



**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Washington County School District**  
**September 8, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Due to COVID-19, participation in this meeting at the location listed above will require those present to wear a mask and adhere to the physical distancing guidelines.**

*Present: Board President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Becky Dunn, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Nate Esplin, and Executive Director Steven Dunham.*

*Board Member Kelly Blake was excused.*

*Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer*

Reverence by Member Hesson

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:11 p.m. Board Member Cox 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 Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Steven Dunham, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer. Principal Brian Stevenson attended the personnel part of the Closed Session.*

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Property and Personnel**

**Board Member Hesson presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 3:26 p.m. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **WORK SESSION**

##### **School Reopening Update – Larry Bergeson**

Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported that the mask/shield use is going well throughout the District. Teachers feel supported and are feeling safe for the most part. We are getting support from medical professionals with what the District is doing. Masks are recommended at outdoor sporting events and are required for indoor events. Very few students have an exemption that allows them to use a face shield. Many students are coming back. The District has been working hard to keep the students in school. The latest information received from the local health department and the medical field is support for what we

have done. The safest place for kids is being in school and involved in activities. With numbers staying low, they agree that the quarantine time could be shortened. Those with a positive case in their home must still quarantine for two weeks. He shared the statement given to principals to use when someone has been exposed. It is left up to the health provider to determine when a student can come back after exposure, unless the student has symptoms. It will allow more flexibility to get students back in school. The parent will need to provide documentation to verify that the student does not have symptoms. It is putting the responsibility on the parent and their medical provider. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said that is what the District is moving to with quarantine, as long as no symptoms are present. It would significantly reduce the number of students missing school. There have been about 20 students and staff test positive for COVID. Lyle Cox said the script asks that students comply with the CDC and their doctor's orders. The District is allowing them to do what their doctor recommends. We are no longer the gatekeeper. This puts it back on the CDC and/or the medical field. It removes the liability from the District. The District cannot require a student to be tested. Terry Hutchinson asked if the District is being reckless by relying on the parent to report what the doctor said. Lyle Cox said there is some merit to relying on the parent's statement. It needs to be set on their doctor's decision. Several Board members feel it need to be signed by a doctor. Lyle Cox said he feels that Risk Management will cover us with the parent verifying that their child is safe to come back. The doctor's group representative, Risk Management, and the Health Department all agreed on this response this morning. Laura Hesson is concerned about the response of teachers knowing the child was exposed and is back the next day. She would be more comfortable having verification and signature from the doctor. Superintendent Larry Bergeson suggested that we could have a form that requires both signatures. Becky Dunn shared concern with the financial cost of families in going to the doctor if exposed, possibly multiple times. Terry Hutchinson recommended that elementary students only quarantine for 3 days and come back with parent note. Secondary students would have to quarantine 14 days as they have higher risk. Lyle Cox said that by doing that, we would be modifying the CDC recommendations. By doing what has been proposed, we are putting the burden on parents and doctors to determine what is best for their student. We don't want to be considered as having disparate treatment. LaRene Cox said her understanding is that individuals need to wait three days to get more accurate test results. She is not comfortable with just a parent's signature. She would like the doctor involved. She feels that 14 days is a long time, but she would suggest at least three days. Craig Seegmiller is open to modifying the quarantine guidelines to what the doctor's group, Risk Management, and the Southwest Health Department are supporting. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said everyone he has spoken with feel that 14 days is too long for students. Dr. Blodgett said a parent's signature would be sufficient. Steven Dunham suggested the proposed be referred to as a "health care provider quarantine."

#### **School Based Mental Health Grant – Cheri Stevenson and Jon Butler**

This discussion was postponed.

#### **2021-2022 Calendar – Craig Hammer**

Craig Hammer said next year's calendar needs the additional days for teachers. It was proposed to shift the calendar one day, starting a day later and ending a day later.

#### **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 – LaRene Cox**
- G. Audit Committee Update – Kelly Blake**

Becky Dunn said the USBA Region Meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> will be held virtually.

Terry Hutchinson said there has been no name change. Dixie Tech is doing in-person instruction with all students and staff wearing masks.

David Stirland said the Foundation Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. Steven Dunham said there are openings for three more teams. The Foundation Board will be meeting quarterly from now on. He mentioned that many businesses have been stepping up to support the School District. LaRene Cox said the second allotment of money is being split by the five counties. If there are needs in the School District, the administration should let the county know.

#### **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, and LaRene Cox. Board Member Kelly Blake was excused. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson and Business Administrator Brent Bills.*

#### **OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.**

**Board President Welcome – President Stirland**

**Reverence – Member Cox**

**Pledge of Allegiance – Member Dunn**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes
  - 1. August 11, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Education
  - 2. August 17, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
  - 3. August 31, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- B. Financial Report
- C. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items
- D. UHSAA 150-Mile Requests
- E. Crimson View Elementary TSSA Plan Change
- F. Heritage Elementary TSSA Plan Change
- G. Pine View Middle School TSSA Plan Change
- H. Washington Elementary TSSA Plan Change
- I. Hurricane Middle School TSSA Plan Change
- J. Desert Hills Middle School TSSA Plan Change

Becky Dunn expressed appreciation to the staff for answering questions. Brent Bills reviewed the purchase for Driver's Education cars. The Toyota Rav 4 vehicles are similar to what students will be driving at home. The company will buy the vehicles back for the same price at one year if they have less than 12,000 miles. With the state contract we are buying them at a cheaper rate, so it helps to move their inventory. We did something similar with the utility trucks vehicles that are hard to sell. We can sell them a couple of years later for more than we purchased. We will be selling some this year and will be purchasing more. We will start a rotation with the driver's education vehicles. There will be a cost savings as we are not using the older vehicles. It will minimize the cost of the fleet dramatically. We can buy for \$41,000 sell \$43,000. We are able to purchase the vehicles locally, but may need to go out of the area to purchase some vans that are needed. We are trying to purchase vehicles locally as much as possible. Brent Bills said most of our drivers ed vehicles are driving less than 12,000 a year.

**Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A through J. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

No comments were given.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

### **Policy 1200 Pay and Compensation – Lyle Cox**

Lyle Cox said the policy change provides the opportunity for administrative classified employees to have recognition for earning a master's degree. There have been comments from those on the exempt salary schedule but not in an administrative role. The degree must be directly related to their job. Becky Dunn suggested having a rubric for what degrees qualify. Other degree areas would require prior authorization. It was suggested to have an administrative letter with the process. The degree program must be accredited. Lyle Cox said the administrative salary schedule is based on the market.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve Policy 1200 Pay and Compensation. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Policy 9201 Guidelines for Accelerated College Level Program**

Shauna Williams shared the proposed changes to the policy. The policy was riddled with redundancy and the relationship with Dixie State University has morphed. The policy has been updated and now reflects the relationship with local universities and especially Dixie State University. University representatives and those involved with Concurrent Enrollment have reviewed the proposed changes. One form will be used to keep things more uniform.

## **INFORMATION**

### **What's Right in WCSD Schools**

#### **Utah Online School**

Cheri Best introduced Wesley Milroy who graduated from Utah Online School this past May. Wesley started with Utah Online School in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. He said that before school even started, he received a big box of supplies. His teachers worked with him to make sure work was getting done. They check with their students periodically. He did attend Snow Canyon High School part-time to participate in other activities, but all core classes were done online. Utah Online School has continued to add more courses. He is now attending Dixie State University. The best things about the school are the caring teachers and being able to get a great education your own way. He thanked the Board for a great education. Cheri Best reported that there are currently over 10,000 students participating in online courses. There are about 4500 students full-time online. David Stirland noted that Washington County School District was a little ahead going virtual last spring due to experience of Utah Online School.

### **Recognition of 2019-2020 Retirees**

The Board recognized those who retired from Washington County School District at the end of last school year.

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendent**

Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported on the appreciation lunch for all employees and their willingness to return back. He has received a ton of emails to express thanks for the lunch. He reported that school is going well. Students needed to return to school. We are doing what is best for kids and are making decisions based around what is best for students, such as returning to in-person school. We are back in our 5<sup>th</sup> week and things are going well. He expressed appreciation to the Board, staff, parents and grandparents for support in getting students back to school. We are still having to adjust, and course correct as the guidelines change.

### **Board**

No reports were given.

### **Association**

Amy Barton shared that the teachers are happy to be back to work. It is not the same to not be in school. Teachers want to be back. She shared that the mission of the UEA is to advance the cause of public education, strengthen the teaching profession, promote quality schools for children, and advocate for members. Individuals must be an educator to join. She is proud to be part of a group that advocates for the well-being of its members. UEA is here to support the profession. She expressed appreciation for the Board's support of teachers and employees.

**PTA/PTO/Community Council**

No report was given.

**PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each**

No comments were given.

**Board President David Stirland adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.**

**ADJOURNMENT**