



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 W Tabernacle Street, St. George, Utah 84770
February 11, 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, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Human Resource Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, and Communications Director Steven Dunham.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

WORK SESSION

Visit the Pine View Construction Class Home

The Board visited and toured the home built by students in the Pine View High Construction program. The home will be shown during the Parade of Homes.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:03 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, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Human Resource Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Attorney Russ Mitchell, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Board Member Hesson presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 2:50 p.m. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Insurance Discussion – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said a final decision will be needed by March 10th as per the timeline. Direction is needed from the Board on a three-tier or a five-tier plan. GBS said the committee was looking at how to maximize the money received from legislation. Large employers pay approximately 75% of the premium. The District pays 90%. It becomes a magnet for risk in the community. The District shoulders the burden of insuring spouses and families. In an effort to encourage families to utilize the benefit of spouses who have other coverage through their employer, the committee was looking at an option for the District to charge an extra \$15.00 surcharge for spouses. It would help manage the plan for the next 3-5 years. David Stirland mentioned that insurance has been a big draw for our employees. The goal is how to maximize benefits

for our employees. Currently the preliminary figures show the recommendation would be about a 4% increase. Lyle Cox said the insurance committee is recommending a five-tier system. Craig Seegmiller feels that the proposal to nudge those with other coverage would be penalizing those who do not have another option, such as a spouse that does not work. He suggested only charging more to those who have an option of other coverage. It was also mentioned that some spouses don't have an option for insurance through their employer. Amy Barton said the insurance committee started conversations about this years again. Spouses are the highest utilizers. The District has good insurance and our insurance is always the choice. The best thing the Board can do for employees is increase the salary schedule. The committee doesn't want to punish employees and a lot of consideration has gone into looking at what is best for the future. There is not much to lose by trying it and the Board can change it if it does not work down the road. Spouses would be able to change to their insurance without penalty as a qualifying event.

Secondary Principal Rotation Update – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes shared an update on the principal rotations. The next interviews will be to fill the Lava Ridge Intermediate position. The District administration has been making visits to the schools and introducing principals to the staff. Everything is settling in. There has been positive feedback on the assistant principal positions also.

Secondary Staffing – Richard Holmes/Craig Hammer

Richard Holmes reported on the secondary staffing issue related to online school. Richard Holmes said the online enrollment has increased over the past three years for elementary from 988 to 3182, secondary class participation from 3600 to 18,000 classes. Utah Online has created an outstanding program that has been very successful. The trend will not go away as an option. It has caused some staffing challenges. Dual immersion has some similar issues. Schools have had to give up full-time teachers. It has grown so fast that it has been hard for a principal to tell teachers that their program is dwindling and they trying to find money to save teachers and programs. Dual Immersion, in secondary schools, is also having to eliminate teachers to provide for classes for the dual language students. It is hard eliminating teachers or reducing the contract time. It is also being a problem with online students wandering the halls when they don't have a class. One of the biggest problems appears to be with sophomore students who can not drive to leave the campus. Richard Holmes said the admin has talked about doing more blended learning opportunities for students. They are planning to provide blended learning training. It may be good to have a policy with a cut-off period to enroll in an online course. LaRene Cox brought up that the online teachers are not participating in District PLC days. Laura Hesson said they are participating in online PLCs. They are not changing the rigor or GVCs being taught. Laura Belnap said looking at the ACT scores shows that they are right on target. Richard Holmes mentioned that there are other online programs available in the state, but we try to direct students to our online program.

Open Enrollment – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said Crimson Cliffs Middle School and Washington Fields Intermediate School were closed. Administration has been asked about allowing siblings of students going to Crimson Cliffs High School to attend the cone-site schools. It is estimated that it would be an increase of about 10-12 students a year. Brent Bills said that it could cause some problem if one family is told the school is closed, but another is allowed to open enroll. Cheri Stevenson said Washington Fields Intermediate currently has 27 boundary waivers for consideration with nine or ten that do have siblings in the cone-site. It would help eliminate the problem by closing Crimson Cliffs High next year.

Elementary Boundaries – Rex Wilkey

Rex Wilkey said last time it was decided to hold on making changes to the Little Valley Elementary boundary. The administration feels it is best to hold with the current boundary for one more year. Parents from Majestic Fields or Riverside Elementary wanting their student to take Portuguese can enroll at the new South Mesa Elementary. Next year Little Valley Elementary will need to shift some students. If there is not enough interest at Little Valley Elementary for a Dual Immersion, a program will not be started there.

School Safety – Larry Bergeson

Larry Bergeson said safety doors in the schools have been completed. We did not receive any funding last year for school safety. The superintendents are asking for safety funding again this year to help with lead testing and carbon monoxide detectors. They are doing all they can to help with funding. Craig Hammer said our District is good in those areas.

Foundation Report – Steven Dunham

Brandon Vandermyde shared the funding received for the classroom grants, the number of grant requests and the number of grants funded. There was a huge increase last year funding \$234,957 in grants. The grants averaged about \$450.00. There are several individuals that help to review the grants. They want to fund as many as possible. The golf tournament has been a great success to bring money in. Last year teams were encouraged to step it up and give more bringing in approximately \$80,000. This is one of the best tournaments in the area with a great swag bag and a lot of food. The biggest challenge now is which teams to keep. Steven Dunham said this past year they opened it from the top first. More higher-level teams were sold to keep their spot in the tournament. They have an awesome golf committee and Foundation Board.

Open/Closed Meeting Training – Brent Bills

The training was postponed.

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

Becky Dunn mentioned the upcoming District Day on the Hill. Terry Shoemaker has asked for information on what can be done to help people stay in the education field, what can be done to get parents involved in schools and TSSA, and what to do with one-time money. The Board was asked to send any suggestions to Becky.

Laura Hesson said the MBA assignments were emailed.

LaRene Cox will be attending FCAOG in the future.

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 Blake

Reverence – Member Dunn

Technology Recognition

Lawrence Esplin reported on the Technology Department receiving the CoSN District Team Award. Washington County has more members than any district in the state. The team will continue to the national competition. Washington County School District has a great technology group. The Technology Department has seven individuals with the Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL) certification.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND PROJECT ITEM CHANGE

The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 11, 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 Sandstone Elementary playground surfacing from the 2021 school year to the 2020 school year for completion.

Brent Bills explained that a local person is doing these projects. The District would like to do as many of the playgrounds as possible to get the lower cost. The law requires a separate hearing for each item changed. Becky Dunn pointed out that the District is being financially fiscal.

No public comments were given.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes
 - 1. January 14, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Education
 - 2. January 27, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- B. Financial Report
- C. Personnel Items
- D. UHSAA 150-Mile Requests
- E. Hurricane Middle School TSSA Plan Change
- F. Three Falls Elementary TSSA Plan Change
- G. Red Mountain Elementary SLT Plan Change
- H. Tonaquint Intermediate SLT Plan Change

Personnel items include Leave of Absence requests.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No public comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Bond Priority Change of the Sandstone Elementary 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 Sandstone Elementary Playground Surfacing from the 2021 School Year to the 2020 School Year for Completion. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 4300 Home Schooling – Dr. Brad Ferguson

Richard Holmes said the changes to the policy are related to home school and private school testing and are to update our policy for compliance. No feedback or comments have been received.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve Policy 4300 Home Schooling. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 2500 Rights of Privacy (Testing) – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes asked the Board to table the policy again. There are multiple departments working on the policy changes to make sure we are compliant with privacy laws.

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.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 2980 Commercial Exhibits (Recommendation to Delete) – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said the policy is outdated and no longer found to be unenforceable. The recommendation would be to delete the policy.

Policy 1331 Year-Round School Teacher Trade Days (Recommendation to Delete) – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said the policy is inconsequential and not necessary. The recommendation would be to delete the policy.

Policy 3630 Student Activities – Michael Lee

Michael Lee said the proposed change is to remove the activities list that Risk Management had required in our policy. There are several exclusions exempted from the insurance policy including trampolines and hazardous cheerleading stunts. He said that the District has tried to rely on the state guidelines rather than rely on our own. Laura Hesson asked about PTA activities. Michael Lee said if it is a PTA event, it would fall under PTA, if it is a school event it would need to be approved by the District. Other entities would have insurance.

Policy 5210 Use of School Buildings and Facilities by Community Agencies (Recommendation to Delete) – Craig Hammer

Craig Hammer said Policy 5200 covers the building rental. Policy 5210 is the old policy. The recommendation would be to delete the policy.

Elementary Boundaries – Rex Wilkey

Rex Wilkey said he has talked with PTA, parents, and principals on the proposed boundaries for South Mesa Elementary. There is a lot of growth in the area. The school will open a little smaller to allow for growth. There will be no changes to Little Valley or Crimson View this year. One year with more information will help us move forward with the boundary changes. We need to take the time to find the best option.

INFORMATION

What's Right in WCSD Schools

Majestic Fields Elementary School – Travis Wilstead

Tusdi Snyder shared what is right at Majestic Fields. The school is in its third year and still building their identity. Every month they have a Star Student's breakfast with a star student from every class. The breakfast is for the student and their family. Students then stampede the hallway and recognize the star student. The school has a big focus on training students on the appropriate use of technology. The school is a STEM school and holds STEM Nights for families to participate in. They have amazing people doing amazing things. She shared a student poem entered in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers contest that is going to nationals.

Dixie High School – Sharla Campbell

Sharla Campbell said students at Dixie High School would say tradition is the greatest thing about the school. Students have a sense of belonging. The students are willing to serve others and each year raise about \$10,000 to help with Christmas. This year, nine students arrived that did not speak English. They had to make some changes to address the needs of the students. They have also helped with parent needs to understanding PowerSchool and technology. There are a number of students that entered the school reading at a lower level. They have grief counseling available for students who need that type of support. She mentioned that the Rebound program has allowed the school to graduate more students over the years. In 2018 the graduation rate was 96%. Students have also been encouraged to upgrade their senior year. They have 62% of the students taking an advanced math class during their senior year.

Dixie High's Concurrent Enrollment numbers are highest. They offer 27 Concurrent Enrollment and Advanced Placement classes. They also have many students participating in the District Internship Program. They have an emphasis on preparing for college with many students receiving scholarships. The heart of Dixie is the wonderful people that work at Dixie High. Principal Campbell recognized the Jetettes who took first place in their drill competition. The Ag program has had national participants for 20 of the past 21 years. There are three staff members teaching Ag classes. The Executive Council have been taught that to lead they must serve. Principal Campbell also mentioned that the community support for Dixie High School is another great thing and means everything to the school.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson thanked Sharla Campbell for outstanding job at Dixie High as she is preparing to retire. He commented that there are a great group of people at the school. He pointed out that it is the people in the schools make a difference and we have such caring people.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported that the Desert Hills High boys and girls swim teams both won the state 4A championships. He reported that Crimson View Elementary was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. He also reported that Panorama Elementary was recognized as a Model PLC School.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned that South Mesa has selected "Knights" for their mascot, using silver, red and black for the school colors.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson briefly reported on the legislative session and is optimistic that we will receive a good amount this year on the WPU. He also mentioned that this is the District's second year being fully funded with insurance. We are trending flat with decisions made by the Insurance Committee and Board. The District is trying to be frugal and generous to those who teach.

Board

No reports were given.

Association

Amy Barton said UEA has buttons that say to start with 6%. She is hoping to see a good percentage on the WPU. It gives the Board the ability to decide what we need to do here locally. Teachers are attending a Day on the Hill and are telling their story as teacher with local legislators. Scholarship applications will go out next week to fund four scholarships. Members like that dollars are invested in the future. She mentioned appreciation for the insurance discussions earlier in the meeting. Utilization is now below 100%. Credit goes to employees on being better health care consumers. It is good for the employees to understand what the utilization does. She mentioned that the Declaration of Candidacy is open for new members.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

The PTA representative thanked the Board and Superintendent for support and communication with PTA and for the proposed South Mesa Boundaries.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

No comments were given.

Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT