

Minutes of Special Work Session

Board of Education
Ogden City School District
1950 Monroe Boulevard, Ogden Utah

A Special Work Session of the Board of Education of Ogden City School District was held Monday, March 16, 2020 beginning at 5:03 PM in the Henry Barker Board Room. The following were present when the meeting convened:

Members:

Don E. Belnap, President
Joyce Wilson, Vice President
Douglas B. Barker
Nancy Blair
Susan Richards
Jeremy Shinoda ~ *joined electronically*
Jennifer Zundel

Staff:

Dr. Rich K. Nye, Superintendent
Zane K. Woolstenhulme, Business Administrator
Paula Bosgieter, Executive Assistant
Chad Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent
Adam McMickell, Student Achievement Director
Jer Bates, Public Information Officer

Special Work Session, 5:00 p.m.

Reverence by Assistant Superintendent Chad Carpenter
Pledge of Allegiance by Zane Woolstenhulme

1. School Dismissal Discussion

Superintendent Nye gave a report to the board regarding COVID-19 updates. He expressed gratitude for his team and all employees in the district. Mr. McMickell reported to the board regarding expectations for learning opportunities for our students. In situations where we can guarantee online access, teachers are putting together tools that students can use in the home through Canvas and Google Classroom. If we cannot guarantee online access, teachers are compiling packets to distribute to students. Chromebooks will be made available for families to check out if needed. It is expected that students will have no more than three hours per day of home learning experiences and students can complete the work with minimal support. Students and employees have access to our online library resource, Sora. The Student Achievement team has developed a website with resources for teachers for digital and distance learning. Next step will be a similar site for our students with self-directed digital tools; this piece will be finished tomorrow morning. The team has also created a “working from home” page to provide support for employees who will be working from home. Many vendors are offering their resources for free; however, these resources will be new to teachers and students, which may cause additional stress. The district is vetting and coordinating new resources and will push information out to staff. Because we have so many educators that are Google certified, they have been able to provide support at each school site.

Dr. Nye reported that breakfast and lunch will be served at all school locations and West Ogden Park for individuals 18 and under free of charge beginning March 18, 2020. Meals will not be served during Spring Break, March 30 to April 3.

We will look at reducing the number of staff in buildings in the next few days. In the event that school dismissal or closure continues through April, we will continue to prepare for home learning experiences. We are working closely with the health department and Governor’s office to make determinations. Recommendation from the State Board of Education is to continue paying our employees through this situation.

Statewide end of level testing will likely be postponed indefinitely. We will work in the best interests of our students in these circumstances.

Mr. Bates gave a report to the board regarding the communication plan in place. The district communications office will share information that applies district-wide. Schools will send out communication that is school specific. Teachers will communicate information specific to their

classroom. Communication to administrators is updated twice a day to ensure they have the latest information available. Daily external update will be distributed to parents through email, phone calls, and text messages. Information will also be posted on the district website and the district FaceBook page. Links to local, state, and national updates are included on our website, as well as FAQ documents in English and Spanish for parents and employees. Mr. Bates is not responding to comments regarding specific student-related dialogue on FaceBook and patrons are encouraged to reach out to individual teachers or their school. Catholic Community Services food programs may be currently suspended; however, our school pantries are able to be accessed to pick up pantry packs. Food insecurity is a very real fear in our community and we will work with students and families to ensure they have what they need.

Comcast is providing free Internet access for low-income families for the next two months. We are also working with T-Mobile and Sprint to acquire hotspots that we can issue to families.

Discussion ensued regarding holding board meetings and public open houses in the near future. We have boundary discussions in process and at some point will need to hold a public hearing on this topic. Any recognition or awards should be postponed. Public comment on student fee schedule could be done virtually. The fee schedule could be distributed electronically and patrons asked to provide comment and could even provide comments in real time. We would need to set very clear parameters and let them know it will not be a question and answer period.

As directed from the state, public meeting will be held virtually and not in person. Public will not be allowed to attend. It was suggested that information be provided to parents as they come to pick up meals.

Board members asked questions and Dr. Nye responded. Assistant Superintendent Chad Carpenter reported to the board regarding social emotional supports available to parents and students. Teleconferencing counseling sessions may be available as well as short instructional videos to help parents and students. Schools will be open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. district-wide.

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.ogdensd.org

President Belnap adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

President

Business Administrator