

Uintah School District
Vernal, Utah

These are the minutes from the **May 12, 2021, Business Meeting** of the Uintah School District Board of Education. The meeting was held in the **Vernal Middle School Auditorium at 6:15 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Board President Dave Chivers, Robin McClellan, Harlan "Scoot" Wilkins, Todd Massey, and Tawnya McKee.

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford and Business Administrator Jason Johnson.

Quorum Present (3): Yes

1. INTRODUCTION Time Stamp (0:50)

- A. Welcome/Called to Order: Board President Dave Chivers**
- B. Reverence:** Phil Daggett, Pastor of Ashley Valley Calvary Chapel
- C. Pledge of Allegiance:** Brooklyn Connolly, Student Representative from UHS Student Council

D. Student Board Member Report: Brooklyn Connolly Time Stamp (4:33)

Brooklyn Connolly reported that Student Council has been focusing on keeping those students with the "I'm done with this" mindset actively engaged. Student Council has hosted many activities including Prom, Senior Ball, Senior Run-thru, Senior Awards Night, and Senior Trip. They have also elected next year's Student Body President, Sam Green. This year's Prom theme was "New York" and the Senior Ball theme was "One Last Luau", both had good attendance despite the mask mandate. This week is "Spirit Week" and Student Council has organized lunchtime activities and themed dress-up days. The Senior Trip will be at Lagoon and is scheduled for May 26, 2021. Senior Elementary Walk-thru will also be held on May 26, 2021. Senior Assembly is scheduled for May 27, 2021. Student Council thanks the Board for all their help through this unnormal year.

E. Celebrations: Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford Time Stamp (7:47)

- 1. Students of the Month:** Elizabeth Tamiz-Huerta (Ashley Elementary), Rowan Deletant (Davis Elementary), Joshua Harper (Discovery Elementary), Akosita Uasila'a (Eagle View Elementary), Peyton Jones (Lapoint Elementary), Straton McNeill (Maeser Elementary), Malaki Cox (Naples Elementary); Taylor Murray (Uintah Middle School); Gretel Fillerup (Vernal Middle School), Melanie Peacock (Uintah High School), and Izzabella Jensen (AVEC/Uintah Online).
- 2. Jodi Ryan, Classified Employee of the Year** – Sharon Shipton, UHS Principal
- 3. Kimberly Hawks, Teacher of the Year** – Mistalyn Leis, VMS Principal

F. Patron Input: Board President Dave Chivers Time Stamp (29:40)

Board President Dave Chivers requested the patron input be limited to three minutes each.

Cheryl Meir has two children attending Uintah High School and had been requested to address the Board regarding the mask mandate. Although COVID has created many challenges, at no point has Cheryl felt like her freedom of choice had been taken away. Cheryl reminded the Board that we all have the right to choose. These circumstances are not favorable, but we all have the option

to decide if our children will participate in school/activities and wear a mask or not participate. Cheryl is grateful that our children had the opportunity to attend school and have somewhat of a normal school year. If the Board has the ability to remove the mask mandate for the last two weeks of school, Cheryl would support that decision. If the Board cannot remove the mask mandate, then she supports that as well.

Rachel Hacking addressed the Board regarding the mask mandate. Rachel is concerned about our children and the health risks caused by wearing a mask. Our students have been wearing masks for over 100 days. Rachel has tried many different avenues to address the health concerns of wearing a mask including local health offices, local and state officials, the governor's office, state government officials, and local school district offices. Concerns have been heard but not addressed. Rachel is proposing an alternative for our district and requesting the Board consider "Mask Exemptions". Rachel explained that other Utah school districts are no longer requiring a doctor's note to have a student exempt from wearing a mask and allowing parents to file a mask exemption for their child that may have a medical or mental health condition or disability. Rachel is requesting our district follow suit and allow parents to seek exemptions even if it for 2 weeks.

Time Stamp (39:32) Sarah John addressed the Board regarding her concerns on the new 4-day school schedule and support to teachers. Utah State School Board recently released a publication regarding COVID relief funding and priorities to get children back into school. Those priorities include learning for all students, keeping staff equally employed, support for student and staff mental health and social and emotional needs, and providing opportunities for small room and individual tutoring. The Board promised to use these resources to hire additional personnel, Sarah questioned who have they hired. Currently, there are 162 aides for over 7000 students, that is 44 students per aide. Sarah feels these numbers are proof that our teachers are not getting adequate support and there is a lack of individual tutoring. Teachers have a profound impact on our students and Sarah feels we need to offer them more support. Teachers should be given back their freedom to be innovative in their teaching and stop pushing literacy programs on them. Sarah feels Chromebooks are rubbish and teachers should not be forced to include digital lessons in their curriculum. Sarah voted for the 4-day school schedule, but after talking with many teachers, she would like to change her vote. Sarah requests the Board to reverse the 4-day school schedule and give time back to the teachers.

Marsha Curtis is a teacher at Vernal Middle School representing her students and she is also the President of the Uintah County Education Association, representing teachers. UCEA exists to protect and promote the wellbeing of members, to improve the condition of teaching and learning, to advance the quality of public education, and to ensure equality. Marsha has been involved in many discussions concerning the new 4-day school schedule and she has been requested to advocate for those individuals with apprehensions. The 4-day school schedule does reflect children's needs and puts them in academic and physical jeopardy. Marsha reviewed previous concerns made in the April Regular Board Meeting including lack of educational support at home, vulnerability to abuse, suicide, and child care. Marsha has requested the Board reconsider going back to the 5-day school schedule.

2. BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS Time Stamp (48:25)

A. Consent Calendar

Motion: A motion was made by Robin McClellan to approve the consent calendar, seconded by Harlan "Scoot" Wilkins with the Board unanimously approving. Motion Carried (5:0)

1. Minutes (April 14, 2021 Work Session; April 14, 2021 Business Meeting; April 28, 2021 Special Work Session) - Jason Johnson, Business Administrator
2. Policy 004.1100 Financial Hotline Policy second reading - Jason Johnson
3. Policy 006.0050 Program of Studies and Graduation Requirements - Rick Johnson, Human Resources Director
4. Purchases Over \$50,000 and/or Contracts Needing Board Approval - Jason Johnson
5. Approval of Foreign Exchange Students - Julie Wilde, Student Services Director
6. Approval of 2021-2022 School Board Meeting Schedule - Jason Johnson
7. Approval of Audit Committee - Jason Johnson
8. Approval of 2021-2022 School Trustlands Plans - Jayme Leyba, Curriculum Director

B. Approval of 2020-2021 Tentative Final Amended Budget - Jason Johnson, Business Administrator Time Stamp (50:25)

Motion: A motion was made by Todd Massey approve the tentative budget for the 2020- 2021 school year as follows. Maintenance and Operation (Fund 10) - \$69,050,473; Student Activity Fund (Fund 21) - \$1,365,526; RDA (Fund 26) - \$796,000; Debt Service (Fund 31) \$9,091,126; Capital Outlay (Fund 32) - \$15,923,151; School Foods (Fund 49) - \$3,401,838; Municipal Building Authority (Fund 55) - \$1,862,426; Flex Spending (Fund 76) \$118,271; for a total budget of \$101,608,810., seconded by Robin McClellan with the Board unanimously approving. Motion Carried (5:0)

C. Approval of 2021-2022 Tentative Budget and Tentative Tax Rates - Jason Johnson Time Stamp (53:47)

Motion: A motion was made by Robin McClellan to approve the tentative budget for the 2021-2022 school year as follows. Maintenance and Operation - \$70,865,591; Student Activity Fund - \$1,547,400; RDA - \$796,000; Debt Service \$3,285,625; Capital Outlay - \$7,774,378; School Foods - \$3,446,964; Municipal Building Authority - \$11,002,581; Flex Spending \$125,000; for a total budget of \$98,843,539, seconded by Harlan "Scoot" Wilkins with the Board unanimously approving. Motion Carried (5:0)

D. Personnel Changes - Rick Johnson, Human Resources Director Time Stamp (57:35)

Motion: A motion was made by Tawnya McKee to approve Personnel Changes, seconded by Harlan "Scoot" Wilkins with the Board unanimously approving. Motion Carried (5:0)

Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford announced that Don Heath will be the new principal of Lapoint Elementary School.

3. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS Time Stamp (1:00:52)

A. Superintendent and/or Board President follow-up or clarification on items discussed during the meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford provided a timeline for the 4-Day School Schedule Plan. The plan will be released to all staff and the public on May 17, 2021, and available for review on the District Website and the District Facebook page. The 4-Day School Schedule plan will be on the June 16, 2021, Regular Board meeting agenda. Superintendent Woodford encourages public input and feedback and to please plan to attend the June Board Meeting.

B. Calendar Items – Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford Time Stamp (1:02:58)

- 1. Public Budget Hearing (5:30 pm) – May 26, 2021**
- 2. Last Day of School for Students (Minimum Day) – May 27, 2021**
- 3. AVEC Graduation – May 27, 2021**
- 4. UHS Graduation – May 28, 2021**

4. ADJOURNMENT Time Stamp (1:14:16)

A. Meeting Adjourned

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Tawnya McKee seconded by Harlan “Scoot” Wilkins. Motion Carried (5:0)

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:29 p.m.