

MARCH 20, 2013 – NOTES OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE SEVIER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION AT A MEETING HELD ON MARCH 20, 2013, AT 3:00 PM IN THE SEVIER SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE.

In attendance were President Clint Johnson, Vice President Jack Hansen, members Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr, as were Superintendent Myron Mickelsen, Assistant Superintendent Gail Albrecht, Business Administrator Patrick D. Wilson, and Executive Secretary Patricia Sanchez.

Also in attendance were Secretary Mavanee Loftus, Student Learning Director Cade Douglas, Principals Rod Hinck, Selena Terry, and Mike Willes, and Richfield Reaper reporter David Anderson.

President Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pat Wilson offered the reverence and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2. – CONSENT AGENDA. Cade Douglas asked if there were any questions concerning the Human Sexuality Instruction Assurances and explained that it had been a difficult subject to address.

President Johnson called for objections on the consent agenda. Since there were no objections, the consent agenda received Board approval.

ITEM #2.A. – APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Minutes from the February 27, 2013, Work Session, Board Meeting, and Closed Meeting as well as minutes from the March 13, 2013, Special Board Meeting and Closed Meeting were approved as written.

ITEM #2.B. – APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE. The following individual was approved for employment: **Lorraine Thompson** as an instructional assistant at Monroe Elementary (*one year only*).

ITEM #2.C. – STUDENT RECOGNITION. Students were recognized and congratulated on their achievements. A letter of congratulations will be sent to each student.

INSERT A

ITEM #2.D. – 2013-14 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR – SECOND READING. The proposed 2013-14 Board Meeting Calendar received second reading approval.

INSERT B

ITEM #2.E. – HUMAN SEXUALITY INSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONAL ASSURANCES. The Human Sexuality Assurances received Board approval.

INSERT C

ITEM #2.F.1. – REVISION – POLICY #2003, DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE WORKPLACE – SECOND READING. Revisions to the policy received second reading approval.

INSERT D

ITEM #2.F.2. – REVISION – POLICY #3210, WELLNESS POLICY – SECOND READING. Revisions to the policy received second reading approval.

INSERT E

ITEM #2.G. – PART B INDIAN APPLICATION & ASSURANCES. The proposed application and assurances received Board approval.

INSERT F

ITEM #2.H. – FINANCIAL SUMMARY. The financial summary for the period ending February 28, 2013, was approved as well as the list of checks issued in February 2013.

ITEM #3. – REPORT – MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS. Middle School Principals Rod Hinck, Selena Terry, and Mike Willes provided a PowerPoint presentation to share the progress of programs initiated this year at each school, to report on the implementation of the District's initiatives, share academic performance data, and provide a forum for questions.

North Sevier Middle School (NSMS) Principal Rod Hinck explained that the middle school years play a pivotal role in enabling all students to reach the goal of being college and career ready. The ABC's of putting middle school students on the path to graduation include, Attendance, Behavior and Effort, and Course Performance. If students in the middle grades are struggling in one or more of these areas, it can reduce their chance of graduation from high school by 80 percent.

At NSMS, *Wolf Time* was implemented for core teachers to have PLC's, alternative educational activities, and time to make up assignments/work on schoolwork. The school has focused on tardiness, developed a stricter policy, and extended the afternoon passing times. There has been a 70 percent decline in tardies so far. The school also began *Olympic Class Competition* in testing, absences/tardies, as well as other class competitions. The school PLC's have focused on understanding YPP, NWEA, and Explore assessments. It also gives teachers an opportunity to look at individual student strengths and weaknesses, and to set individual teacher strategies to target outliers. iObservation has allowed the principal to be in the classroom, which has fostered conversation about teaching and good teaching strategies. Principal Hinck explained that YPP is ongoing at the school in language arts and math. Teachers are starting to use it for more customized tests versus the weekly assessments only. He also shared UCAS and NWEA data with the group.

Red Hills Middle School (RHMS) Principal Selena Terry explained that RHMS has a tradition of being a high achieving school and some changes have been implemented this year. Teaming is more of a challenge at the middle level than the elementary level. She reported that this year teachers have participated in the *Utah Schools to Watch Leadership Academy*. The team visited five outstanding middle schools around the state and had the opportunity to learn about best practices for middle level learners. As a result, changes have been made or are in progress for: scheduling, teaming, grading, and intervention. The *Zero's Aren't Permitted (ZAP)* class is new this year and allows for students to eat lunch during their math and language arts classes. Success has resulted from the class and it also helps prepare students for high school.

Principal Terry explained that the rationale for establishing and sustaining successful PLC's at RHMS is to engage teachers in school-wide collegial activities and joint professional

development efforts that have student learning as their purpose. This effort has included, improving instructional strategies, curriculum design and alignment, staff development, data inquiry, and school and classroom management. The focus this year has been to utilize YPP effectively in language arts and reading. The Language Arts Department has loaded the students by class and period to make YPP data more usable at the classroom level. They have incorporated YPP scores into their class grading system, and participated in YPP training to better use and understand the program to adapt their instruction to student learning needs. Principal Terry also shared UCAS and NWEA data and explained that there was a data glitch in NWEA where the top students were left out.

South Sevier Middle School (SSMS) Principal Mike Willes explained that it has been a challenge to try and change the personality and reputation of the school. This year, the school has worked hard to develop a positive learning experience for all students, a place where not only students and faculty members are excited to be, but also a place that parents and the community are proud of. Some of the programs the school is implementing and/or improving include, interventions, scheduling, tardies/truancy, and a reward system. He reported that tardies/truancies have been a challenge because of the design of the school. Since putting in more clocks around the school, there has been a decrease in tardies. Truant students are sent to Youth Court. Intervention classes have been very beneficial to the school and class time was increased from 48 to 52 minutes.

Principal Willes explained that a portion of the Trust Land monies were used to implement a PLC schedule that would allow teachers to collaborate during school time, not only with their grade level teams, but also with their department teams. The iObservation tool provides the opportunity for the principal to be present throughout the building and see where changes need to be made. This tool has been very valuable in helping to focus on data analysis, professional development, individual student needs, and interventions/enrichment. Principal Willes commented that teachers are expected to follow the YPP schedule, but are also encouraged to use the program to track student data, focus on essential questions, and enhance daily lessons accordingly. Portions of the PLC meetings are used to address YPP strategies, competition between teachers, and the benefits of attaching it to the school's grading system. He also shared UCAS and NWEA data with the group.

Each principal expressed their appreciation for their staffs and praised them for their dedication and hard work.

President Johnson thanked each of them for their presentation and asked them to express the Board's thanks and appreciation to their staffs.

Superintendent Mickelsen expressed his appreciation to the middle school principles and complimented them on the energy and enthusiasm they've brought to their schools. He thanked them for being powerful educational leaders.

#### INSERT G

ITEM #4. – PATRON DIALOGUE. Richfield Reaper reporter David Anderson approached the Board about why they had decided to open up the application process for the

superintendent position to only Sevier District employees instead of going outside of the District. President Johnson explained that a decision had been made by the Board to open up the position within the District and shared five reasons as to why the Board made that decision.

- 1) The District had received information from the state that Sevier District's UCAS scores were awesome; NSHS #1, RHS #3, and SSHS #8. The Board was very pleased and didn't want to kill the momentum.
- 2) They felt that the NWEA testing was a large part of that success and wanted someone that had NWEA experience.
- 3) There are currently eight school districts looking for new superintendents and he felt that the ability of Sevier District to compete with larger school districts and attract them at the current salary, made the chances of getting good applicants from outside the District somewhat slim. The Board didn't want someone to come along and use Sevier District as a stepping-stone to bigger and better things. Juab District recently experienced that very thing.
- 4) The Board felt that the District has outstanding and highly valued educators.
- 5) Mr. Orr commented that the Board wanted to be open in the process to the point where they didn't just want to make an appointment before talking to everyone in the District who might be interested in the position.

Mr. Wilson explained that applications for the superintendent position would be accepted until April 16, followed by the application screening and setting up of appointments for interviews. The announcement would most likely be made in mid-May.

ITEM #5.A. – DISCUSSION – ITEMS FROM THE BOARD. The following items were discussed:

- Board members were reminded of the USBA Regional Meeting on Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00 p.m. A headcount resulted in seven (7) individuals attending the meeting.
- President Johnson suggested planning a social before Superintendent Mickelsen retires that included Board members, administration, and their spouses. Mr. Wilson stated that the District would come up with some possible dates in June and communicate them to the Board.

ITEM 5.B. – DISCUSSION – ITEMS FROM ADMINISTRATION. The following items were discussed:

**Items from Superintendent Mickelsen**

- Legislative update: Superintendent Mickelsen explained that there had been a lot of concern about SB 110, which would shift 85 percent of the funding coming from the state to the schools. The bill didn't pass. SB 133 was the transparency bill sponsored by Senator Stevenson and Senator Okerlund ran a bill opposing it. Transparency of data causes a privacy issue for students in small schools. There was quite a debate with HB 271 sponsored by Senator Adams, which is to give schools a letter grade. USSA Director Patti Harrington requested that all superintendents and board members ask the governor to veto that bill. He reported that Representative McIff's HB 373 passed very favorably with \$2.2 million more going into the NESS schools. Representative Powell sponsored a bill to basically put into law the full allocation of the NESS money, which would come by tax effort. They've put more emphasis on local effort at the state level. Mr. Wilson explained that would be a two percent increase in the WPU, however, there would also be a 1.7 percent increase in retirement as well as health insurance increases. The two percent WPU increase won't cover the rise in retirement and insurance costs. It was a

much more positive year and there is hope for the future since this is the first time the state revenues have turned around in a long time.

- The USOE will provide a presentation about the American Institute for Research (AIR) on April 10 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the District Office. Principals, teachers, and other districts have been invited to attend. Board members were also invited.

#### **Items from Gail Albrecht**

- Title III monitoring visit: Representatives from the USOE came to the District on March 12 to audit the English Language Learners (ELL) program. They visited SSMS and MES, because they have the largest population of students who speak English as a second language. They were very impressed with the level of engagement of students, the responses, and good strategies that help support ELL students. They also reviewed the District's policies and procedures for identifying students, professional development for teachers, notification to parents, the delivery of instructions, as well as the results. When they observed that Mrs. Albrecht had a binder of NWEA data on the ELL students, they asked if they could use it for a research project they were doing. They were very complimentary of the program and impressed with the data on each individual student. Mrs. Albrecht praised those principals and teachers for their efforts and good work.

- Assessment update: Mrs. Albrecht explained that the ACT test is now administered on a school day instead of on a Saturday. There were a very high percentage of juniors that took the test on March 5, and the makeup test was on March 19. April will be a busy testing month only in segments of populations. Spring DIBLES is given to grades K-3; Direct Writing to grades 5 and 8, with a computer-based pretest and post-test and is scored through artificial intelligence. This year, the EXPLORE test will be given to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in April; typically it's been given in the fall. It was felt that giving it in April would better help students prepare for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The PLAN test will also be given to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in April. The NWEA testing window is from April 29 through May 15.

- Mrs. Albrecht provided information explaining the UCAS structure. She explained that all schools are graded on two key indicators, achievement and growth. The system consists of a total of 600 points that are evenly split between the two key indicators. She pointed out the structure for elementary, middle, and high schools. In high schools, 150 of those points are based on the graduation rate. Growth is measured differently at the state level than with NWEA. The state calculates a student growth percentile based on two spring testing events. There is the measurement year and the previous year and they compare a student with all of those other students who scored the same the previous year. UCAS doesn't use a fall, winter, and spring component, its just previous year spring scores with this year's spring scores compared to all students who scored the same. If a student moves into the District and doesn't have a previous year score, there are no growth indicators for that student. UCAS replaces the former AYP reports.

#### INSERT H

- Mrs. Albrecht gave an update on the math textbook adoption. She explained that the District wouldn't be adopting a mathematics textbook because there wasn't one available for Secondary math 1, 2, or 3. The teachers are working hard without a textbook. The District will adopt

textbooks for elementary and middle school math. Hopefully, teachers will have the textbooks before the end of the school year. Professional development will be available to them this summer.

### **Items from Pat Wilson**

- Mr. Wilson provided a PowerPoint presentation to the group in regards to the upcoming Bond and Voted Leeway elections. He explained that a decision for an election in June or November had not been made, however, the presentation ties more to a June election. The District began making this presentation to school staffs on Monday, March 25. Discussion about a June versus November election followed the presentation. The Board was very pleased with the presentation and felt that June would be the best option for the election. Municipal elections historically have had low voter turnout.

### INSERT I

- Construction projects:

Warehouse: Mr. Wilson explained that the warehouse was very close to completion. The maintenance crew has been replacing the lights in the warehouse with LED lights. The District is participating in a grant that was offered by Rocky Mountain Power. The remodeling of the office and the new skin and insulation to the building has made it more functional and energy efficient. The furnace very seldom comes on because of the high-energy proficiency.

SSHS Press Box: Mr. Wilson shared the results of the bid opening held earlier in the day on March 20, prior to the Board meeting. He explained that more information was forthcoming and asked the Board to authorize him to make the decision on awarding the bid when everything had been received.

- Salina Tipperary Industrial Park: Mr. Wilson stated that he and Mr. Hansen had met with committee and voted yes on the project. It is now official and will begin to collect tax increment in the 2014 year.

- Election timeline discussion/work session meetings: Mr. Wilson explained that if the District goes for a June election, there would be a need to hold more meetings and work sessions. He proposed holding a Board meeting on April 10 as well as the regular Board meeting on April 17 to make sure the District has all of the appropriate resolutions. The screening committee for the selection of an architect would need to meet on April 3 at 2:00 p.m. The USBA Regional meeting is also that same evening. It was also proposed to have a work session on April 17 prior to the regular Board meeting to screen applications for the superintendent position and conduct architect interviews.

- SOIQ update: Mr. Wilson explained that in order for an architectural firm to apply for the construction projects, it was mandatory they attend the site visit set for Thursday, March 21.

- Financial Advisor contract: Mr. Wilson proposed renewing the contract with Zion's Public Finance as the financial advisor for the District's bond and voted leeway elections.

ITEM #6. – BOND RESOLUTION. The following resolution was presented for consideration of approval: **A RESOLUTION providing for the holding of a special bond election in Sevier County School District, Sevier County, Utah for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the School District the question of the issuance and sale of \$46,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds; providing for the holding of a public hearing and the publication of a Notice of Public Hearing; declaring official intent with respect to certain expenditures; and providing for related matters.**

ITEM #7. – VOTED LOCAL LEVY RESOLUTION. The following resolution was presented for consideration of approval: **A RESOLUTION providing for the holding of a special voted local levy election in the District for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors thereof the question of authorizing a voted local levy annual tax at the rate of .0006 per dollar of taxable value for the purpose of maintaining a state-supported voted leeway program; and providing for related matters.**

ITEM #8. – CLOSED MEETING. A motion was made at 5:39 p.m. by Tom Hales and seconded by Jack Hansen to take a break and go into the Closed Meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual(s) and litigation. Voting went as follows: yes – Clint Johnson, Jack Hansen, Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr. Motion passed.

In attendance were President Clint Johnson, Vice President Jack Hansen, members Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr, as were Superintendent Myron Mickelsen, Assistant Superintendent Gail Albrecht, Business Administrator Patrick D. Wilson, and Executive Secretary Patricia Sanchez. Also in attendance was Cade Douglas.

A motion was made at 6:05 p.m. by Richard Orr and seconded by Jack Hansen to go out of the Closed Meeting. Voting went as follows: yes – Clint Johnson, Jack Hansen, Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr. Motion passed.

ITEM #9. – ACTION ITEMS. A motion was made by Don Naser and seconded by Jack Hansen to adopt the following resolution: A RESOLUTION providing for the holding of a special bond election in Sevier County School District, Sevier County, Utah for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the School District the question of the issuance and sale of \$46,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds; providing for the holding of a public hearing and the publication of a Notice of Public Hearing; declaring official intent with respect to certain expenditures; and providing for related matters. **Voting went as follows: Yes, Clint Johnson, Jack Hansen, Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Rick Orr. Motion passed.**

INSERT J

A motion was made by Jack Hansen and seconded by Tom Hales to adopt the following resolution: A RESOLUTION providing for the holding of a special voted local levy election in the District for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors thereof the question of authorizing a voted local levy annual tax at the rate of .0006 per dollar of taxable value for the purpose of maintaining a state-supported voted leeway program; and providing for related matters. **Voting went as follows: Yes, Clint Johnson, Jack Hansen, Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Rick Orr. Motion passed.**

INSERT K

A motion was made by Don Naser and seconded by Jack Hansen to declare a Reduction-in-Force, in which one employee's hours would be reduced by one class period per day. Motion passed unanimously.

**A motion was made by Richard Orr and seconded by Jack Hansen to authorize Patrick Wilson to award the contract for the South Sevier High School Press Box when all information had been received. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Tom Hales seconded by Richard Orr to approve a June 2013 election for the Bond and Voted Leeway. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Jack Hansen and seconded by Richard Orr to approve Zion's Public Finance as the District's Financial Advisor for the Bond and Voted Leeway. Motion passed unanimously.**

INSERT L

**A motion was made at 6:15 p.m. by Jack Hansen and seconded by Richard Orr to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

*I certify that upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board of Education of the Sevier School District approved the foregoing minutes on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2013. I further certify that a quorum of the Board was present on both the day covered by these minutes and the day of approval.*

---

*Patrick Wilson, Business Administrator*