



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 W Tabernacle Street, St. George, Utah 84770
November 12, 2019
4:30 P.M.

Reverence offered by Member Hutchinson.

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, Human Resource Executive Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Washington City Mayor Kenny Nelson, Washington Councilmember Troy Belliston, Washington City Manager Roger Carter, Washington Councilmember Doug Ward, City Recorder Danice Bulloch,

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

WORK SESSION

Washington City

Mayor Kenneth Nelson shared a brief state of the city report. Washington City has experienced a fair amount of growth. They are excited to have the new Crimson Cliffs High School in Washington City. They would welcome more schools to the city with the growth. With the recent elections there will be some changes to the City Council for the upcoming year. Mayor Nelson mentioned prior to school starting he had received a call from the principal of Washington Fields Intermediate about a crosswalk concern. The city was able to resolve the problem. Mayor Nelson reported on several developments in the city that include homes and apartments. Councilmember Belliston mentioned that the trail system is being completed through Long Valley with a new development in that area. The home market has softened a little, but homes are still being sold and the market is still good. Councilman Belliston reported that with the developments planned for the area, the School District should be looking to start a construction of new school. Craig Hammer mentioned that the District will need to look for property near Long Valley. He explained the process for determining the need for a school. The School District only has one elementary school site in Washington and has been looking for property options. The District has been talking with SITLA on a property piece in Green Springs. Roger Carter said the city is planning to bring someone in to help with design planning, specifically for the fields area. They would also like to receive public input. They are working on a traffic light on 3090 near Majestic Fields Elementary. It should take some pressure off the crossing guards. Roger Carter said UDOT has signed an agreement for the interchange off of main street. There will also be other changes on main street. The city will be working on the Washington interchange which will help relieve some of the traffic pressure. Councilman Belliston said the interchange will still be a process as UDOT plans and finds a way to fund it. Roger Carter said UDOT is also looking to widen I-15 with all of the traffic on the freeway. Councilman Belliston also mentioned there have been discussions for an exit near Harrison. Mayor Nelson mentioned another road in planning that will help with traffic into Washington Fields. Craig Hammer reported on traffic near the new schools and said things have been better. The field at Crimson Cliffs High should be done this week. The field is a cool play field that lowers the temperature of the turf. The track is being

done with polyurethane and should last 20 years. The problem with the original turf was not with the product, but with the labor. Roger Carter said when and if the time comes that there is more traffic on 300 with the frontage road by Washington Elementary, the city would be interested in having a conversation about a new school to replace Washington Elementary. David Stirland said student safety is a priority for the Board.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:15 p.m. Board Member Blake 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, Human Resource Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 3:10 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Bus Pass Survey – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said the recommendation from the administration is to wait on student bus passes. The District needs dedication and commitment to make it work right. Laura Hesson said the survey showed most were in favor, but there were a lot of comments that opened pandoras box. Lyle Cox said parents want flexibility. There are some benefits of using bus passes including safety. Brandon Yost said 90% of the students at his school are bussed, so safety provides a lot of benefits. He also realizes that parents have to be committed. The cost to start a bus pass system would be about \$250,000. If the District puts money into busing, it needs to be cameras. Lyle Cox said we need to be increasingly aware of the problems we face with busing students. The District would lose safety features if using bus passes was optional.

CTE High School Discussion – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes shared the proposed CTE course schedule. The proposed subjects were shared but could be shifted into and done in different phases. Auto tech courses are not needed as they are currently offered in our high schools. Dave Stirland said SUU has met with Crimson Cliffs on a concurrent enrollment aviation program. The program could get virtual goggles to use instead of a simulator that would be cheaper and allow for more students to participate. Richard Holmes mentioned discussions to include a tourism program. Larry Bergeson said there are continued discussions on programs to offer. Dave Gardner said the students attending the CT high school in Houston had the highest scores in the district. We will have that focus and will be working with Dixie State University.

Open Enrollment Declaration – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes shared the open enrollment declaration. There are four elementary that are currently open but will be closed for the 2020-21 school year including Coral Canyon, Panorama, and Santa Clara, and Sunset. The open enrollment status of schools is based on current numbers.

Elementary Boundary Discussion – Rex Wilkey

Rex Wilkey shared proposed elementary boundaries changes with the opening of South Mesa. He has met with PTA groups and with the city. Riverside Elementary will stay the same for one year until the next new elementary school opens. The District will move forward with parent meetings. Rex Wilkey shared that Bloomington Elementary has grown and proposed moving students from Bloomington

Elementary to Arrowhead Elementary. Both schools have the Chinese dual program and feed into the same secondary schools. Rex Wilkey shared a proposed boundary change between Washington Elementary and Coral Canyon Elementary. He also mentioned that a boundary adjustment will most likely be needed between Hurricane Elementary and LaVerkin Elementary down the road. He would hold off on this boundary change for the time being.

PD Center Timeline – Nate Esplin

Nate Esplin said the Professional Learning Center is ready to move into. Those moving from the District Office will start tomorrow. Craig Hammer mentioned that the vertical door in the large training room will be put in over the next few weeks. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the transition has gone smoothly.

Water Canyon Consolidation Discussion – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes shared the history of the Hildale area and the property near the school. Very few students attended a school that was not part of their religion. There are more families moving back that don't participate with either of the religious groups. He met about a month ago with some of the residents on a proposal to have all 6-8 students from Hildale and Colorado City attend the same school in Arizona and all 9-12 students from Hildale and Colorado City attend Water Canyon. He said that we continue to add programs and resources to the Utah side, such as the CTE building and ball field, students on the Arizona side will never have those things. It would help bring unity to the youth in the community. Brent Bills said that the District would lose some of the NESS funding changing to a 9-12 school instead of 7-12. Colorado City has many open homes, but families are hesitant to move that direction as they want to go to Water Canyon. Brent Bills said there would need to be some discussions on handling finance of the proposed consolidation.

Sharp Survey – Jon Butler

This presentation was postponed.

College Board Principal Bridge Delegation – Amy Mitchell

Amy Mitchell and seven representatives from Washington County School District traveled to China with the College Board delegation. College Board pays all expenses, except the flight expense. Marybeth Fuller said Applications are due in June for those interested in traveling. There were 240 delegates with 29 from Utah. The groups were split up and visited different providences. The WCSD group went to the Henan providence. She shared a video of their experience. Amy Mitchell and Lyle Cox expressed just how valuable Marybeth Fuller is to our Dual Immersion program. Marybeth Fuller said she has the opportunity to meet with the Chinese Embassy next week. Brandon Yost suggested that it would be a neat opportunity to have a student delegation exchange with China due to our Chinese Dual Immersion program.

Principal Rotation – Terry Hutchinson

Terry Hutchinson said the question for him is really just, "When?". He said he is putting together some historical information and would like the Board to consider looking at it with fresh eyes. He will try to have a memo prepared for the next meeting. There are financial challenges with position adjustments. There are a couple principals that have been there over 12 years with assistants that have been there about the same. This will allow principals to hit the mark but not become stale. He asked the board to also consider District administration that will be retiring and will need to be replaced. Principal rotation is viewed with stigma. He feels that professional development will be a big factor in moving forward. He feels the rotation happening has been good. He mentioned concern from a parents point of moving principals. Laura Hesson said principals are being evaluated and are invested in that school. Moving them may not be helpful. She felt that the principal survey on rotation caused frustration for principals. Kelly Blake said there is merit in transitioning people, the average is about 8 years. He thought in July it was left with the administration to consider transitioning vice principals. This is something the

administration should be deal with. Becky Dunn said it was discussed significantly in the principal pool. Most of the Board feel vice principal rotations should be considered.

Principal Pool Selection – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox reviewed the principal pool selection process. Twenty-three individuals have been selected for the pool. The pool will be used to hire principals through 2020.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 4:33 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, Human Resource Executive Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

CLOSED SESSION

Property

Board Member Cox presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 4:38 p.m. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

- A. Healthy Dixie Update – Craig Seegmiller
- B. USBA Update – Becky Dunn
- C. MBA Update – Laura Hesson
- D. Dixie Tech Update – Terry Hutchinson
- E. Foundation Update – David Stirland
- F. FCAOG Update – Becky Dunn
- G. Audit Committee Update – Kelly Blake

No items were discussed.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

- A. Enrollment
- B. Safe Schools
- C. GRAMA Requests
- D. 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 – President Stirland

Pledge of Allegiance – Member Hesson

Reverence – Member Seegmiller

Riverside Elementary students Ellie Felice Seegmiller and Lincoln Heppler shared a special patriotic musical number singing “American Tears.” They recently performed the song at the Washington Veterans Day Celebration in the park and at the school’s Patriot Day Assembly.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND PROJECT ITEM CHANGE

The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 4:35 p.m. to receive public comment on a proposed change to the approved 2019-2023 Bond Projects that would change the priority of the Enterprise Elementary Tractor replacement from the 2021 school year to the 2020 school year for completion.

Brent Bills said Enterprise Elementary does not have a large tractor to move snow. They have had to wait until the high school is done to use their tractor. They would like to have a tractor for the elementary school site.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes
 - 1. October 10, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Education
 - 2. October 28, 2019 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- B. Financial Report
- C. Personnel Items
- D. Three Falls Elementary School LAND Trust Plan Change
- E. Santa Clara Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Board Member Blake presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A through E. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No public comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Bond Priority Change for Enterprise Elementary Tractor Replacement from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for Completion

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Bond Priority change for the Enterprise Elementary Tractor Replacement from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for completion. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 4220 Review of Instructional Media – Amy Christiansen

Amy Christiansen said a proposal to change the policy was previously made to address Utah legislation to create an appeal process for parents.

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

Health Curriculum Compliance – Amy Christiansen

Amy Christiansen said each year the District is required to verify that we are in compliance with the state curriculum and receive Board approval. It is being addressed in the grade levels and the schools are following the curriculum.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Health Curriculum for compliance. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Fee Schedule Additions – Brent Bills

Brent Bills reviewed the additional fees to be added for swimming, FACS fee for 8th grade (which combines sewing and cooking), a spirit bus fee, and grad night fee for events at the school. A Food Handlers Permit fee was added as a non-waivable fee for students who would like to test and receive the permit. Some fees are not waivable. Brent Bills said the internal auditors are watching school fees and there is training happening. We are trying to be in compliance this year before it could create problems. Becky Dunn said some schools are charging a debate fee, but it does not reference travel expenses with an asterisk for competitions where travel is needed.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the Fee Schedule additions with the addition of an asterisk for debate competition travel expenses. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Open Enrollment Declaration – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes briefly reviewed the Open enrollment numbers for the declaration.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Open Enrollment Declaration. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 1100 Filling Positions – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said the policy needed changes due to administrative changes. The Executive Director positions for secondary and elementary were added.

Policy 1470 Employee Dress Code – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said issues related to the employee dress code have become an increasing problem. It is different from the student dress code. Changes to the policy will add additional language to help principals enforce the policy. Employees should dress with professionalism, but some clothing does not set an example and is inappropriate. Terry Hutchinson suggested that the changes should say short shorts and short skirts for better clarification. Laura Hesson questioned if the policy needs to be that specific. Lyle Cox said it is appropriate for an employer to be specific. There are things principals can use to address concerns and enforce when needed. Dave Stirland feels that there is some subjectivity in the policy. Kelly Blake said his business requires a more specific dress. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said it is something administration deals with at the schools and is not easy. LaRene Cox feels that we may not want to be so specific. Lyle Cox agreed that it is subjective, but there have been three issues that have come up this year. If we have high expectations for students, we should expect the same from employees.

Policy 1410 Employee Service Recognition and Awards – Recommended for Deletion – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said it is recommended that the policy be deleted. The current policy is not being used the way it was intended. The District administration does want to recognize employees and will look to rewrite the policy or create an administrative letter that addresses recognitions.

Policy 3410 Photograph and Yearbook – Recommended for Deletion – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said the policy is outdated and is recommend for deletion.

Policy 3610 Band Management – Recommended for Deletion - Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said the Policy will remain as is for now.

2021-2022 School Calendar – Craig Hammer

Rex Wilkey said the calendar has been given to the Board to review. Testing dates for elementary can be considered after the calendar is approved. Laura Hesson suggested doing the testing before school starts. It was calculated that the testing would take three days and the District would have to look at funding. The first day of school will be on August 11, 2021 and last day on May 25, 2022 with similar holidays as previous years.

INFORMATION

What's Right in WCSD Schools

Riverside Elementary – Burke Staheli

Burke Staheli asked some teachers and parents to share what's right about Riverside Elementary School. Brittney Rivers said she had children at the school when Riverside opened. She has had four children attend the school. Some of the things she feels are right include: leadership with principal that listens; teachers with education and a heart; support staff that know every individual child and look out for them

and help students learn; students who show “win-win” kindness; librarian that finds books to help students learn; and the teamwork and compassion at the school; detailed plans for substitutes; talented paraprofessionals and assistants; and a rhythm of caring. Emily Sharp, counselor at Riverside, first mentioned that she loves being full time at one school so she can be there to meet the needs of the students. Some things that are right include the students being able to check in with the counselor daily to help them deal with anxiety; running coping, confidence and communication groups while teaching and reading with students one on one; the opportunity to help do lunch activities with students that teach cooperation, confidence, friendship, and coping skills; she is able to use a lot of books and fun resources when teaching; and the school motto – Live a great story. Whitney Weaver said the transition to school for her child has been easy. The leadership share love, kindness and support with every child. The atmosphere of Riverside feels like home and is warm and welcoming, helping you feel that you belong. There are many assemblies and other fun activities that are facilitated for students. It brings fun and excitement for the students. Amy Budge, teacher, said Riverside is a place for a student to go and be a leader. The school participates in the Leader in Me program. “First things first” means putting the students first. The school has a great faculty, principal, students, and parents. Riverside was granted Lighthouse Certification last year and are an example of what we should be in the world: kind, caring, loving, and responsible. There are 4,000 schools in 50 countries that use the Leader in Me program in the school. Riverside Elementary is one of 510 that has received Lighthouse status. The school is loved by the students. The job of the faculty is to find greatness in the students and to help them to know that they always had it. Elizabeth Sharp said communication at the school is so wonderful. The front office is so kind, knowledgeable and available to answer questions. The library is a sanctuary for her children to learn and love reading. The teachers have been great to communicate. She loves the patriotism at every assembly and the enriching and loving environment. Burke Staheli said it is a good place to be. He said that having a full-time counselor at the elementary schools has been life changing.

Pine View High School – Mike Mees

Mike Mees reported on the first Pine-Cone Leadership Summit. Student leaders from eight schools in the Pine View High cone site attended. They had about 120 students in attendance. The Pine View High student leaders welcomed the students from the surrounding schools. The purpose of the summit was to develop a connectiveness of the schools with Pine View High School to help the students recognize that they are future “Panthers,” and to enculturate them with feelings of love, welcoming, and togetherness. Pine View High student leaders did team building activities with groups of students from the many schools and many grades. The theme for the training came from Lester Holt’s NBC News story on “Being Nice.” The students then learned about the ripple effect and participated in goal setting activities. Students were asked to come up with a response as a group to what schools in the Pine View cone site could do to make sure that all students have a positive experience during the school year. Some of the responses included: Be a friend, make everyone feel welcome, create a positive environment, be an example, don’t judge others, and make others happy. The school leaders were to then go back to their schools and make their own action plans. They felt it was helpful to have an activity with students in all the grades. They all share the same goal to take care of each other. They are hoping to do it twice a year to talk about how things went and look for additional ways to do things together as a cone site.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned that Pine View High School will be playing football in the semi-finals on Thursday. Pine View High will play Park City at the Rice Eccles Stadium and Dixie High will play Skyview High. If both teams win, the final game will be played here at Dixie State University. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said that everything is going well with 51 schools and 35,000 students. There have been a few issues opening the new school, but things have gone quite well overall. He also mentioned that Washington County School District initiated the new fee schedule this year even though it was required. This will allow us to improve areas needed on our own. The School Board has been very helpful. Superintendent Larry Bergeson also pointed out that under extenuating circumstances, when it is

in the best interest of students to change schools, the District will accommodate the move. The Open Enrollment Declaration is just part of the legislation, but the District will always consider what is best and take care of students.

Board

Terry Hutchinson mentioned that the DXATC did pass their accreditation. They are moving forward and anxious to see how things work with the CT High school.

David Stirland reported on the Ibigawa, Japan delegation. The students represented Washington County School District very well. He expressed appreciation to St. George City for providing this opportunity.

Association

No reports were given.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

Tara West said PTA is off to great start. PTA is currently judging Reflections. The entries will be displayed at Children's Museum.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

No public comments were given.

Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT