2400 says when a child becomes ill at school parents will be notified. She feels like a student with lice should be treated the same as a student who is sick and the District shouldn't look at it differently. Lyle Cox suggested creating an administrative letter to deal with the issue and eliminating the policy.

Follow-up from Previous Meeting

Nothing was discussed.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Healthy Dixie Update – Craig Seegmiller

USBA Update – Kelly Blake

MBA Update – Laura Hesson

Dixie Tech Update – LaRene Cox

Foundation Update – David Stirland

FCAOG Update – Terry Hutchinson

Audit Committee Update – Becky Dunn

There were no reports from the Board.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

Enrollment

Safe Schools

GRAMA Requests

Department Reports

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 David Stirland called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were Craig Seegmiller, Terry Hutchinson, Laura Hesson, Becky Dunn, Kelly Blake and LaRene Cox. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson and Business Administrator Brent Bills.

OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

Board President Welcome – David Stirland

Pledge of Allegiance – Member Cox

Reverence – Member Hesson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing to receive input from the public with respect to the potential issuance of general obligation bonds, if approved at a special bond election, to finance the acquisition and construction of school buildings and facilities, the acquisition land for school buildings and facilities, the acquisition of furnishings and the remodeling and updating existing school property, including safety upgrades and the potential economic impact that such projects will have on the private sector.

Brent Bills said the bond is for a proposed \$125,000,000. The bond would be tax neutral and would not raise the taxes. The purposes listed for the bond.

Public Comments:

Myron Lee said every year he hears that the District needs more. He said voters approved a bond four years ago and now the District is asking for another \$125,000,000 bond. He understood that the bond would last for 20 years. He said this year the taxes are already increasing and a gas tax is included on the ballot. He asked the Board to consider if they really need the money when they asked for a bond four years ago. He asked that the Board please consider the fatigue the taxpayers are feeling.

Richard Falkner said he is retired and his taxes keep going up. He is not anti-education. He asked that the Board consider what they can do if the bond does not pass. He said the fatigue taxpayers are feeling is there.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

- 1. August 9, 2018 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**
- 2. August 14, 2018 Meeting of the Board of Education**
- 3. August 27, 2018 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**

B. Financial Report

C. Personnel Items

D. UHSAA 150-mile Request

Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of a resolution providing for the conduct of the local special bond election to be held on November 6, 2018 and providing for related matters.

Kelly Blake said there is a lot of thought and consideration that goes into spending taxpayer dollars. He also mentioned that the District has an AAA rating. Terry

Hutchinson said this is one-time money and without it year round school would become an option. Brent Bills said it was hoped that the previous bond would last until 2020, but growth in the community is forcing us to build schools. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said we don't build schools or issue bonds until we need them. All things are considered in the timeline of when we build new schools. David Stirland said hours of discussion have been spent to come up with the number for the bond. The bond will take care of the needs the District has for the near future. School safety is also a big component of this bond. Terry Hutchinson also mentioned the plans to build a CT high school. Opening the school would save the District from building a new cone-site. It will help alleviate growth issues and provide opportunities for students in the future. David Stirland pointed out that the School Board has only done one Truth-in-Taxation over the past four years. The Board is trying as hard as they can to eliminate the burden on taxpayers. Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported that the Utah Tax Payers Association has recognized Washington County School District for their savings to the community and the use of tilt up construction.

Member Blake presented a motion to approve the consideration of a resolution providing for the conduct of the local special bond election to be held on November 6, 2018.

Member Cox seconded the motion.

The motion was presented by Member Hutchinson to amend the previous motion to include the language and providing for related matters. Member Cox seconded the motion.

Member Cox voted yes.

Member Hutchinson voted yes.

Member Dunn voted yes.

Member Stirland voted yes.

Member Blake voted yes.

Member Seegmiller voted yes.

Member Hesson voted yes.

The vote was unanimous.

Resolution for Definition of At-Risk of Academic Failure – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes explained that Utah Grants has provided some guidelines for the funding of At-Risk and shared a copy of the proposed definition for approval of the Board.

Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Resolution for Definition of At-Risk of Academic Failure. Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Early Literacy Program Approval – Nadine Walters

Nadine Walters asked for approval of the Early Literacy Program presented in the August Board Meeting. She has received no questions or concerns regarding the proposed plan.

Member Hesson presented a motion to approve the Early Literacy Program. Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 1200 Pay and Compensation – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox reviewed the proposed changes to Policy 1200 Pay and Compensation. He clarified the expectation to receive funds for education. It is part of the negotiation agreement every year to determine funding available. Under 3.2.5.1, employees requesting voluntary change to a lower schedule would apply to classified employees and there are some limitations. There is a policy that addresses the limitations when someone is overpaid. Discussions would occur between the business administrator and the employee. New hired teachers could receive credit

for previous experience for up to 13 years. Professional staff on an ARL are paid at the level recognized in Cactus. They could be retroactively paid if they receive a degree before the end of the year. There are 180 days and one day for professional development. Under 3.5, the District no longer issues stickers and is no longer in two regions. Changes that omitted a doctorate degree for education credit were unintentional and it has been added back.

Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve Policy 1200 Pay and Compensation. Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 2350 Handing Students with Lice Infestation – Karen Bess

Member Blake presented a motion to table the policy approval for further discussion. Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 4100 Graduation Requirements/School Credits – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said the policy change to allow students to earn .50 credits for PE and .50 elective credits for participation in a team athletic sports program. A total of one credit can be earned this way.

INFORMATION

Student Achievement – Move this World Update – Tami Curtis

Tami Curtis shared information on the Move this World program. The response has been overwhelming. Classes use the program morning and afternoon everyday. The program helps students recognize emotions and put them in situations. The opening videos teach responders. Students practice emotional strategies everyday. It gives kids opportunities to express themselves. She has been hearing a lot of positive things. Teachers are reporting benefits of the program for them as well.

Instructional Technology – Jim Black

Jim Black, data and software coordinator, shared information about the implementation of Unified Classroom. Teachers were able to login this fall. They are now working to help parents get logged in to the system. Technology reps have been going to back-to-school nights to help parents with the log in. Parents have appreciated the help. They will also be training secretaries at the schools so they can help parents.

What's Right in WCSD Schools

Coral Canyon Elementary School – Jennifer Eggleston

Jennifer Eggleston and Warren Richins share a video from the Student Council sharing what they love about Coral Canyon Elementary. Students mentioned things such as: appreciate the staff, taking care of the flag, recycling, field trips, the Zoom program with students from Dixie State University, art, Adventure Club, STEM Club, parent nights, and Coral Canyon Television.

Snow Canyon High School – Warren Brooks

Paul Hurt shared a video from the school Executive Council. A video is done at the beginning of each year to get the students pumped up for the year. The video showed students participating in many aspects of the school life.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned meeting with the Chief of Police from local cities earlier in the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the great people who work with and for the District. The District is doing remarkable things.

Board

No reports were given.

Association

Amy Barton, WCEA, reported that eight member in the first five years of teaching have been selected to participate in the NEA Early Leadership Institute. They will receive training on supporting student achievement in their classroom and coaching from a teacher/leader in our District. This is a great opportunity that is only offered to a few state affiliates and local associations.

Amy Barton explained the new single lane salary schedule negotiated a couple of years ago that allows teacher to receive an education adjustment following accomplishment of further education. Teachers receive the adjustment for +18 and +36 post-bachelors, and +18 and +36 post-masters, but do not receive anything additional past that. She would like to see funding to add adjustments beyond that. She reviewed the negotiations previously to fund step and lane and the change to the single lane salary schedule.

Amy Barton said the only way to increase teacher compensation is through increased state revenue or through Truth-in-Taxation. The bond revenue cannot be used for teacher compensation. The Board must look at that for retention of teachers and recruitment of teachers. The UEA and WCEA support Question 1, the gas tax to bring in increased resources. She would like to meet with Steven Dunham to find how the District and WCEA can work together on supporting both the bond and Question 1.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

Mindi Barker reported on state PTA meeting. The state this year is focusing on fortifying families. She said that she loves the new Move this World program. She mentioned that notice was given that the Boy Scouts that they will be reaching out to local PTA groups for support. The school PTA must have the support of the Superintendent and local PTA to support them. The National PTA is not supporting it. Mindi Barker said that the PTA does support the bond and will be voting on a resolution. They would like to be able to give information out to parents and are waiting on a document being prepared from Superintendent. She also encouraged the Board members to join the PTA at whatever school they would like to support.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

Laura Belnap said the State Board of Education is starting a new youth board to advise the State Board. She is excited to work with the students. This opportunity is for 11-12th grade students and encouraged that the District have students involved to represent us.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m., as there was no further business to discuss.