

OREM CITY COUNCIL/ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
56 North State, Orem, Utah
January 16, 2019

This meeting was for discussion purposes only. No official action was taken.

CONDUCTING	Councilman Tom Macdonald
OREM ELECTED OFFICIALS	Councilmembers Debby Lauret, Sam Lentz, Mark Seastrand, and Brent Sumner
OREM STAFF	Steven Downs, Deputy City Manager; Chief Gary Giles, Police Chief; Chris Tschirki, Public Works Director; and Jackie Lambert, Deputy City Recorder
ALPINE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Sarah Beeson, Amber Bonner, Scott Carlson, Mark Clement, Sara Hacken, Julie King, and Ada Wilson
ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMIN.	Rob Smith, Assistant Superintendent
EXCUSED	Mayor Brunst and Councilman David Spencer, City Manager Jamie Davidson and Assistant City Manager Brenn Bybee; Superintendent Sam Jarman and Admin. of Operations Jess Christen

Mr. Macdonald said he was asked by Mayor Brunst and Mayor Pro Tem David Spencer to conduct the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and asked Mrs. Hacken to provide a blessing on the food.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Macdonald invited those in attendance to introduce themselves, including four new members of the Alpine School District (ASD) Board. Mr. Smith said he was representing Alpine School District Administration, as Superintendent Jarman, Assistant Superintendent Patten, and Admin. of Operations Jess Christen were out of the country.

The ASD Board members gave brief introductory information as well as which district or high school cluster they represented:

- Amber Bonner – District 2 Lone Peak High School Cluster
- Mark Clement – Board Vice President, District 4 Pleasant Grove High School Cluster
- Julie King – District 1 Westlake High School Cluster
- Sarah Beeson – District 3 American Fork High School Cluster

- Scott Carlson – Board President, District 6 Lehi/Skyridge High School Clusters
- Ada Wilson – District 5 Mountain View High School Cluster
- Sara Hacken – District 7 Orem/Timpanogos High School Clusters

Many ASD Board members related close ties to the City, including former residents, employees, and community volunteers in Orem. Orem councilmembers and staff gave brief introductions, and similarly related close ties to the Alpine School District including family members that had been teachers, principals and administrators, and school employees.

UPDATE – Alpine School District Capital Projects

Mr. Smith provided an update of ASD construction and other capital projects. He added that many schools would see safety and security updates. In Orem, the new consolidated school that would house students formerly at Scera Park and Hillcrest was in the process of construction. A principal had been named, and the process of naming the school and selecting colors, mascot, etc. would begin soon. The principal of the new school would be Shelly Schroeder, formerly principal of Snow Springs Elementary.

Mrs. Lauret commented that the subject of new schools and school consolidation was often a tricky conversation with the public. She asked about the boundary discussion in Lehi that had caused some public commotion. Mr. Smith said parents had strong feelings about the schools, and they had received quite a lot of public feedback during their meetings. He felt there were options that many would like, though some may still not support them.

Mr. Macdonald asked if there was still the same level of frustration that existed when they first announced the consolidation of Scera Park and Hillcrest, because it seemed to him that some of the frustration had subsided. Sissy Rasmussen, an Orem resident, commented that she had been in favor of the consolidation from the beginning. The atmosphere at the schools which had been antagonistic was now only slightly awkward. She said teachers and parents were stepping up and repairing relationships, and hoped to improve to a positive outlook by the time the school opened. Mr. Clement said having parents who loved their children's school that much was a good problem to have.

Mr. Seastrand asked how the increasing cost of construction had affected projects ASD had planned for in their most recent bond. Mr. Smith said between recent tariffs on building materials and the demand for construction in Utah, what with the construction of a new prison, a new airport, and Silicon Slopes, construction costs had gone up significantly – approximately 15% to 30% higher. However, Mr. Smith assured that ASD had a great track record of keeping their promises on projects. They may have to extend the timeline on some projects, but they would find a way to complete them.

Mr. Downs asked about the need for seismic updates in Orem schools. Mr. Smith said Geneva Elementary would need to be rebuilt, and there would be partial rebuilds of Sharon Elementary and Windsor Elementary in coming years.

DISCUSSION – Public Safety

At Mr. Macdonald's request, Chief Giles shared information on the recent fatal shooting of Provo Officer Joseph Shinnars in Orem on January 5, 2019. Chief Giles said Officer Shinnars was part of a group of officers attempting to arrest a wanted fugitive who had made threats to the police. In an attempt to confront the fugitive, shots were fired from both the suspect and officers. Tragically, though Officer Shinnars was wearing his bulletproof vest, he was fatally wounded and died before reaching the hospital. The suspect was also wounded and was currently in custody. Chief Giles said many Orem officers were involved in the incident, and had served with Officer Shinnars on the SWAT team and officer training; it felt like the loss of one of Orem's own. Master Officer Shinnars was posthumously given the Medal of Valor for the first time in the City's history.

Mrs. Wilson said she appreciated seeing the outpouring of love and service for Officer Shinnars and his family. She commented that she had watched the funeral service and was impressed with the brotherhood of police. Chief Giles said it was a brotherhood, but it was even more than that. It was a war that was constantly raging on, and this represented a battle lost. Society changed any time a police officer was killed; chaos escaped into our world and a bit of our peace was taken from us. Without those brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect us, that chaos would reign. Mr. Macdonald thanked Chief Giles for sharing his thoughts.

UPDATE – Orem Neighborhood Parks

Mr. Macdonald said Orem recently had an open house regarding the rebuild of some recreational facilities near Bonneville Elementary. Mr. Downs said the park had had some issues, ranging from noise to loitering to graffiti to other crime. In the summer of 2018, they had built six pickleball courts with lighting that had cut the rate of crime; Chief Giles said it was cut by as much as 50%. Mr. Downs said they had received public input before building the pickleball courts and it had not all been favorable, but the reception has been excellent and neighbors are pleased with the improvement in the park.

Mr. Downs said they were looking to make improvements to another neighborhood park located between Geneva and Suncrest Elementary schools. They were going to partner with the Real Salt Lake (RSL) Foundation to build outdoor futsal courts where existing dilapidated tennis courts stood. He said there were temporary futsal courts the neighbors had built, but these would be lit and permanent courts to help get better utilization of the park for the whole family. He added that they would be partnering with Intermountain Healthcare as well, who may include outdoor circuit equipment that could be used year-round. Mr. Downs assured that they would time the park improvements so as not to disrupt either of the surrounding schools or Mountainland Head Start. They would also be improving the parking. They had submitted grant applications two days before the federal government shutdown, so that project was on hold.

Mrs. Hacken said they were talking about consolidating Geneva and Suncrest Elementary schools, perhaps including that in the next bond.

DISCUSSION – Topics for Next Meeting

Mr. Seastrand gave a history of how these joint meetings had come about. It began with discussions on Orem splitting away from the Alpine School District in 2006, which they had not done. It was recognized that opportunities to collaborate existed, especially with Orem parks neighboring ASD schools. Meeting every few months helped with communication and planning for areas of overlap and had had tremendous positive outcomes. He said it was a mutually beneficial relationship.

Mr. Clement agreed, and said an area he hoped to continue working on with the City was the mental health of students, particularly in regards to depression, anxiety, and suicide. Mr. Macdonald suggested that they discuss that topic at the next joint meeting. Mrs. Wilson said she appreciated Mayor Brunst's support for the Hope of Orem initiative.

Mr. Tschirki requested that they discuss the need for Orem to build a 10 million gallon water tank at Community Park, where construction timelines and the possibility of land swapping could be reviewed. Mr. Macdonald also suggested discussing an update on the recently passed bond in Orem to upgrade the Orem Fitness Center and Library Hall.

Set Date and Time for Next

There was discussion about when and where to have the next joint meeting. It was suggested that the next joint meeting be at the location of the new school being built in the Scera Park/Hillcrest area. There was also discussion about the need to possibly shift the tentative meeting date sooner if the Legislative Session introduced joint issues.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2019, at noon.

Adjournment

Mr. Lentz moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Lauret seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Approved: February 12, 2019



JoD'Ann Bates, City Recorder