

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
September 2, 2020

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Study Session in the Superintendent's office at 5320 Adams Avenue Parkway, Washington Terrace, Utah. The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Jon Ritchie	Board President
Dean Oborn	Board Vice President
Jan Burrell	Board Member
Douglas Hurst	Board Member
Paul Widdison	Board Member
Janis Christensen	Board Member
Bruce Jardine	Board Member
Jeff Stephens	Superintendent
Art Hansen	Assistant Superintendent
Lori Rasmussen	Assistant Superintendent

Robert Petersen, Business Administrator, was excused from the meeting.

Superintendent Stephen shared summaries from principals regarding their schools' first days. He noted most everyone struggled the first day with lunches, but adjustments were made in every location. Entire faculties have prepared for a safe opening. Elementaries are already masters of direction and have been doing it for years. We know direct movement lowers the risk. Teachers are also doing some instruction outside as a way to get out of the classroom. Secondary schools have not had common routines in between class sessions. They have put into place routines to help. Students have stated they want to be in school. Mask wearing has been extraordinary and has been relatively easy to enforce. He reminded adults not to take masks off to speak.

Teachers have been incredible with mitigation strategies and with the thoughtfulness they have put into place with their routines. They have been moving unnecessary items from classrooms and have stepped out into halls to help with transitions.

It was noted we still need additional support for teachers with Canvas. Some teachers are new to the program and even though we have had training throughout the summer, some teachers are struggling. Additional training at the elementary level is needed more than in the secondary level. We will have a plan in place over the next two weeks to provide additional, very specific support for those teachers struggling with Canvas. Principals will be asked to identify their teachers that are struggling and then Jennifer Boyer-Thurgood and Christy Wagner will provide additional training.

In some schools, we are still balancing numbers in the classrooms. It has been higher this year due to families still deciding which learning plan to choose. The strength of our reopening plan has given families a number of choices. Superintendent Stephens noted he has received many emails and phone calls expressing appreciation for these options.

Board member, Bruce Jardine noted the comments he has received from parents were seldom negative. The majority realized there would be a few problems. He expressed his gratitude for the good job everyone has done.

Board member, Dean Oborn asked how to respond to patrons regarding comments from Glen Beck that our schools are teaching Marxism. Superintendent Stephens explained how we have an Equity committee in place. We conducted a survey with focus groups led by students, teachers, and parents. We formed our equity committee to try and address some concerns that are in our district. We have no political or social agenda. We developed a framework with a mission statement.

1. We want every student to feel safe, included, and know this is not a place where they will experience inequality.
2. We have the environment that every student can achieve and thrive.
3. We empower every person in this district that if they see an act of injustice, they have the courage to stand up and say something.

Standards were developed from our students, parents, and teachers.

Janis Christensen commented how grateful she is to be a part of this Board.

Meeting adjourned at 5: 50