



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

Reverence offered by Superintendent Larry Bergeson

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, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Bob Sonju, Technology Director Lawrence Esplin, Executive Director Steven Dunham, Communications Specialist Cody Plumhof.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go into a closed session at 12:08 p.m. Board Member Cox 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 Member Kelly Blake, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Bob Sonju, Technology Director Lawrence Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Communications Specialist Cody Plumhof, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

CLOSED SESSION

Property Items

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 12:27 p.m. Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

School Board tour of Crimson Cliffs High School and Other School District Properties

The School Board and District administration toured Dixie Sun Elementary, Coral Cliffs Elementary, Crimson Cliffs High School, Crimson Cliffs Middle School, and a proposed property site for the CT high school.

Board Member Hesson presented a motion to go into closed session at 2:40 p.m. Board Member Cox 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 Member Kelly Blake, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Bob Sonju, Technology Director Lawrence Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go out of closed session at 4:17 p.m. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Administrative Organization Chart – Larry Bergeson

Enrollment/Boundary Discussion – Richard Holmes/Rex Wilkey

Washington Fields Intermediate Mascot and Colors – Bob Sonju

Bob Sonju reported on meeting with students. The overall decision is “Chargers” for the mascot with navy blue and orange as the colors.

Board District Realignment – Larry Bergeson

Superintendent Larry Bergeson asked if the Board would like to move forward with the Board redistricting. Craig Seegmiller would like to see the boundaries more contiguous, including neighborhoods. The Board would like to discuss the redistricting in January with the county officials.

Brent Bills mentioned that he was asked to write a letter of support from the School District for the Iron Man World Championship event in 2020-2021. They would like government entities to support the event.

Southwest Prevention Report – Teresa Willie

This report was postponed.

Fitbit Wellness Program – Tammara Robinson

This report was postponed.

Follow-up from Previous Meeting

None

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Healthy Dixie Update - Craig Seegmiller

Craig Seegmiller said the District is supposed to be finding another elementary for Healthy Dixie to work with.

USBA Update - Kelly Blake

Kelly Blake will have more information later.

MBA Update - Laura Hesson

Laura Hesson said the MBA was completed for the year.

Dixie Tech Update - LaRene Cox

LaRene Cox mentioned graduation for medical students on Thursday.

Foundation Update - David Stirland

Nothing to report.

FCAOG Update - Terry Hutchinson

Nothing to report.

Audit Committee Update - Becky Dunn

Becky Dunn said the Audit Committee is still working through items.

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.

OPENING MEETING - 4:00 p.m.

Board President Welcome – David Stirland

Pledge of Allegiance - Terry Hutchinson

Reverence – Kelly Blake

PTA Reflection Recognitions – Mindi Barker

Mindi Barker briefly explained the Reflections program. There are 33 schools in our PTA region. Students who were selected as the winners in the region were recognized by the PTA and the School Board.

Student Art Recognition – Robert Schmidt

Jack Eves introduced Dusty Bistline and mentioned some of the recognitions she has received for her artwork. Jill Bistline reported on her daughter entering her artwork in Western Horseman. When she first entered, it did not qualify in the categories, but the picture won, so she received the Judges Award. She has entered again and won the Grand Champion Award. She has also done a mural at the school. Dusty Bistline shared information about her artwork which is mostly done with oils.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

- 1. November 13, 2018 Meeting of the Board of Education**
- 2. November 20, 2018 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**
- 3. November 26, 2018 Special Meeting of the Board of Education**

B. Financial Report

C. Personnel Items

D. UHSAA 150-mile Requests

E. Coral Cliffs Elementary School LAND Trust Plan Change

F. Hurricane Middle School LAND Trust Plan Change

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Health Curriculum/Human Sexuality Compliance – Richard Holmes and Ryan Christiansen

Ryan Christiansen reported on the Health Curriculum and Human Sexuality taught in the schools. Approval is

required every two years. The curriculum is reviewed by a committee of teachers, administration, and parents who give input. The committee talks about the needs of the students and look at data to see what is going on in the schools and in the community. They review resources and share information with other teachers in the District, so all are teaching the same information. Human Sexuality is taught in the 7th and 10th grade in our schools. The state wants health teachers trained every two years on sex education and how to teach it. There is also a local group, the Hope Pregnancy Care Center, that also speaks about sex education in the high schools. Their information is the same information approved by the committee. They have a state certificate and are in compliance with the state curriculum. The curriculum is mandated by the state. The District is very sensitive and basic in what is taught and follows the state curriculum. Parents do have the opportunity to opt their student out.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the Health Curriculum/Human Sexuality Compliance. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 2800 Parental Involvement in Education Process – Amy Mitchell

Amy Mitchell said the proposed policy changes were reviewed with a parent group. There was one additional language change suggested under 3.7.5.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve Policy 2800 Parental Involvement in Education Process. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 4220 Review of Instructional Media – Tony Campbell

Tony Campbell said the Technology Department worked with the Media Center to make the policy current and updated. There were no comments received on the proposed changes.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to approve Policy 4220 Review of Instructional Media. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Property Purchase Approval – Craig Hammer

Craig Hammer reported on a contract to purchase 12.6 acres in Desert Canyon for \$1,290,000. Terry Hutchinson said the school board tries to anticipate growth and buy land for when schools are needed. When growth doesn't come as anticipated, the property is sold.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Desert Canyon property purchase for a future elementary school. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Enrollment/Boundary Discussion – Richard Holmes and Rex Wilkey

Richard Holmes reported on a proposed small boundary change in Santa Clara City. It involves 14 homes that are in Santa Clara and would be moved into the Snow Canyon boundaries. There is one student in the area who is already attending Snow Canyon High School.

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

Richard Holmes said the state has asked for each District to define at-risk of academic failure. The previously approved definition was submitted to the state. Feedback was returned asking districts to define by data. The District's definition of at-risk would be measured by: Attendance, non-proficiency on state testing, GPA, failing grades, student behavior, homelessness, low income status, and ELL status. Information can be pulled from PowerSchool.

INFORMATION

Instructional Technology – Lawrence Esplin and Tav Truman

Tav Truman shared information about his technology support and maintenance team. Over the past few years they have been able to implement a new technology management system at no cost to the District. It was software

written by SEDC. They have changed process for technology surplus, requiring that those items pass through the technology office first. Items are reused when possible. Three elementary labs have been opened using surplus equipment the past two years, which has saved the District a tremendous amount of money. They have opened several schools without a technology hitch. They have recently merged some of the part-time jobs to create full time positions to help with staff retention.

What's Right in WCSD Schools

Water Canyon Elementary School – Chris Barrett

Chris Barrett shared the good things happening at Water Canyon Elementary School. Through an initiative, they have identified their school as a reading priority school and efforts are being made to make sure all students have the opportunity and assistance needed to be on-level readers. They have opened a reading center and have hired four individuals to help students. They started by identifying the students needing the most help and are currently serving 65 students. The reading center was started last February. They do diagnostics with students to find out where their gaps are with reading. The teachers at the school support the program. Utah State University has provided a grant to help with online tutoring. It has been a big growth area for the schools. Students are happy to be able to read and function in the regular curriculum. Students rotate through four stations and do specific skills to help improve reading. The biggest impact is in the classroom. Students are willing to participate and feel safe and are writing better. Students are happier as they can take part. He shared a video showing how the program is working.

Hurricane Middle School – Chris Homer

Chris Homer shared information about good things at Hurricane Middle School. His goal is to have the best middle school in the state and he is always working to make the school better. The core values at the school are Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness, and can be found all over around the school. He shared data showing proficiency scores. The school saw phenomenal growth over the past year. Math is the new focus at the school as they are struggling there. He shared the comparison on Data Gateway with comparable schools. Hurricane Middle is right at the top. He shared the credit recover program being done with their ninth-grade students who have a failing grade. They require the students to make up credit before they enter Hurricane High, so they are on track for graduation. He also shared the school SOS program helping students with ACES and helping them to change their life. They share SOS stories at every faculty meeting.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned that he and the District executive staff members are out and visiting all of the schools during the school year. It is great to see the good things happening in the schools. He shared the commitment and support from parents in our schools and expressed appreciation for the many parents who volunteer and serve on Community Councils and thanked them for their support. He noted the recognitions of Dusty Bistline and PTA Reflection winners. Superintendent Larry Bergeson recognized the Pine View High School Boys' Cross-Country team who received the 2018 4A state championship, the Desert Hills High School Girls' Cross-Country team who received the 2018 4A state championship, and the Snow Canyon High School Girls' Soccer team who received the 2018 4A state championship.

Board

David Stirland reported that four Board members were elected to serve again for another four-year term.

Association

Amy Barton expressed gratitude for bonus given this year on behalf of the membership. She mentioned that Superintendent Bergeson joined the last AR meeting and spoke about legislation. Members were encouraged to share stories on the impact that legislative and budget decisions have on classroom, teachers, and kids. She said some of the young members recently participating in leadership program to develop leadership skills. She and another member attended the NEA Women and Minorities Leadership Conference and received training on teaching at-risk students. The said members and teachers do seek training on their own time as they care about

education. She is grateful that the bond passed but expressed disappointment about the failed vote for Question 1 and is concerned about the message it sent.

PTA/PTO/Community County

No report was given.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD - 3 minutes each

David Stirland said the Board has discussed the closing or repurposing of schools. No decision has been made and will not be made for a few months. The Board will make no decision without gathering data.

Alan Crooks, Dixie Sun parent, has children in the Dual Immersion program. Parents look forward to being part of the decisions. He appreciated the passion of both parent meetings held at Dixie Sun Elementary and Coral Cliffs Elementary. He expressed appreciation to Superintendent Bergeson and felt the meeting was productive. He said it just felt like it was happening so fast. He feels good decisions can be made with changes to the school. He feels Dual Immersion is a wonderful program and is willing to transport his children to the school. He asked to be a part of the decisions being made.

Jacqueline Shakespaere, Coral Cliffs parent, said she attended both meetings. She loves Coral Cliffs and the Leader in Me and Lighthouse programs. She reviewed the Leader in Me principles and values. She was impressed with the commitment to culture at Dixie Sun. She has respect and admiration for what they have built there. The parents and students love what is happening at their schools. She asked the Board to consider other boundary adjustments rather than close a school. The children and parents want to keep the wonderful programs that they love and embrace. They want students to thrive.

Kelly Blake said the Board has a responsibility to be good stewards of tax payer dollars. He said the Board will be transparent and will try to meet the needs of the entire county. David Stirland said the Board appreciates the concerns of parents and will answer questions of parents. The Board will be transparent and share the data they are finding. The Board will take time before making a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m., as there was no further business to discuss.