



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 W Tabernacle, St. George, Utah 84770
February 25, 2019
5:15 p.m.

Reverence offered by Board Member Blake.

Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Vice President Kelly Blake, Board Member LaRene Cox, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Communications Director Steven Dunham, CTE Director Dave Gardner, WCEA President Amy Barton.

Board Member Terry Hutchinson participated via phone.

Also present were parents from Dixie Sun Elementary.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

WORK SESSION

Foundation Grant Video – Steven Dunham

Steven Dunham reported on the grant presentations. He shared a video that will be used to recruit donations for classroom grants next year. The Foundation is hoping to be more businesses to participate. They will start using it as they promote the Foundation Golf Tournament. The video will also be taken out to businesses to share. The Foundation Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 27th at The Ledges.

Name Change/Re-branding of Dixie Sun Elementary – Rex Wilkey

Rex Wilkey said a name change was brought up at one of the previous meetings. Susan Harrah would be excited to do that as part of the restructure. Rex Wilkey said the building remodel will help give a face lift and a name change would be good too. Susan Harrah has implemented some surveys and to get everyone involved. Rex Wilkey said there will be some new teachers coming to the school and it will be good to reboot and work to improve the test scores. He explained the process for name selections in the past bringing names from the parents, letting the students choose, and then bring the top names to the Board. Rex Wilkey suggested giving the name change proposal to Susan to follow through on. The District will work on the building remodel the best they can. One parent mentioned that parents are concerned with having a fence. Craig Hammer said he did talk with St. George City. There is a joint agreement with the city on the property, but they are willing to do what needs to be done. It was discussed to keep the fence locked during the school day and then open it for community use after hours.

Professional Development School Planning – Rex Wilkey

Rex Wilkey said he has been working on plans for the school. Craig Hammer shared the

proposed plans for the school remodel. He said they would like to keep the main entrance for the school. The plan includes moving the back playground and creating another entrance into the school in the back. Additional parking would be added with a professional development entrance and an online school entrance. Professional Development would use the space on the west side of the school. He explained creating a multipurpose room that would also be used for the lunchroom. The kindergarten room will keep the front room and the front playroom. There will be a room for each grade, a special education room, and a preschool room. The District is still working to determine how many staff members will be moving to the building. The gym will need the divider replaced. A hard surface floor will be placed over the gym floor to protect it. There will be an area with cubicles for office space. The school part of the remodel will need to happen during the summer to have it ready for school this fall. If the school is needed in the future, it can be re-purposed again. The District media center will have access from the front of the building. Rob Schmidt, Fine Arts, will also be moved to the building and would have his own access to take instruments in and out of the building. Craig Hammer also said he is trying to leave as much storage space as possible in the classrooms. The field will be left for school use. The plans will open space at the District Office as we continue to grow.

Craig Hammer shared a map of the plans for fencing at Dixie Sun. There is about \$1.5 million in the bond to remodel at Dixie Sun. The remodel will have to happen while school is in session. He will work with Susan Harrah and keep her up to date on the projects. Brent Bills said the administration will be bringing some proposals to the Board to get these projects done. David Stirland said he is more concerned that we do a good job rather than getting it done quickly.

CT High School Pathways – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes shared a list of the possible pathways. The District can't do all of them and plans to focus on eight areas. Dave Gardner said the list has come with input from Dixie Technical College. Some CTE courses available at the high school will continue at their high school locations and will not be offered at the CT high school. The program will be targeting a specific set of students who want to get the industry certification. Each school grade level would only lose about 33 students. Crimson Cliffs High School is looking to add a flight school program. The next step will be to bring the results of the survey. Many of the programs can continue at DSU or DTC. The lineman program would be a stand-alone program through Dixie Power. Dave Gardner has shared them with Eric Pederson at DSU and they are excited about the pathways. The number of skilled people in our community has gone down, so this will be huge. This will also help absorb the student growth. Dave Gardner said there will be skilled and academic teachers at the school. Students will spend the day at the school for both academics and the trade skill program. The school will open fall 2022. There will be a bus running from each high school. There will be a marketing campaign for students to see what is available. There will also be an application process for students to participate in the school.

Social Media Policy – Lyle Cox

Steven Dunham reported the he is working with Lyle Cox on the policy. He suggested it should fall under the Acceptable Use policy. It will be for employees but would include a section for students as well. Social media must have an educational purpose when used in the classroom. The policy would provide a framework without allowing relationships to go too far. The

building administrator would monitor the use. A policy would provide clear expectations and consequences would not allow teachers to post on personal sites during contract time.

PrimeGov Software – Laura Hesson

David Stirland said he is less than overwhelmed with PrimeGov. He can log on but can't access the information. Laura Hesson said she feels it is cumbersome. The contract is due. The board discussed concerns including simplicity and navigation. The Board would like to send out an RFP again to see other options.

Board Compensation – David Stirland

Brent Bills shared information from similar size districts Weber, Canyons, and Nebo. The Board discussed their thoughts and suggestions. Craig Seegmiller suggested it should automatically increase with raises given for teachers. Becky Dunn has concerns giving Board raise with the timing and school re-purposing. Laura Hesson agreed with the perception, but also feels there would never be a good time. Kelly Blake said as a Board they do a lot more than other boards. The time spent needs to be looked at. He leans toward the same with an increase and change with employees increases. LaRene Cox suggested a similar increase to Nebo School District. Terry Hutchinson likes idea to tie with other districts. He does not think we should raise right now while agreeing that we do more. The Board discussed the increase to teachers over the past four years receiving a 20% increase. It needs to be looked at for the time compensation put in. The board currently receives \$750 month. Amy Barton, WCEA, explained that some of the previous increases to teachers were given at the time the salary schedule was changed to a single lane. She sees how hard the board works. There has to be acknowledgement of time commitment. They also view the board as a position to serve. She feels including an increase with the teacher raise would be good. Terry Hutchinson pointed out that the District barely passed the bond. People are sensitive about these things. It is a perception thing. David Stirland doesn't mind it being tied into the teacher compensation raise. He can see a raise being fair and is grateful for the insurance. He suggested not increase the amount now but tying it in with the teachers. LaRene Cox feels the same but could go either way. Craig Seegmiller feels we should increase the compensation a little but is content with when the teachers get a raise. Becky Dunn is not okay with the raise, but she would be more okay with the annual increase. Laura Hesson is good with annual increase and suggested grabbing the percent of increase teachers received this year. Brent Bills said classified received 2.1%. Kelly Blake could go either way on the increase but would like to include the annual increase that employees received. It was suggested to consider \$50, plus add the annual increase. Brent Bills said the Board will have to set a public hearing date.

Legislative Update – Brent Bills

Brent Bills reported on legislation. The state had lower collections and lost \$100 million. The state will be giving back less money to tax payers. It appears that the District will receive 4% on WPU. The state is putting \$35 million in the TSA account. With SB 149, 25% of the money could go to teacher salary increases only. The other 75% must go to the schools. The board would be able to set a framework for how the money spent with input from Community Councils and community.

HB 373 would give \$32.1 million toward social emotional wellness. Funds could be used to hire counselors and others related to wellness. The third criteria distributes money based on lack of personnel. Since we have put money into positions, we would not receive the funding.

He mentioned that \$8.7 million would be put in school readiness funds to replace the TANIF funds, \$10 Million for students at risk, and \$5 million for transportation. Funds would also be given for a Utah Computer Science software grant. The state will put \$4.3 million for enrollment growth, \$17.2 million for State Office software, and \$67 million for wellness facilities. Brent Bills said that the March 5th meeting would include priorities proposals. He feels we will receive some funding to help with priorities. There is also legislation relating to a certified library teacher pilot program. And \$25 million in Capital Outlay. Brent Bills said there are two concerning bills dealing with TSSA money and school fees. Superintendent Larry Bergeson arrived late to the meeting and reported on the school fees he had just attended. He said the textbook fee elimination will be pushed back to the 2022-23 school year. Another part is the accounting part that will need to match. The majority of the concern is the extracurricular activity costs. He feels USBE and legislators understand the concerns with the cost of extracurricular. Robertson's bill includes curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular. That bill has been postponed for this year. It could come back later. The equity problem was also brought up with districts outside of the Wasatch Front. School Boards will need to streamline the fees and put a ceiling on costs of program fees. Brent Bills said the Board would need to consider the school fees at the meeting next week. Money must go evenly to all students when fundraising is done. Fees for sports cannot be used to cover fee waiver. The Board will need to decide how much can be spent for fee waivers. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the school fees legislation will be discussed in the JLC meeting this next week. The Board needs to watch the expenses that they set, especially at the high end as the District will have to cover the costs for students with fee waiver.

ACTION ITEMS

Legacy Elementary School LAND Trust Plan Change

The Board reviewed the proposed change. Laura Hesson said schools are usually asked to provide a list of the instructional supplies.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to accept the proposed changes with an itemized list of the instructional supplies being purchased. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session needed.

Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT