

**Uintah School District
Vernal, Utah**

These are the minutes from the April 10, 2019 Board Meeting of the Uintah School District Board of Education. The meeting was held at the Vernal Middle School Auditorium at 6:00 pm.

Those Present: Kurt Case, Robin McClellan, Sarah Lamb, Dave Chivers, Harlan "Scoot" Wilkins.

Also Present: Superintendent Mark Dockins, Interim Business Administrator Jason Johnson.

1. INTRODUCTION – Time Stamp (0:47)

A. Welcome / Called to Order

B. Reverence: Debbie Chatham

C. Pledge of Allegiance: Julie Wilde

D. Student Board Member Report: Carson Talbot – Time Stamp (3:13)

Student Council Elections were held and Gus Scott will be the new Student Body President. Skills USA State Competition was held and many gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded in a variety of categories. Mr. and Miss Uintah winners are Garret Wilson and Dacey Smuin. Spring sports are underway. Prom will be held April 20, 2019. The promenade will begin at 5:30 and all are invited. Seniors are busy completing graduation requirements and scholarship applications in preparation for graduation in May.

E. Celebrations – Time Stamp (6:40)

- a. Students of the Month: Ashley, Thomas McKeachnie; Davis, Blaine Simmons; Discovery, Jhett Nielson; Eagle View, Quinn Hogan; Lapoint, Riahnno Grando; Maeser, Trevyn Bingham; Naples, Kyle Munford; UMS, R.J. Montgomery; VMS, Madison Schear; UHS, ShaeLynn Terry; AVEC, Allison Lee.
- b. Team Uintah Captains: The Biology Staff at Uintah High was recognized for their contributions to the school and students.
- c. Kristy Putnam was recognized as the Region X Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.
- d. Sterling Scholars were recognized. Uintah had two region winners and 8 runners up at the region competition.
- e. FFA State winners were recognized.
- f. Individual 4A State Wrestling Champions were recognized: Brady Merkley, Bridger Bennion, and Gavin Ayotte.
- g. The Girls Basketball Team recognized Kaitlyn (Kooks) Callahan and Maddi Foster for their accomplishments.

F. Patron Input – Time Stamp (56:52)

Katie Abrams, spokesman for a group, presented concerns: 1) Uintah High test scores are unacceptable in meeting the district model "Success for Every Student"; 2) our students are too limited to take advantage of opportunities given (elective and concurrent enrollment classes) at Uintah because of the trimester schedule; 3) schedules among various schools in the district do not align, creating stress on families (i.e. early out Friday and late start Monday). The group proposes a 5 by 5 block semester schedule. On a 5 by 5 block schedule, high school students would attend a 5 class schedule on Monday, Wednesday, and every other Friday, then another 5 class schedule on Tuesday, Thursday, and every other Friday. This schedule would eliminate the late start Monday and align schedules for the schools in the district. Class periods would be the same amount of time and no additional school days would be needed. This schedule would allow students to take more elective and concurrent

enrollment classes as well as release time. The schedule would not require more teachers and would allow students to have better attendance. Class sizes could be reduced. Mrs. Abrams urged all to study the plan and requested to have a public input meeting regarding this issue. Dave Chivers asked if this is different from the program tried by the district in 2007 and Mrs. Abrams clarified that it is as class time is not lengthened. This schedule will primarily affect the high school. The junior high schools and elementary schools would see changes in grading periods (from 3 to 4) and late start times would be eliminated in favor of early out Fridays. Mrs. Abrams noted that 93% of high schools in the state are on a semester system but not necessarily the five by five system. Mrs. McClellan asked for data on class sizes being changed due to redistribution of students in core classes. There is no data until the district shows which classes will be affected. Teachers will have more students per semester. Mrs. Lamb clarified that the classes would meet less (unless double blocked) but would not experience long gaps in instruction for core classes. Mr. Chivers asked what the next step is. Information on the block schedule was given in advance to the board. Mr. Case presented a perspective on the statistical numbers given. Where our students start vs where they end with graduation rates needs to be a part of the discussion when considering changes. Mr. Dockins explained that there are committees and processes in place to determine district wide changes. Mrs. Abrams expressed the need for this information to be made widely public so that the community can be involved in the decision making process. Mr. Wilkins expressed the need to have several community members on the committee to work on this issue. Decisions need to be made based on facts and data. Mrs. Abrams is willing to serve on the committee. Mr. Wilkins would like the committee to be chosen very soon, and Mr. Dockins stated that it can happen soon, but decisions need to be made in a timely manner and not rushed. Mr. Case asked Mrs. Abrams if she talked with teachers and administrators at the school on the issue. She had spoken with some teachers but not administrators. Mr. Case said collaboration needs to be made working together with community, administration, and teacher involvement. Mr. Dockins will form a committee with Mrs. Abram's input and will let everyone know when it is done. Mr. Case asked the board if they are in agreement with forming a committee and to present findings at a later date.

2. BUSINESS/ACTIONS ITEMS – Time Stamp (1:37:09)

A. Approval of Minutes (February 5, 2019 Special Work Session; March 6, 2019 Work Session; March 13, 2019 Impact Aid & Business Meeting; March 22, 2019 Special Business Meeting; March 27, 2019 Special Business Meeting). Motion to approve the minutes for listed dates by Robin McClellan, seconded by Sarah Lamb. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Policy 005.0675 Association Leave Policy First Reading – Rick Johnson, Human Resources Director – Time Stamp (1:38:27)

No additional input/changes given on the policy. Motion to approve first reading of Policy 005.0675 Association Leave Policy made by Dave Chivers, seconded by Sarah Lamb. Motion passed unanimously. Policy moves to second reading.

C. Approval of 2019-2020 Capital Outlay Requests – Jason Johnson, Interim Business Administrator – Time Stamp (1:40:10)

Capital Outlay requests for 2019-2020 total \$7,077,812.00. Motion to approve made by Sarah Lamb, seconded by Robin McClellan.

Clarification given to Mr. Chivers and Mr. Wilkins on line items 88, 89, 97, and 105. If construction moves forward, those items would not be completed. If construction doesn't

move forward they will need to be done and funds will be needed. Both men are nervous about approving monies that may or may not be spent. Line items 88, 89, 97, and 105 will be set aside until construction decisions have been made. **Time Stamp (1:47:45)**

Time Stamp (1:48:52) Transportation director Mark Rich presented information regarding the bus fleet. Propane is a tremendous cost savings to the district (about \$2 per gallon of gas). Savings will be in the range of \$80,000.00 for the year. Propane buses are cheaper than diesel fuel buses. Variations in brands of buses is to keep costs and bidding competitive. Propane buses are expected to have the same longevity as diesel buses. Parts are readily available for repairs on propane buses. Todd Wilkins, Senior Technician, offered a history of repairs and issues with diesel and propane buses. The propane buses function better in cold weather than diesel fuel buses. Maintenance on those buses is relatively low. Buses are rotated on average at 250,000 miles or 12 years so that the district can recoup costs in the sale. Mileage per bus per year depends on routes. Concerns about storage and safety with regard to tanks and propane gas were addressed.

Time Stamp (2:02:46) Clarification given on line item #3. School discretionary spending funds used for incidental purposes not in the budget.

Time Stamp (2:05:32) The high school dance room floor was refinished 2 years ago, and will need to be redone in the next 2 years. It will then need sanding.

Time Stamp (2:06:09) Discussion and clarification on line item #1 was given. State code requires capital outlay goes to any school that accepts students living in USD boundaries.

Time Stamp (2:08:34) Line #6 is blank because payments for the Union High School have been completed.

Time Stamp (2:08:46) Line #63 is the Maintenance Department's discretionary spending budget.

Delays in construction and project timelines cause funds to be carried over from year to year if not completed as intended.

Mr. Chivers would like a report as to what money is left over from capital outlay and what money was spent.

Time Stamp (2:12:18) Motion made to amend Capital Outlay 2019-2020 requests taking off lines 88, 89, 97, and 105 (all items pending construction).

Motion made to approve amendment made by Sarah Lamb, seconded by Dave Chivers.

Time Stamp (2:14:38) Line item #87 (ongoing project) was discussed. Reasons concrete will be poured under bleachers. Sharon Shipton, UHS principal, noted that it is space used to store athletic and other equipment that needs to be clear of weeds and trash. It is an ongoing project that will eliminate the need for weed control and will eventually be self-contained and locked eliminating any access to students and thereby eliminating security risks to students and community. The \$53,000.00 amount was questioned as to how much of the project will be covered by this amount. Answer not immediately known.

Motion made to approve capital outlay requests striking line items 88, 89, 97, and 105 by Sarah Lamb, seconded by Dave Chivers. Motion passed unanimously.

Time Stamp (2:21:50)

D. Personnel Changes – Rick Johnson, Human Resources Director – Time Stamp (2:18:09)

Motion to approve proposed personnel changes made by Sarah Lamb, seconded by Dave Chivers.

Rick Johnson presented the changes to the board. No additional discussion

Motion passed unanimously.

3. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Calendar Items – No calendar items

B. Superintendent/Business Administrator/Board Reports – Time Stamp (2:19:42)

Erin Brown Speech/Language teacher at Central Cove is the Teacher of the Year.

Sally Phillips, bus driver is the Classified Employee of the Year.

4. ADJOURNMENT – Time Stamp (2:22:46)

- A. Motion to adjourn made by Dave Chivers, seconded by Robin McClellan. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m. – Time Stamp (2:23:09)