



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 W Tabernacle Street, St. George, Utah 84770
January 14, 2020
4:30 P.M.

Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, 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 Cheri Stevenson, and Communications Director Steven Dunham. Board Member LaRene Cox participated via phone.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Member Hutchinson.

WORK SESSION

Sunset Elementary Wellness Room Visit

District Office Tour

The School Board toured the Sunset Elementary Wellness Room.

The School Board toured the District Office to see the changes made in the Finance Department and Human Resource Department.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go into a closed session at 12:19 p.m. Board Member Dunn 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 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 Cheri Stevenson, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer. Board Member LaRene Cox participated via phone.

CLOSED SESSION

Personnel Items

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 12:41 p.m. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board Member Dunn presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:55 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson 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 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 Cheri Stevenson, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer. Board Member LaRene Cox participated via phone.

CLOSED SESSION

Personnel Items

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 3:50 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

David Stirland reviewed the upcoming Sterling Scholar program and Legislative Session schedules.

WORK SESSION

Employee Dress Code Policy Summary – Lyle Cox

Superintendent Larry Bergeson briefly reviewed the proposed policy changes. The policy is as specific and general as we can be. Employees are asked to dress professionally, and the changes do allow the principal to address concerns.

Elementary Boundaries – Rex Wilkey

Rex Wilkey reviewed the proposed boundary changes. A parent meeting will be held on January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Majestic Fields Elementary. He is still working on the Dual Immersion needs. There have not been any concerns expressed following the meeting with PTA and parent groups.

Sharp Survey – Richard Holmes

The presentation was postponed.

USBA Follow-up Discussions – David Stirland

Kelly Blake reported on attending a technology seminar. With the level of technology changing so quickly, the way we teach will change in the next five years. Teachers will really have to step up and consider ways to utilize technology. Laura Hesson said she attended Community Council and MBA seminars. Craig Seegmiller attended a seminar on happiness. He said technology is killing our children emotionally and socially. One school in another district is giving the students assignments to do five different things that include writing as they start their day. It is helping the students rewire their brains. It is actively helping kids with their mental health.

Hollie Cullen, the Washington County School District Special Education Director, introduced herself to the Board and briefly shared her history. She has great rapport with teachers and in the community. She wants to reduce the case load and increase help for behavior. She said the biggest challenge has been working with the budget that was not great to begin with. There have recently been two Medicaid audits with no issues found.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Healthy Dixie Update – Craig Seegmiller

Craig Seegmiller said Healthy Dixie is working to raise the balance of money for bicycles at Lava Ridge.

USBA Update – Becky Dunn

Becky Dunn mentioned the convention and that the Powerup website has changed. Log into the USBA website to access the MBA site.

MBA Update – Laura Hesson

Laura Hesson thanked the group for getting their MBA assignments done. She will roll forward for next year. She reminded them of the reading assignment for the extra meeting this month.

Dixie Tech Update – Terry Hutchinson

Terry Hutchinson said Dixie Tech passed their accreditation. Things seem to be going well.

Foundation Update – David Stirland

David Stirland said the Foundation is working on classroom grants. There were a number of grant applications submitted. A committee will be meeting to review the grant applications. \$160,000-\$175,000 will be awarded. He also mentioned that Dixie Power will be presenting reimbursement today.

FCAOG Update – Becky Dunn

Terry Hutchinson was not able to attend the meeting.

Audit Committee Update – Kelly Blake

Becky Dunn said there was nothing to share this month.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported on the new computer science legislation. Students need to learn to use technology, but there also needs to be balance. He said the District is monitoring and taking everything into consideration in planning.

Laura Belnap said this year they opened a Canvas course online with groups of teachers every high school in the District and have been able to have a PLC. They are now beginning an online Financial Literacy course with a high school teacher in the school. It is an online course, but they also have a teacher working with them. They are now working with Transportation on an online bus driver training course. This will allow drivers to get trained quickly. She noted that 100% of the Board completed the MBA and honored them. She is working with the state on funding and is working through some of the questions and information she has received. The finance rule for Medicaid was just changed and should make it easier for Districts to receive funding.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported on the school security doors. They are in place in all the elementary schools. There is good communication with SROs and safety meetings are held. The administration is making sure that employees are putting in the needed time for training. Safe school training and in-person trainings are in place. Schools are doing the required drills. He said the administration is always looking at things to improve security.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go into a closed session at 4:22 p.m. Board Member Hesson 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 Vice President Kelly Blake, and Business Administrator Brent Bills. Board Member LaRene Cox participated via phone.

CLOSED SESSION

Personnel Items

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 4:36 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

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, and Kelly Blake. Board Member LaRene Cox was excused. 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 Dunn

Reverence – President Stirland

Dixie Power Presentation

LaDel Laub, Mike Brown, and John Reyes presented the Board and District a check for \$21,000 as a capital refund. LaDel Laub expressed appreciation to the District as a customer and value the relationship. Superintendent expressed gratitude for partnership and association with Dixie Power. They have been a big part of the annual Kite Festival that brings money into the Foundation. He thanked them for being so supportive of public education in Washington County.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND PROJECT ITEM CHANGE

The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 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 Red Mountain Elementary playground surfacing from the 2021 school year to the 2020 school year for completion.

Brent Bills explained that the bond project change is necessary to complete projects sooner.

No public comments were given.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

1. December 10, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Education

B. Financial Report

C. Personnel Items

D. Business Administrator Contract Renewal

E. Coral Canyon Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Becky Dunn asked about the financial report line item “Enhancement for Accelerated Students.” Brent Bills there is actually a correction needed on the report. He said that \$872,901 should be on the next line “Enhancement for At-risk Students. Only \$43,804 should be on the Accelerated Students line. That correction should be noted for the approval of the Consent Agenda items.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A, B, D, and E. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

President David Stirland explained under Personnel Items, the Board has spent considerable time discussing principal positions in the District. There are some principals retiring which has consequences in other areas. The Board takes seriously the responsibility in reviewing these positions and place trust in those selected to be principals in the schools. Interviews were held with a number of individuals and after discussions the following decisions were made:

South Mesa Elementary – Steven Gregoire

Dixie High School – Warren Brooks

Dixie Middle School – Paul Hurt

Enterprise High School – Calvin Holt

Snow Canyon High School – Kim Monkres

Desert Hills Middle School – Ron Sharp

Enterprise Elementary – Jason Brooks

Luke Rowley will be transferring to a secondary school that will be announced later.

Snow Canyon High School Athletic Director – Kyle Campbell

Principal changes will start on July 1st.

Terry Hutchinson said the process for hiring and interviewing principals and assistant principals was changed to pool process a couple of years ago. People can be considered for a position if they are in an equivalent position and transfer, or prequalified candidates from previous interviews held to create a hiring pool can be considered. The Board interviews selected candidates from the qualified pool. They are interviewed by the Board and do not necessarily know what school they are being selected for. No decisions are made until after the interviews took place. The process has helped to make better selections to put the best people in the schools.

President David Stirland said the Board will meet on January 27th and will announce secondary assistant principal and elementary principal assignments from interviews held.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to approve the personnel changes as announced. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

President David Stirland noted that Member Cox voted in the affirmative via phone.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No public comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Bond Priority Change of the Red Mountain Playground Surfacing from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for Completion

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the Bond Priority Change of the Red Mountain Playground Surfacing from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for Completion. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 1470 Employee Dress Code – Lyle Cox

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said this has been a lengthy process with a lot of input from employees. The policy helps to establish a standard for employees and explains that disciplinary action can be taken by the supervisor. Grievances can be addressed through Policy 1720 Employee Grievance. The WCEA Association has given support.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to approve Policy 1470 Employee Dress Code. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 4520 Released Time Classes – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said no feedback has been received on the proposed changes to Policy 4520.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve Policy 4520 Released Time Classes. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 2500 Rights of Privacy (Testing) – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes recommended for the Board to table the approval of the policy changes. He is still working with technology on security to make sure the District is in compliance.

Board Member Dunn presented a motion to table the approval of Policy 2500 Rights of Privacy (Testing). Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Construction Manager for Priorities – Craig Hammer

Brent Bills reported on the RFP for the construction manager of priority projects. Three responses received. The bid committee recommendation is to select Hughes Construction.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to award Hughes Construction the bid for the Construction Manager of Priorities. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 4300 Home Schooling – Dr. Brad Ferguson

Dr. Brad Ferguson reported on the proposed changes to Policy 4300 Home Schooling. The changes revise how home school students participate with testing. Verbiage for the policy change come from State Rule to make sure we are in compliance and provide timelines and notifications. Old verbiage was removed and updated with assessments, definition of home school, and requirements to of participants. This gives the procedure for homeschool students. There has been interest for students to participate in the ACT testing.

INFORMATION

Student Achievement – 2018-19 School Report Cards – Dr. Brad Ferguson

Dr. Brad Ferguson said the USBE has released the school report cards for the 2018-2019 school year. There was a delay getting the information out this year due to problems with the testing report service. The report cards can be found on the USBE website under the Data Gateway. Report cards can be viewed for any public or charter school in Utah. Report cards are based on outcomes of measuring achievement in RISE and ASPIRE, growth students make (Student Growth Percentile), English Language Learner outcomes, ACT score outcomes, graduation rate and readiness coursework. He has worked with the principals on how to look at the report. The report is a public report or summary for parents. Schools have been receiving the data and know the outcome. He shared how the points are awarded and how schools can be compared. The school report card has included a letter grade in the past, but this year with the testing problems it only includes points. Schools have been encouraged to share the information with their Community Council, focus groups and parents.

What's Right in WCSD Schools

Bloomington Hills Elementary School – Michelle North

Michelle North shared information about the Arts program at Bloomington Hills Elementary. The school has used School LAND Trust funds to help pay for teachers to teach art and music. Parents would like the school to keep art programs as they feel it helps the students be successful and find joy in their day. Arts have the power to unlock other parts of the brain. Research shows that a substantial increase in art experiences has a remarkable impact on student's academic, social and emotional outcome. She shared ten reasons arts are important to the students at Bloomington Hills Elementary:

1. Develops creativity
2. Improves academic performance
3. Develops motor skills
4. Builds confidence
5. Develops visual learning
6. Strengthens decision making, problem solving, and critical thinking skills
7. Increases perseverance
8. Students learn to focus
9. Teaches collaboration
10. Teaches accountability to self and to others

Michelle North shared a video showing some of the arts at Bloomington Hills Elementary. She thanked the Board for support of the arts as it has made a difference and helping the students fulfill their dreams.

Sunrise Ridge Intermediate School – Sandy Ferrell

Sandy Ferrell shared that last year the enrollment was at about 1300 students. This year there are 670 students enrolled. She appreciates the planning done for growth. The school has been recognized as a National Model PLC School. They appreciate the emphasis on collaboration.

Brett Gifford said social and emotional health has been a big focus at the school. SEL improves achievement by an average of 11% and also increases pro-social behaviors such as kindness, sharing, empathy, improving attitudes, reducing depression and stress. They have done a few things at the school and things to help students feel a connectedness, the homeroom teachers meet with individual students weekly to set specific goals for the week and review assignments that are needing to be completed. At the end of the week they meet to see how students are doing on goals and to make sure students have completed assignments. Life Launch University has also been incorporated into the school. It has helped the students and positive feedback has been received from parents.

Sandy Ferrell said counselors met with students in September to see if they have a connection with an adult in the school. They will do again later in the year to track and see if students are feeling connected. They do have a wellness room at the school referred to as the “Beach house.” They are collecting data on how many students are going to the wellness room and the times it is most used and the emotion. One week with a lot of students feeling high anxiety was tracked back to assignment that had been given. She also mentioned the “Thunderbolt Time.” Students not attending an intervention are participating in extension classes and are receiving valuable learning. Teachers are using extra spaces for 21st Century skills. She expressed appreciation for the work of the Board.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned a recognition received for recycling. The District recycled 16,000 lbs. last year. Superintendent Larry Bergeson also mentioned that Sunset Elementary will be featured on NBC nightly news sharing their wellness room. It is a positive story on how we are addressing the social and emotional needs of students. He mentioned that several districts in Northern Utah are struggling to keep building costs down. Washington County School District uses tilt-up construction. Crimson Cliffs High School was under \$200 per sq. foot. The District is saving tax-payer money. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the District is working to stay ahead of growth. All of the schools are doing amazing things.

Board

David Stirland briefly reported on the USBA Conference and said the Board makes efforts to care for students and employees. They want the right person at the right school for students. The Board is unified which helps get things done.

Association

No report was given.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

No report was given.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

No public comments were given.

Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT