



**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Washington County School District**  
**121 W Tabernacle Street, St. George, Utah 84770**  
**December 10, 2019**  
**4:30 P.M.**

*Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Vice President Kelly Blake, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Human Resource Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, and Communications Director Steven Dunham. The following high school student body presidents were also in attendance: Dallin Bundy – Dixie High School, Reece Parmenter – Crimson Cliffs High School, Jessie Hayes – Hurricane High School, Dusti Bistline – Water Canyon High School, Dallin Higgins – Snow Canyon High School, Kennedi Jennings – Pine View High School, Bryson Humphries – Enterprise High School, Drew Wells – Desert Hills High School.*

*Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer*

Reverence offered by Superintendent Larry Bergson.

## **WORK SESSION**

### **High School Student Body Presidents**

Dusti Bistline mentioned the great student body at Water Canyon High School.

Kennedi Jennings said Pine View High School has a diverse group of students, but they come together in different ways and get along. The school is excited for basketball and is working to raise \$10,000.

Jessie Hayes said Hurricane High School is experiencing a lot of growth and with the growth is starting new traditions.

Reece Parmenter said as Crimson Cliffs High School is new school, so they are trying to build a name. There has been a lot of school spirit already. The school has already won a state championship in golf. Dallin Higgins said Snow Canyon High School has had a great year so far and is trying to build a culture of love and friendship. The school “Wish Week” is coming up to raise funds to help families with Christmas.

Bryson Humphries of Enterprise High loves the small school life and feels the students there have a lot of school spirit. They are also raising money for Christmas needs.

Drew Wells said at Desert Hills High School they are referred to as the “Thunder Family.” This year they have put more emphasis on attendance at concerts, school plays and other school activities and events which has been good.

Dallin Bundy said Dixie High has a lot of tradition. They have been putting students more in charge and have been doing an angel tree to support Coins for Kids.

David Stirland asked students to share some of the challenges they see at the school or as students.

Bryson Humphries said Enterprise High pushes the dress code really hard and haven’t had much of a problem. Dallin Higgins doesn’t feel it has been an issue at Snow Canyon High. Jessie Hayes feels there haven’t been struggles at Hurricane High, but the administration has asked for more positive influence from the students. Kennedi Jennings said she doesn’t feel there has been a big emphasis on dress code at

Pine View High, but she also said it hasn't been a problem. Dusti Bistline said there were a couple of issues at Water Canyon, but they were dealt with and have not longer been a problem. Students were asked about social media. Reece Parmenter, Crimson Cliffs, said there needs to be an easier way for kids to talk about social media concerns. Most kids don't want to go talk with counselors about their problems. There was a big push for Safe Utah to begin with, but students are not really hearing about it much anymore. Steven Dunham encouraged the students to put the app on their phone and to then encourage their peers to have it on their phone. As they have problems, they can immediately send a message to a counselor at the University of Utah. Kelly Blake encouraged them to talk with their student body about the app.

Students were asked about the use of wellness rooms at the school. Drew Wells said Desert Hills High has a room and it has been great. Students can take a break during school if needed. He has heard there has been a lot of success with the room. Dallin Higgins said Snow Canyon High has a room. He thinks the idea is great but has not heard of many students using it. He feels that students would be comfortable using the room if needed. Dallin Bundy shared a situation with a student who was experiencing depression. He felt as a friend and student government leader, he didn't know how to deal with the situation. He suggested that more training would be helpful. Several schools mentioned having Hope Squads and feel that training has and would be helpful. Jessie Hayes said the student government at Hurricane High School also helps on the prevention coalition in their community. They have been working on suicide and vaping prevention.

Students were asked about academics. Is there enough rigor or is it too hard? Are students being prepared for the future? Reece Parmenter, Crimson Cliffs High, said some teachers are struggling as they are still learning also. Students feel it is awkward to report when they don't like the way a teacher is doing things. Most feel that an anonymous way for students to provide feedback on teachers would not work either as students would not use it effectively.

Jessie Hayes of Hurricane High mentioned concerns with online classes. It seems to be an easy way out. Kennedi Jennings at Pine View High said having a free period during the day to get help is good. She mentioned that Pine View High would like more concurrent enrollment classes on campus, so the classes are more easily accessible for students. Dallin Bundy said Dixie High would like to see more options also. Richard Holmes said it comes down to teacher qualifications and scheduling. Dallin Bundy mentioned the changes to the Regent Scholarship which have created frustrations. The amount was lowered and won't go to private school. The financial need guidelines were also changed.

Reece Parmenter at Crimson Cliffs High said it is common for students to have drugs and vaping supplies. Students don't always see them but hear about them. Jessie Hayes of Hurricane High said kids don't understand the dangers and needs to come on a more informative level. Dallin Higgins of Snow Canyon also mentioned that students don't want to hear that the District doesn't want it to be used, they need to know how it affects them. Jessie Hayes of Hurricane suggested holding workshops instead of assemblies where students can work directly with professionals.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned the upcoming CT high school. He asked about block schedules and the opportunities provided and period length. Students from Snow Canyon High, Pine View High and Water Canyon High prefer the 5x5 block. It gives more class options and is the perfect length of time. One drawback is needing more credits to graduate.

Board President David Stirland expressed appreciation for the service the student leaders are giving in their schools. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the student leaders represent what is right with education in Washington County School District.

### **Crimson Cliffs Turf – Site visit**

The School Board went to Crimson Cliffs High School to see the turf replacement. They also went by South Mesa Elementary to see the progress there.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 2:19 p.m. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

*Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Member Kelly Blake, 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 Nate Esplin, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer. Board members LaRene Cox and Terry Hutchinson participated via phone.*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **Property and Personnel Items**

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 4:00 p.m. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

## **WORK SESSION**

### **School LAND Trust Training for School Councils – Laura Hesson**

Laura Hesson said that the Board is to provide School LAND Trust training for the schools. There are three options: The Board can do a training, the state can be brought down to train, or training materials can be sent to the schools with instructions to provide training to their council. Board suggested sending training materials to the principals this year. Becky Dunn suggested allowing council members to watch at home.

### **Sharp Survey – Jon Butler**

Presentation postponed.

### **Employee Dress Code – Lyle Cox**

Lyle Cox said he has received a lot of feedback on this policy. The most recent goes adjustment goes back to position specific and does away with community standard. The association has also shared some good comments on the policy. The policy has been redrafted. He suggested that the Board table approval this month and post the policy for an additional month. The new policy is more relevant and better than before.

### **TSSA Plan Progress – Nate Esplin**

Nate Esplin said schools are working hard. It has given them some good direction in setting goals. The next steps will be to evaluate and talk with the stakeholders. He met with principals last week on the implementation of current plans. Schools are doing a great job on their plans. When plan changes are needed, they have been coming to the Board. Next year they will make sure the goals target specific areas.

### **School Finance Secretary – Brent Bills**

Brent Bills said our current secretary salary schedules are based on school levels and some positions are under paid and under-staffed when compared to similar jobs throughout the state. He would like to create a school finance/lead secretary schedule that would pay those positions a little higher. The Board would like him to come back with details.

### **Elementary Boundaries – Rex Wilkey**

Rex Wilkey briefly reviewed proposed boundary changes. The only concern from the city is that no boundaries cross 3000 East. He is also working on Dual Immersion issues with boundary changes. He will have parent meetings between now and next month. Boundaries will change again with another new elementary school in the planning.

### **Title I Schools 2020-21 – Amy Mitchell**

Amy Mitchell proposes to cut four of the Title 1 schools and reduce the number of Title I schools to eleven. She has talked with the principals of schools that are being cut. David Stirland asked if we are

seeing an improvement for the cost benefit of those schools on the borderline of low-income percentages. Amy Mitchell said that there would be a seen benefit, but she has talked with the schools about other ways they can continue to use resources. David Stirland said he would hate to see school achievement decrease with the loss of Title 1 funds. Washington County School District is ranked as 4<sup>th</sup> in the state for poverty rates. The funding for the remaining Title I schools will still be tiered. Those close to the 60% mark will receive less.

#### **Open Enrollment Designation Adjustment – Richard Holmes**

Richard Holmes said the administration has been reviewing the numbers at Crimson Cliffs High School, Crimson Cliffs Middle School, and Washington Fields Intermediate School, there are some concerns with open enrollment. Crimson Cliffs High School is at 838, Crimson Cliffs Middle is at 821, and Washington Fields Intermediate is at 797. School LAND Trust funds are used to reduce class size. The recommendation would be to close the middle and intermediate because of SLT and high growth numbers. The high schools don't experience the high number of open enrollment requests. Keeping open enrollment for middle and intermediate could bring increased numbers to those two schools. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the Desert Hills enrollment will be diminished. Open enrollment is addressed on a yearly basis. We don't close secondary schools across the board as they usually don't experience high growth numbers. Brittney McDonald said she agrees that with the growth, the District should reconsider and close it. She supports the recommendation.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD**

##### **Healthy Dixie Update – Craig Seegmiller**

Craig Seegmiller said Healthy Dixie just approved bikes at Lava Ridge Intermediate School. The grant match would give \$30,000. There has been a significant compromise to get them there.

##### **USBA Update – Becky Dunn**

Becky Dunn mentioned the USBA Conference scheduled for January 9-11, 2020. She also reminded the Board to submit their MBA reports.

##### **MBA Update – Laura Hesson**

Laura Hesson said she emailed out the reading list for December.

##### **Dixie Tech Update – Terry Hutchinson**

##### **Foundation Update – David Stirland**

David Stirland said the Foundation is doing good. A lot of grants have been received.

##### **FCAOG Update – Becky Dunn**

Becky Dunn said they have been working on a proposal for higher education. She has communicated with Superintendent Bergeson.

##### **Audit Committee Update – Kelly Blake**

Kelly Blake said there are some audits coming up in January.

**Board Member Blake presented a motion to go into a closed session at 4:30 p.m. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

*Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, and Board Member Kelly Blake. Board Member LaRene Cox participated via phone.*

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Personnel**

**Board Member Dunn presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 4:39 p.m. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW**

- A. Enrollment
- B. Safe Schools
- C. GRAMA Requests

*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, Laura Hesson, Becky Dunn, and Kelly Blake. Board Members Terry Hutchinson and LaRene Cox were excused. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson and Business Administrator Brent Bills.*

#### **OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.**

- A. Board President Welcome – President Stirland
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Member Cox
- C. Reverence – Member Hesson

#### **PUBLIC HEARING – BOND PROJECT ITEM CHANGE**

**The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 4:40 p.m. to receive public comment on a proposed change to the approved 2019-2023 Bond Projects that would change the priority of the LaVerkin Elementary Water Heat Pumps from the 2021 school year to the 2020 school year for completion.**

No public comments were given.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes**
  - 1. November 12, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Education
  - 2. November 22, 2019 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- B. Financial Report**
- C. Personnel Items**
- D. UHSAA 150-Mile Requests**
- E. Desert Hills High School TSSA Plan Change**
- F. Sunrise Ridge Intermediate TSSA Plan Change**
- G. Majestic Fields Elementary SLT Plan Change**

Brent Bills reported on the District Medicaid audit. The Medicaid Outreach revenue is for services provided to specific students with a licensed caregiver. The state changed their requirements and audited Districts to the higher standard and wanted daily documentation. The District was penalized and is withholding distributions until the money owed is reached. There were no documents kept as we were following previous guidelines. It is showing as negative revenue.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A through G. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

No public comments were given.

#### **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**Bond Priority Change for LaVerkin Elementary Water Heat Pumps from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for Completion**

**Board Member Blake presented a motion to approve the Bond Priority Change for LaVerkin Elementary Water Heat Pumps from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for Completion. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**Policy 1100 Filling Positions – Lyle Cox**

Lyle Cox said the major change to the policy is it to make sure the new selection process is updated with executive staff and the new organization structure.

**Board Member Hesson presented a motion to approve Policy 1100 Filling Positions. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**Policy 1130 WCSD-LEA Specific Teacher Licensing – Lyle Cox**

Lyle Cox said we are required by R277-301 to implement changes to licensing including the LEA license. We have received guidance from the state and appropriate adjustments have been made for the LEA specific license to be in line with the state rule. The LEA license won't be as commonly used but will be helpful when we have qualified candidates and need to fill specific positions. He said the District would like to create a learning plan to help candidates through the progress of the LEA licensing to a professional license that can be used anywhere in the state. The policy does not affect those here in District except for endorsements. There have been two committees working on the policy including Dixie State University, executive administration and professional development staff, and state personnel. The goal is to have the policy in place by January 1 when law goes into effect. The policy should be helpful when we need help in specific areas.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve Policy 1130 WCSD-LEA Specific Teacher Licensing. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**Policy 1470 Employee Dress Code – Lyle Cox**

Lyle Cox said the District would like to put off approval of the policy for another month as the policy was changed again and postponing approval would allow the policy to be available for review over the next 30 days. Some of the wording in the old policy was problematic. Kelly Blake said it is important to note that the District does take into consideration any feedback received on policy changes.

**Board Member Dunn presented a motion to table the approval of Policy 1470 Employee Dress Code. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

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

Lyle Cox said the policy is recommended for deletion as it is out of date. No comments have been received.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to delete Policy 1410 Employee Service Recognition and Awards. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

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

Lyle Cox said the policy is recommended for deletion as it is out of date. No comments have been received.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to delete Policy 3410 Photograph and Yearbook. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**2021-2022 School Calendar – Craig Hammer**

Craig Hammer reviewed the proposed calendar for 2021-2022. This year the calendar is perfect and did not need additional calendar options. September 17, 2021 will be scheduled as a teacher prep day to allow for the World Ironman competition. Other holidays are similar to the past. Spring Break is at end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and allows the District to balance the dates of the quarters.

**Board Member Blake presented a motion to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Open Enrollment Designation Adjustment – Richard Holmes**

Richard Holmes explained the open enrollment designation and recommended a small change for Crimson Cliffs Middle School and Washington Fields Intermediate School. Enrollment is currently high in those school. It is recommended to close enrollment as they are using SLT funds to subsidize FTE's and growth rate. There would be other changes with growth.

**Board Member Dunn presented a motion to close the Crimson Cliffs Middle School and Washington Fields Intermediate School Open Enrollment Designation. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Policy 4520 Released Time Classes – Richard Holmes**

Richard Holmes said policy is being updated for students who want to participate and according to what the state allows. It also cleans up the policy as some of the policy wording was repetitive. It was suggested to include “off-campus” in the second paragraph under 2.1 for more clarification.

#### **Policy 2500 Rights of Privacy (Testing) – Richard Holmes**

Richard Holmes said changes are needed to update the policy. It is in compliance with the law and students being able to opt out.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **What's Right in WCSD Schools**

##### **Panorama Elementary – Steve Gregoire**

Ginny Nobis said Panorama Elementary opened 1986. This year there 504 students, one principal, one learning coach, 57 teachers and staff, and countless volunteers. The school has also partnered with the AmeriCorp program brings in community volunteers to help with reading program. The school is 62% Free and Reduced lunch and 31% of the students are English Language Learners. Six years ago, Panorama was almost at the bottom of achievement. Students have grown 12 points in Language Arts, 15 points in Math and 30 points in Science. They have a lot of student change in the school. Only about 30% of the students who start in Kindergarten, end at Panorama in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Teachers and staff work tirelessly to make sure that every students that comes to the school has high levels of learning. DIBELS scores are now in line with District averages. Kindergarten has led the District with the highest proficiency scores. In 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade needed improvement and was seeing a drop in the mid-year scores. Second grade teachers attending training and looked at data, made changes, and scores were outstanding last year. Panorama is focused on one overarching goal to have every student a grade level reader and writer. This happens with collaboration, PLCs, data driven instruction for individual students. Panorama is constantly asking, “How can we can get better at what they are doing?” It takes time, meetings, relationships, people, and getting to know the students and their needs. They go out of the way to make sure the schools is safe, happy and that people feel cared for. They do it by caring for students, staff, and parents. They work to make sure that twelve adults at school know the student’s name. They want the student’s futures to be bright. She shared a video clip of the students at Panorama Elementary.

They are trying to be the best they can be at Panorama.

#### **Desert Hills Middle School – Kim Monkres**

Kim Monkres shared a program implemented called “Thor’s Army,” a collaboration with the intermediate, middle and high school. They do activities with the students throughout the year and have kindness projects. Students have learned that a little goes a long way. If you have a problem, “Thor’s Army” has your back. She reported on other programs at the middle school including a weather station, the robotics program with 30 students participating in the competition, a faculty dedicated to collaborations and interventions, the School of Life Program, Life Launch University for social/emotional learning, and character education. The social/emotional learning has helped students know when emotions are hijacked, and a break is needed.

## **PTA Reflections – MarChe Hindes**

MarChe Hindes reported on the Reflections Art Contest. Students winning in each of the age categories were recognized. The winner in each age category will be participating at the state level and representing Region 20. The state winners will be announced in February.

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendent**

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said being able to recognize students is what's right in our schools. Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported on state championship recognitions received: Crimson Cliffs High School 4A Boys Golf champions, Pine View High School 4A Girls Cross Country champions, Desert Hills High School 4A Girls Tennis champions, and Enterprise High 2A Volleyball champions. Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned that the School Board usually meets with different municipalities each month to review what is happening, buildings, etc. Today they met with the eight high school student body presidents. The District and Board were able to listen to what they felt was going well. The students represent their schools well.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson shared a letter from the Chinese Embassy expressing appreciation for help by Marybeth Fuller and teachers with bus accident victims. They were touched by the example of service and love without borders. He expressed appreciation for what Marybeth Fuller has done with that program.

### **Board**

No reports were given.

### **Association**

Amy Barton, WCEA, said the number of member engagement with Dress Code policy has been good. Feedback can make a difference. She said that Governor Herbert has called a special session to discuss the Tax Reform. She is hoping to have a sustainable plan. There are many concerns about the tax reform on students and classrooms. She shared that members would like to tell their story more. A few would like to attend the Educator Day on the Hill. She mentioned that 20 members attended the UEA training here in Washington County on Saturday. UEA is doing more localized training. This first one was on trauma informed training. It was great to see member engagement on topic they are all dealing with in their classrooms. Feedback and excitement for the training here was great.

### **PTA/PTO/Community Council**

No reports were given.

### **PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each**

Elissa Liddle addressed the board on technology in the District. She shared concerns with her children being able to look up inappropriate material at school. She said the Internet filtering is not enough at the schools. Google and Technology Department are responsible. Students are compelled to go to school. She would like to meet to discuss solutions. She has met with the Technology Department as was informed that teachers need more engaging lessons.

Syndi Makemo, ACLU, shared here history defending liberties. She has lived in the area for 12 years and has spent a considerable amount of time with K-12. She mentioned some of the issues from the past such as the signs up during men's week at Snow Canyon, gender discrimination at Dixie High School, dress code only girls not boys, and the picture that went viral on Instagram. She feels that the culture needs to be addressed. She would like to have further conversations and bring in an organization to provide training.

**Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.**

**ADJOURNMENT**