



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 W Tabernacle Street, St. George, Utah 84770
February 24, 2020
5:15 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, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Human Resource Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Mel Ashcraft, Dave Gardner, Amy Barton, Kathleen Cheshire, Jake Shewmake, Tammara Robinson, and Marci Ware.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Member Hutchinson.

WORK SESSION

CT High Planning Review – Craig Hammer

Terance White and Bryan Dyer of Naylor Wentworth Lund Architects shared the proposed CT High School plans. The building will be 126,000 square feet. Craig Hammer said they reviewed each of the programs to determine the amount of space needed. The gymnasium size has been increased and will be bid as an alternate. The gym was designed as a sunken space and will be used as a multi-purpose space and allow for community use. The feel is that there will be enough industry groups that will use the building as well. They shared the proposed layout of the school and shared the site plan. They were asked to design this different than other buildings they have designed for the District. They have created an outdoor space in the center of the building. They are still working on the number of parking spaces needed and entrances into the building. The Board discussed options to be able to expand the campus down the road if needed. Decisions will need to be made to stay within budget.

2020-2021 Fee Schedule and School Spend Plan– Brent Bills

Presentation as part of the Public Hearing – 2020-21 Fee Schedule and School Spend Plans.

Elementary Boundaries – Rex Wilkey

Presentation as part of the Public Hearing – Elementary Boundary Change

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND PROJECT ITEM CHANGE

The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comment on a proposed change to the approved 2019-2023 Bond Projects that would change the priority of the Snow Canyon High Control Upgrade from the 2021 school year to the 2020 school year for completion.

Brent Bills said there is two HVAC projects being done at the school. By putting the control project with the HVAC system projects it will save the District a couple hundred thousand dollars.

No public comments were given.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2020-21 Fee Schedule and School Spend Plans

The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:40 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed 2020-21 Fee Schedule and School Spend Plans.

Brent Bills explained the process and purpose of the public hearing to receive comment on the fees. The District will be able to consider the feedback received and work with school to clean up the spend plans. Another hearing will be scheduled for March 10, 2020. The Board will consider approval of the 2020-21 Fee Schedule and school spend plans on March 23, 2020. School Spend Plans were shared for Board and public review. Brent Bills reviewed the proposed changes to the fee schedule identified in red print. The textbook rental fee will be changed to include textbook and instructional technology fee. We will only be able to charge the textbook fee until 2023. Many schools are using the fee for instructional technology such as Chromebooks and software they are running for their curriculum. The foods class is the same class in 9th grade that is taught at the high school, so the 9th grade amount was raised to make it consistent with the amount charged in high schools. Changes also add more clarification on Fine Arts program fees which includes art, choir, band, orchestra, etc. There has been some misunderstanding that the Fine Arts fee included all of those areas. The student leadership sweatshirt fee was changed to apparel as some groups may decide they want to do something different than a sweatshirt. The textbook fee under high school was also changed to be a textbook and instructional technology fee. The CE Graphic Arts fee is not a concurrent enrollment class, so it was changed from CE to an Advanced Graphic Arts class and a CAD fee of \$15.00 was added. The Engineering fee was increased to \$35.00 as they are running a program similar to the Bio-Chemistry Lab. The Sewing class fee will be \$15.00. A course fee was added to the Dance class for the instructional portion of the day that is separate from the co-curricular Dance program fees. The AP Test fee of \$94.00 was moved from the non-waivable section. The state felt like it was having a negative effect on low income students or minority students from taking AP classes and exams. Under the co-curricular section, shirts, costumes, and sweaters were changed to apparel so it is not limiting what the group can choose to purchase. The drama fee was changed to musical participation and a \$20.00 fee was added for the school play participation. A fee was added under the high schools for the Science Olympiad participants. Schools have requested that a uniform rental fee be added to help pay for the cost of uniforms needed for basketball, baseball, football, and softball. Students in the other sports usually buy their own uniforms as part of the spirit pack. A fee was added for Utah nonresidents to take the College Readiness Test and a participation fee was added for those individuals. The preschool fees were removed as the program will only be taking eligible students. Brent Bills suggested that the Board will also need to look at the aggregate fee limit. A student participating in multiple sports or activities could add up quickly. Many of the other districts in the state say they are planning to have an aggregate amount of about \$5000 but may go as high as \$10,000. Brent Bills explained the state injunction and legislation around school fees. This coming year we need to fully comply with the law and must have a spend plan for every fee that explains how the fee will be used and each of the fees must be included on the fee schedule. Districts that are not compliant under the new law and lose the ability to charge fees or lose state funding. He also explained that all fees that are for items that are part of the high school experience are waivable. He mentioned that at this point, spend plans also need to include fundraising monies. When an advisor meets with parents the spend plan should be used as a talking sheet to explain how the fees will be used. A few individuals asked questions throughout the presentation that Brent Bills answered related to spend plans and fundraising. Brent Bills encouraged those with any other questions or comments to email him.

PUBLIC HEARING – Elementary Boundary Change

The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:50 p.m. to receive public comment on a proposed change to the boundaries of Majestic Fields Elementary School with the opening of the new South Mesa Elementary School.

Rex Wilkey shared the proposed boundary changes for South Mesa and Majestic Fields. The District is waiting to see what happens with some of the development in the area to adjust and make boundaries more permanent. It is estimated that Riverside Elementary will still have near 800 next year, Majestic Fields will be over 600, South Mesa over 500, and Little Valley at about 709.

It was mentioned that Riverside Elementary would like to keep the parents from Desert Edge. Concern was also expressed that kids going to Majestic Fields for Portuguese are on the bus for an hour every day. Rex Wilkey said that the bus is a bonus for those students. He agreed to talk with Transportation to see if a way can be found to reduce the time.

WORK SESSION

Insurance Update – Brent Bills/Lyle Cox

Brent Bill said GBS recommends that our contribution into our pool includes a 4% increase year-over-year. They are trying to give the most accurate guess. Utilization has been pretty good with trend data at 8%. A decision is needed by March 10th. Lyle Cox said the timeline allows time to get information out to employees and be ready for open enrollment. GBS is also looking at inflationary costs. Brent Bills said the District has in the CAFR an account for insurance to cover if the utilization cost is higher than planned.

Lyle Cox said the insurance committee was to come up with a recommendation to fund the 4%, which is about 1 % on the salary schedule. Jake Shewmake was asked to create and share a presentation with the Board. He said the committee has been looking for a more balanced compensation plan that would cost the employees less. A lot of the recommendations were from information from the consultants at GBS. He explained the benefits and consequences of having a balanced plan. The solution and recommendation of the committee is over the next few years to:

Proposal 1 – pay for full increase with employee contributions, or

Proposal 2 – split the cost of the increase with employee contributions.

The impact of a 1% increase annually in employee contributions could make a big difference.

We have an excellent benefit program and the committee and GBS recommend selecting one of the options to balance.

Brent Bills shared the numbers on a with a 4% increase. The Board discussed and reviewed possible amounts and the effect it would have on employees. David Stirland said the recommendation of the committee is to put more on the salary schedule. It also encourages better consumerism.

Amy Barton said that when the committee discussed the scenarios it was important not increase insurance costs that outstrip the typical salary increase. Brent Bills said the District should know by March 10th what we will receive from the state.

Becky Dunn said in the past we were trying to encourage employees to go to the higher deductible plan. We were told the high deductible saves us money. The Board may want to look at the percentage increase between the high deductible and traditional plans.

Open/Closed Meeting Training – Brent Bills

The training was postponed.

2020-21 Priorities Projects – Craig Hammer

Craig Hammer briefly reviewed the priorities projects for 2020-21. Column A of the spreadsheet shared with the Board shows the recommended expenses for the budget. Next year they will not go to schools to get a list of projects but will move column B to the priority. Anything in yellow can be done in-house. He pointed out the Fossil Ridge Intermediate School, Riverside Elementary School and Arrowhead Elementary School all need new roofs after 20 years. The total budget of the recommended projects is \$2,253,346.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go into a closed session at 7:14 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, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Human Resource Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

**CLOSED SESSION – As needed
Property and Personnel Items**

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 8:00 p.m. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Bond Priority Change of the Snow Canyon High Control Upgrade from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for Completion

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Bond Priority Change of the Snow Canyon High Control Upgrade from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for Completion. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Elementary Construction Bid – Craig Hammer

Board Member Blake presented a motion to select Hughes Construction for the Elementary Construction Bid. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion. Board Member Stirland voted against the motioned selection.

2020-21 Priorities Approval – Craig Hammer

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the 2020-21 Priorities Projects as presented. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 1900 Professional Development – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said we are required to make the change. The state will only recognize degrees through the seven agencies that are accredited. The website did not show the agencies. The changes to the policy are to make our policy compliant with the law.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve Policy 1900 Professional Development. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Personnel Items – Larry Bergeson

Board Member Dunn presented a motion to select Wade Jensen as the Principal at Lava Ridge Intermediate School. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board Member Cox presented a motion to go into a closed session at 8:04 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Present: Board Vice President Kelly Blake, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, and Executive Human Resource Director Lyle Cox. Board President David Stirland participated via phone.

CLOSED SESSION

Personnel Items

Board Member Dunn presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 8:20 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board Vice President Kelly Blake adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT