



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah
August 10, 2021
4:30 p.m.

Present: Board President Kelly Blake, Board Vice President Becky Dunn, Board Member David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Technology Director Jeremy Cox.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Member Seegmiller.

Becky Dunn, LaRene Cox and David Stirland are going to the Delegate Assembly. Kelly Blake and Terry Hutchinson are alternates.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 12:20 p.m. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Present: Board President Kelly Blake, Board Vice President Becky Dunn, Board Member David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member LaRene Cox, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 2:31 p.m. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

School Resource Officer Discussion – Larry Bergeson

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said Lt. Ivor Fuller is retiring from the St. George Police Department. Lt. Joe Hartman will be taking with place working with the SRO's. Officer Jared Carsen will continue as well. They would like the District to pay for part of Jared Carsen's salary. They are hoping down the road to hire a second sergeant. Utah Arts Academy would also like some SRO support. The officer would also help with Southwest High and the District Office. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said that the District is interested in sharing, but probably not at 50/50 as we don't have that much need. We may want to consider an hourly payment for services. Richard Holmes said it could open a door with other cities considering compensation. We do have representation from all of the city police departments at our

School Safety meeting. Kelly Blake suggested that the administration work with them and come back with a recommendation.

Graduation Schedule for 2021-2022 – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes shared a copy of the proposed graduation school for May 2022. The bigger high schools are on two separate days. It does allow the schools to have a little flexibility. It also helps with the rental of equipment. Millcreek High School really liked the virtual graduation and said students loved the individualized attention. Water Canyon High School would like to make it easier for families who work out of the area.

COVID Update – Larry Bergeson

Superintendent Larry Bergeson shared a COVID update and said a letter was sent to parents. All state entities are saying it is up to the parents to decide if their child wears a mask. Any student who tests positive will be out for 10-days. Parents will be notified if a student has COVID in the class. The only thing that may change is the test to play. The Utah Public Health Department will determine that need. Transmission is the hard thing to prove. Craig Hammer said all of the districts in the state are doing the same thing at this point. Dr. Blodgett will be involved with any decision for our schools. If a student tests positive, the quarantine will be 10-days from the test. Test to stay will not be in place unless numbers reach 2% or 30 students in a school. Students would have to have a negative test to return to school. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said a welcome back letter will go out to students and staff tomorrow and does include what we are doing. Schools are still doing hand washing stations. Students should stay home if they are sick.

School Safety Discussion – Larry Bergeson

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said security doors are in all of the schools. We continue to have the safe school meeting and get county wide cooperation. This morning Audio Enhancement installed a microphone/speaker system at Hurricane Elementary. If we get some funding support, we could look at it for other schools. Teachers and staff can send notice from any place in the building if there is an emergency. He also mentioned the Won Door security doors that have been shown to all superintendents in the state but mentioned that they are expensive.

ARP ESSER III Plan – Brent Bills

Brent Bills shared the ESSER III plan. Twenty percent of the funding must be used with disadvantaged groups. Under salaries, we have to state where each of the salaries and benefits are going. Many salaries could fall under different categories. Under purchased Professional Services, individuals are contracted to do work not related to the building or salaries. Under travel there is money budgeted for professional development and training. There is money budgeted for supplies and equipment. We also have indirect costs for each of the areas. Brent Bills reported in detail on each of the programs. Money will help pay for full-day kindergarten teachers, Special Education, extra help for Achieve 3000 help for Special Education, literacy, afterschool programs, interventions, Summer School programs, Millcreek needs, and help for English Language Learners. Funds will also be used for employee leave benefits, five summer days for teachers, literacy textbook adoption, technology hardware and software, HVAC, contacted services to bring in professional development, Special Education salaries, benefits, and supplies, elementary and secondary special needs projects, SEL app for secondary students, Career counselor to help all schools and CT High School, Professionals Development departments for afterhours training, supplies for at-risk students, Fine Art program needs, and miscellaneous. It is hoped we can use some of the COVID money to help off-set the COVID medical bill utilization. Brent Bills said the District held a public input meeting, but no one attended, so the District did contact the PTA to help get input from the PTA presidents.

High School Credit for 8th Grade Dual Immersion – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said the District is asking to move forward in giving high school credit for 8th grade Dual Immersion. It will help students have credits for getting into a university if they choose not to continue with the program in high school. Many other districts already allow the credit for 8th grade. It is no

longer a requirement to have two years of language for the Regent Scholarship. Students as young as 6th grade can sign up to take online courses for high school credit. 8th grade students in accelerated math can also receive high school credit. LaRene Cox asked about offering a language program for those students who choose to go to CT High and want to continue the language.

Paradise Canyon Turn Around Proposal – Susan Harrah and Amy Mitchell

Susan Harrah and Magda Tsagaris, University of Utah Education Policy Center, presented on the Paradise Canyon Turn Around Plan. Amy Mitchell explained Turn Around school status. The plan needs to be presented to get funding. Susan Harrah said they had Innovations do the root analysis with the faculty to determine why the school has low scores. Paradise Canyon selected the University of Utah Education Policy Center to help them come up with a plan. She reviewed the plan shared with the Board. There are four goals they are working on. The plan shows who is responsible for the goal, how it will be done, and the success measurement. Basic problems were behavior, math scores, RISE scores, and literacy scores. The goals are literacy and math growth, PBIS classroom management, and RISE modules monthly for score increases. Susan Harrah said the school will be in the program for three years with the first year being an identification year. Magda Tsagaris said the state is still working on the exit criteria. Superintendent Larry Bergeson noted that the school was recently selected as a national Dual Language school. Susan Harrah said the teachers are working really hard to exit. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said many times the principals and teachers are well ahead in the process to improve.

Tami Curtis and Jon Butler shared information on the SEL program *Second Step*. They found that across the District, schools were not using the Move This World program. They put together a team to look for new programs. Selections were given to all principals to look at and select one. Second Step was selected. It is a digital program with four areas. Lessons are 15-30 minutes each week. They have more ownership with Second Step. Teachers have to prep and look over the lesson, then reinforce what is being taught. Terry Hutchinson said a concern is the content of the lessons with an upcoming policy that will be passed. He asked if teacher content can be changed or left out. Tami Curtis said we have 20 lessons, there are others on the resource pages that will not be used by the teachers. She and Jon Butler have looked at all the lesson plans and they are “very vanilla.” Teachers are not tracked if they use other material, but we can track that they have taught the lesson. There is a pacing guide for every grade K-5. This program will be used only in elementary grades. The SEL curriculum is being put on the website but is currently available under the counselor website. Jon Butler said the curriculum is scripted for teachers to use. Terry Hutchinson asked if the District is vetting the resources for the teachers to use. Tami Curtis said it might be that a statement could be given to teachers to alleviate the concern of teachers and she feels that teachers won’t have time to do more with SEL lessons. She said it is designed to have all the schools on the same lesson, but schools will be given the flexibility to adjust from the schedule as needed. Jon Butler said the counselors will be over the program at the school. Tami Curtis said there will also be messages for principals to announce each week. A parent letter will be sent to parents the first week of school. Weekly emails are also sent to parent on activities they can do at home. Four of the Intermediate schools have been using Second Step for the past year and teachers have loved it. They do not have anything specific for secondary schools.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Healthy Dixie Update – Craig Seegmiller

Member Seegmiller said there was nothing to report. The meeting schedule will be changing.

USBA Update – Becky Dunn

Member Dunn said the Delegate Assembly is scheduled this week. LaRene Cox and David Stirland will be attending. Alternates are Kelly Blake and Terry Hutchinson. The USBA Leadership Conference is scheduled for September 16-18. Our District will be presenting. USBA is still looking for a class topics. Board Members should share with Becky Dunn any topic suggestions. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said Washington County School District would be presenting on SEL in two 30 minutes break-out sessions. He will also be doing a Ted Talk.

MBA Update – Laura Hesson

Member Hesson emailed the requirement for MBA. She would like to discuss the Board book at the August meeting.

The Board discussed moving the September work meeting to September 20th.

Dixie Tech Update – Terry Hutchinson

Member Hutchinson said they have not had a meeting since May or June. They will meet next month. There will be talk about masks and the new university name.

Foundation Update – David Stirland

Member Stirland said they are now meeting quarterly. The golf tournament is sold out with 36 teams and things look really good. They would be able to allow two more teams at the \$5000 level. Steven Dunham said he is encouraging teachers as he is doing school visits to apply for teacher grants. The funds will help with needs in the classroom. So many businesses in the community have really stepped up to support the grants. The Golf Tournament is September 26th. He would like support from the Board to come and golf or help.

FCAOG Update – LaRene Cox

Member Cox said the meeting will be held next week.

Audit Committee Update – Kelly Blake

Board President Blake said areas have been given to the auditor and the committee is waiting for a response.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

1. Enrollment
2. Safe Schools
3. GRAMA Requests
4. 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 Kelly Blake called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were Craig Seegmiller, Laura Hesson, Becky Dunn, David Stirland, LaRene Cox, and Terry Hutchinson. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson and Business Administrator Brent Bills.

OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

1. Reverence - Member Hesson
2. Welcome – Board President Kelly Blake
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Member Cox
4. Utah ACTE Recognition – Larry Bergeson

Superintendent Larry Bergeson recognized Mike Hassler with the Carl Perkins Community Service Award. Mike Hassler, along with his career coaches Sophia Ford and Madison Rej, have set the standard for what an internship program should look like and are the model in the state and nationally.

CONSENT AGENDA**1. Minutes**

- a. June 8, 2021- Meeting of the Board of Education
- b. June 21, 2021- Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- c. June 30, 2021 – Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- d. July 13, 2021 – Special Meeting of the Board of Education

1. Financial Report

- 2. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items**
- 3. Washington Elementary School LAND Trust Plan Change**
- 4. Desert Hills Middle School TSSA Plan Change**

Becky Dunn mentioned her appreciation to Brent Bills in answering financial questions to help her better understand. Brent Bills explained that line item 44 is a takeover for the Carl Perkins program. It is a reimbursement grant, so it was the check to Southern Utah University for purchases.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSD SCHOOLS

Hurricane High School – Principal Darin Thomas

Assistant Principal Dan McKeehan said the graduation rate at Hurricane High has been 88-89%. They have made some changes and the rate went to just under 94% this past year. They have really worked on providing ELL and Latino help. The scores are trending up. He reported on the AP math teacher who had students pass with most at a 4.3. Growth in math has really started to climb. The school has started a PBIS program and asked teachers to greet students as they come in. They also have local businesses donating for needs in the school. They have been giving things to teachers as they start the year and have put money into the PBIS program. There is a lot of good at Hurricane High. They have great teachers and students. They will be at about 1275 this year and expect to see more growth over the years.

Sunset Elementary School – Principal Julie Smith

Principal Julie Smith was unable to attend due to her Back-to-School event and prepared a video on what's right at Sunset Elementary. She reported on the WIN program. They looked at data and ways to benefit all students. Teachers were able to see student growth with WIN time. Over ninety 4th and 5th graders qualified for phonics groups at the beginning of the year. They cut that number in half and helped students get what they needed. Students have individual plans. The school will continue the program next year. They will also be focusing on small group reading and will provide more training for teachers on the small group reading. Upper grades will also be working on comprehension. All teachers will be involved in training related to their school goals. This year they look forward to rising and having a really great year.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No public comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

ARP ESSER III Plan – Brent Bills

Brent Bills shared a brief report on the ARP ESSER III Plan. It requires more than the other ESSER funds and requires the Board to approve the plan. The District will have to list exactly what we will spend under specific criteria. Twenty percent of the funding is required to provide interventions for students who struggled due to COVID or are more at-risk. These will be for programs to meet unique student needs. We have also put money under professional development to cover presenters and substitutes. There is a small amount for training, money for supplies, and afterschool and summer school programs.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the ARP ESSER III Plan. Board Member Stirland seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Paradise Canyon Turn Around Proposal – Amy Mitchell

Amy Mitchell asked for approval for the plan presented in the work session.

Becky Dunn expressed appreciation for the leadership, team, and the University of Utah for creating the plan and a solution.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Paradise Canyon Turn Around Plan. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

School Resource Officer – Larry Bergeson

This action item was tabled.

Policy 4225 Educational Equity – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox this policy change has brought out questions. He said that the policy is very clear when a teacher is trying to advocate for something. There was also a request to add gender under the protected classifications. Board Members pointed out that the word equity in this policy includes equality.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve Policy 4225 Educational Equity as written. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Policy 1710 Non-Discrimination – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said the policy changes update information on location, contact information, and references to Policy 2116 through Title IX. No comments were received.

Board Member Hesson presented a motion to approve Policy 1710 Non-Discrimination. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

High School Credit for 8th Grade Dual Immersion – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said he will bring a policy to the Board for 8th grade Dual Immersion credit. It will be retroactive.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Terry Hutchinson said Second Step was explained in the work meeting and the District will make sure it complies with the policy just approved.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson recognized Kristan Norton from the Utah State School Board and expressed appreciation for her representation of our area.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported that preliminary enrollment numbers show that we will grow by 1400-1500 students again this year. We build schools as cheaply as we can and have been recognized by the Utah Taxpayers Association for this. We are opening a new elementary school this year, but have no other elementary schools being built. We do have the CT high school being built.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned the recent Solution Tree seminar. We were chosen as the location that was broadcast throughout the county due to the high number of Model PLC Schools in our District. We had 1044 teachers participate which is 80%. There was a huge financial savings as sending that number of teachers to a Solution Tree Conference would have cost \$1.8 million. Our cost was \$48,000 and ESSER funds were used. Anthony Horrocks shared his appreciation for the opportunity. He quoted that the culture of the building makes them a place that students want to come to and not get out of. It takes work and is a journey to have a Professional Learning Community. The work happens daily. Laura Bennett said her take away was that PLCs are not just a meeting. It includes everyone in the school working together to make themselves better. It is a way of life. Kristin Humphries said she liked a quote that said if you are not working as a team and do it by yourself you are not a PLC. Anthony Horrocks said we need to take action to help the students who aren't learning. At Coral Canyon Elementary, everything begins with the master schedule. They then work horizontally and vertically to meet the needs of all students and to make sure skills are not missed. Students need to have access to essential standards, interventions, and extensions. Rusty Taylor said PLC has given best results. It is complex, and they have to work together to overcome the challenges. Everyone got something from the seminar, but he is having them focus on how they will change. Linda Heikkila said she appreciated the in-person learning and felt the conference was wonderful. She has felt as a singleton in the school as the choir teacher. Core teachers work together. It helped to work with the choir teachers across the District. Allowing all teachers to attend the seminar helped her feel part of the PLC. It helped her to see as a school how they can help the students achieve at high levels of learning. Kenny Kunde said teachers expect the best from students, so why don't teachers give out their best. The conference included research-based material. To make students better, it has to start with the us and the environment we put the students in. Culture in the

school is so important. Culture brings communities together. His school has already started doing things to help improve the culture and what they do as a group to help students progress and learn. There has to be buy-in from the students and teachers. That will depend on how they feel at the school. He also suggested that in the future, similar conferences be held at the beginning of the summer to allow days for teachers to meet together and discuss what they learned and thanked all those who helped in putting the conference together.

Board

Laura Hesson said she was excited about the PLC conference. Schools are at different places. Having the whole District participate feels like we have a renewed energy. The conference will help to bring us more together.

Kelly Blake said the PLC program was implemented 7-8 years ago. Having Solution Tree come and present in our community is huge. He is excited that teachers had this opportunity.

Association

Kathleen Cheshire said teachers are excited to be back. She has received some concern about safety measures and protocols. She appreciates that the District is working with the Health Department to keep all safe as we return.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said MarChe Hindes is helping at a Back-to-School Night. She encouraged the Board to join the PTA. They will be doing amazing things this year.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

Rhanda Todd said she attended a “Making of America” seminar. She shared the 28 principals of liberty from the constitution. She asked the Board to refer to them as needed and keep them in mind.

Grace Durkin shared her feelings on masks. She loves being in a school that teaches languages. This past year has been difficult with masks. She feels that masks divide people. She appreciated not requiring masks the last couple of weeks of school. It was hard for a younger sibling to understand the new language he is learning with the teacher wearing a mask and face shield. She asked the Board to keep masks off for next school year.

Benjamin Durkin said he participated in the St. George delegation to Japan. He attended school in-person wearing masks. He thanked the Board for keeping students in. He said mainstream media can have an impact on everything. He asked that the Board keep standing their ground and take students and public under consideration. Individuals should be able to choose for themselves. His school has made it clear that there should be no discriminate whether someone is wearing a mask or not. He asked the Board to take students under consideration before politics.

Candice Nay said she is hoping to go back to school without mask mandates, social distancing, and vaccines. She was not even able to go into her child’s school last year. She also appreciates that gender was not added to the policy. She feels we need to focus on the kids and leave politics out. She wants to just go back to normal. She feels the new normal is to be disconnected from each other.

Erika Hedges asked if teachers are to address students by their correct pronoun. She appreciated the Board quickly looking into *Second Steps*. She has heard that the lessons start good, but later open up for CRT opportunities. Counselors who are teaching the program report to the state. She is concerned that we don’t have local control. She suggested having teachers sign that they will not teach CRT. She also asked the Board to help find ways to reduce the local tax on homeowners.

Harmony Vanderhorst said we are one of the only places going back to normal. She would like to see parent choice and not rules and mandates. She feels that there has not been a proactive push on teacher health. Teachers and students feel better as they are healthier. She also feels that the ball has been

dropped with the Chinese Dual Immersion program. Teachers who come here don't understand the culture differences. She feels the program needs to be readdressed across the District.

Laurie Scholzen said she has children in Chinese immersion program. She feels the road that program is on needs to be changed. She would like to have a Concurrent Enrollment program so students can receive credit.

Lauren Tingey said she has loved the dual program and sees the benefits of the program. This past year the students did not see a huge pass rate. The teacher was not in the room. She feels another online class will cause students to lose interest.

Board President Kelly Blake adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT