



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 W Tabernacle Street, St. George, Utah 84770
March 30, 2020
5:15 P.M.

Due to COVID-19, participation in this meeting at the location listed above will be limited to the Board and necessary District Executive Staff only to follow the federal and state guidelines limiting gatherings to groups of 10.

This meeting will be available for public remote participation at the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/washk12>

Present at District Office: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Vice President Kelly Blake, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Participating Remotely: Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Human Resource Director Lyle Cox, and Executive Director Cheri Stevenson.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Terry Hutchinson stated that the Board is meeting in compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines from the Governor.

Reverence offered by Member Seegmiller.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND PROJECT ITEM CHANGE

The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 5:20 p.m. to receive public comment on a proposed change to the approved 2019-2023 Bond Projects that would change the priority of the Santa Clara Elementary playground surfacing from the 2021 school year to the 2020 school year for completion.

Becky Dunn mentioned that the District is saving the taxpayers by bundling the projects together.

No public comments were received.

WORK SESSION

Board Update

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said everything went well with the first full week of remote learning. The District has devices and programs in place. The Technology Department has been amazing. Schools have been able to provide devices to the homes that need them. Students have picked the remote learning up quickly. One teacher has reported to Superintendent that there were 15 students that she has not connected with and will be reaching out to. She reported to him that overall things are going great. Many students are ready to return back to school for the social life and interaction with others. Things are going well with student lunches, but there have been some problems with the social distancing of those

who gather to pick up lunches. Food Service is trying to do drive-by pickup for lunches. They have been serving up to 12,250 lunches a day. Food Service is providing hot lunches, not just sandwiches. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said that many employees who can and want to are working from home. If we do have a hard closure, additional employees would be asked to work from home. Even with a hard closure, we would have at least one administrator in the building. We need to make sure there is someone in the school to register new students. Richard Holmes said every school he has visited has had an administrator in the school. There is currently about 50-60% of the staff working in the school. Some are coming in one day to prep and prepare packets but working from home other days of the week. Many teachers prefer to broadcast from their classroom. Teachers are using a variety of methods to teach. Richard Holmes mentioned that Schoology did go down one of the days, but the Technology Department is monitoring and posts a message when there are problems. They work to get it back up as quickly as possible. If a student falls behind in a course or does not understand, Richard Holmes said we do have resources to help the students. Paraprofessionals have been helping to contact students to see what needs they have to help us be more responsive. Kelly Blake said it is difficult for some of the students in AP courses. Craig Seegmiller said the District is doing the best we can to give the students everything we can. Richard Holmes said every employee has worked hard and are doing what is needed. Many students at Water Canyon are doing packets. Richard Holmes said the grading has been a big discussion. The District is planning to maintain letter grades but will look at also adding a pass grade. We want to keep the letter grades but add options to benefit some of the students who may need it. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the state realized immediately that they would need a request to waive the testing. He suggested that schools will need to do the same for student grades. Schools will also need to be workable with graduation credits. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said he is hoping that we will be able to come back to school to finalize things, but we will have to be flexible. Terry Hutchinson suggested that everyone needs to take the opportunity to learn and build on what we have done. Richard Holmes said it does give an opportunity to help schools learn how to better do blended learning. Craig Seegmiller feels that there will be some real positives that come out of this. It has already elevated teachers. Laura Hesson said we should be so proud of our teachers who have taken this on and are providing a variety of learning experiences and showing caring for their students. Craig Seegmiller it is really all of the employees. Kelly Blake said employees are really getting the job done. Becky Dunn expressed gratitude for all the employees and administration that are working to help students.

Water Canyon CTE Building Bid

Craig Hammer reported on the bids received for Water Canyon. The District had budgeted \$10,000,000. The bids came in \$2,500,000 over the budget. The recommendation is to redo the specs on the project and re-issue the bids. It may be helpful to bid the project in different phases. There is no timeline for this project which is helpful. Brent Bills mentioned several other costs that will be added on top of the bid amount such as the architectural fees, impact fees, etc. David Stirland asked to see the specs before putting them out to bid again.

ACTION ITEMS

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

2020-2021 School Fee Schedule and School Spend Plans

Brent Bills reported that the state have given a two month extension, but schools need the fee schedule so they can start printing packets for next year. There have been no changes to the Fee Schedule since the March 10th meeting. Spend plans have been posted to review for the intermediate school. Brent Bills asked that the Board approve the fee schedule and the intermediate spend plans. The administration is still reviewing the middle and high school spend plans. As they are cleaned up, they will be brought for approval over the next two months. Richard Holmes said the schools have submitted everything, but it is taking time to get through all the spend plans. District administration is trying to make it as clear as

possible for parents. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said we are as far along as any of the other districts in the state. Becky Dunn said she has not seen the spend plans yet. She would like to review them first. Richard Holmes said the spend plan approval can wait.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the 2020-2021 School Fee Schedule but postpone the approval of the School Spend Plans to allow time for review. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board Resolution that allows Superintendent to modify through Administrative Process Board Policies and Procedures to comply with State and Federal Laws and Regulations in response to COVID-19

Brent Bills said the Governor using emergency powers has eliminated our policies during this time. We really have an emergency action to comply with what we need to do for the remote schooling and our policies and procedures are null and void where they run into obstacles. The federal government has come down and passed the new adaptation to the Fair Labor Standards Act about granting leave even if people don't have sick leave normally. There are many changes and exemptions that are against policy and procedures in our District. We need a resolution from the Board allowing the Superintendent through the COVID-19 to set administrative policies to comply with the Governors' order and the federal government. It is a temporary approval to keep us in compliance with mandates from the Governor, the State Office and the federal government during COVID-19. Right now, we are violating our own policies.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson the recommendation from legal counsel is that we do something like this that allows us to proceed dealing with the COVID-19 circumstances. The resolution allows us to proceed and move forward educating students and to pay employees as needed. The Board could revoke the resolution at any time.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to approve the Board Resolution that allows Superintendent to modify through Administrative Process Board Policies and Procedures to comply with State and Federal Laws and Regulations in response to COVID-19 until further action by the Board. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Washington Elementary SLT Plan Change

Three Falls Elementary SLT Plan Change

Dixie High School SLT Plan Change

Kajsia Boyer shared how Three Falls Elementary and Dixie High School plan to spend the money budgeted for technology. Three Falls Elementary will use the money to buy Chromebooks and licenses. They are also moving money allocated for substitutes to pay stipends to teachers for summer training. Dixie High would like to update projectors in the teacher's classrooms.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the changes to the Washington Elementary, Three Falls Elementary, and Dixie High School LAND Trust plans. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Dixie High School TSSA Plan Change

Arrowhead Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Horizon Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Paradise Canyon Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Heritage Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Crimson Cliffs High School TSSA Plan Change

Three Falls Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Washington Elementary TSSA Plan Change

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the schools don't view the purchases casually. This is the first year schools have received TSSA funds. Becky Dunn said the schools did detail why the money wasn't being spent as planned. Terry Hutchinson is concerned that not all of the schools were more specific with how they will spend it for technology.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the changes to the Dixie High School, Arrowhead Elementary, Horizon Elementary, Paradise Canyon Elementary, Heritage Elementary,

Crimson Cliffs High School, Three Falls Elementary, and Washington Elementary TSSA plans. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed. Board Member Hutchinson voted against the approval as he felt more clarification was needed.

Board Member Blake presented a motion to go into a closed session at 6:26 p.m. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Present at District Office: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Vice President Kelly Blake, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

Participating Remotely: Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Human Resource Director Lyle Cox.

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

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 7:14 p.m. Board Member Blake seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Craig Hammer briefly reported on UHSAA. They are working on a contingency plan to hold state tournaments if possible. The District administration is not interested in going into June and July. Some of the 4A events could be held at our school. David Stirland agreed if students come back on May 1st we could do a tournament.

David Stirland said that the April 14th meeting will be held remotely.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said there have been discussions on what to do with graduation if we do not return by May 1st. Richard Holmes said with the Governor's plan, we most likely will not be able to hold it at Dixie State University. The District is looking into options and discussing how it can be done.

Becky Dunn reminded the Board of the online USBA Meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT