

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Business Meeting  
and Closed Executive Session

June 4, 2013

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Business Meeting and Closed Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Kristi Swett, Vice President Heather Bennett (arriving at 7:03 p.m.), J. Michael Clára (arriving at 6:07 p.m.), Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, and Martine Cao, Student Member (arriving at 6:40 p.m.).

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Executive Director Human Resources; Alan Kearsley, Director of Finance; Kenneth Grover, Director Career & Technology Education and High School Support; Joann Price, ELP Supervisor & Elementary School Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; John Robson, the board's legal counsel from Fabian & Clendenin; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Julia Balcom, representing the Comprehensive Employee Association; Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Ben Rowley, President, Transportation Employee Association; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Benjamin Wood, *Deseret News*; Allison Sisam, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Business Meeting of June 4, 2013, eight motions were made, including a motion to approve the revised budget for the fiscal year 2012-13, the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2013-14, and the 2013 property tax rate. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Swett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:35 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

<sup>A</sup>(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, personnel, and property items. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 5 to 0, with Ms. Bennett and Mr. Clára absent at the time of the vote.

\*\* (Emery and Sandberg)

Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, J. Michael Clára (arriving at 6:07 p.m.), Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, and John Robson, the board's legal counsel.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. and returned to the Board Business Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	3, 5, 6, 7 & 8	4	1 & 2
CLÁRA	2, 4, 5 & 8	3, 6 & 7	1
EMERY	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8	4	
NELSON	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8	4	
SWETT	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8	4	
SANDBERG	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8	4	
YOUNG	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8	4	
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

**2. BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience and said Vice President Bennett would be joining them about 7:00 p.m. She recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Julia Balcom, representing the Comprehensive Employee Association; Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; and Ben Rowley, President, Transportation Employee Association. She told the audience the board would begin their meeting and at precisely 7:00 p.m. the Public Hearing on the 2013-14 Annual Budget would begin.
- Steve Russo led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- President Swett recognized Martine Cao, for his service as the Student Board Member for 2012-13, and presented him a plaque. She said they have enjoyed having him on the board, and will continue to watch with interest his senior year at West High School next year. On behalf of the board, she thanked him for his thoughtful comments on behalf of all students and said they can't wait to see where his future takes him.

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

<sup>A</sup>(2) Approval was given to nine items included in the Consent Agenda, including the correction to the minutes of May 4, 2013, noted below, and moving Items #A10 – Tentative Agreement with Salt Lake Teachers Association, and #A11 – 2013-2014 Employee Agreements for Buildings and Grounds, Child Nutrition, Comprehensive, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel, and Transportation to the Action Agenda. These items are listed below. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 6 to 0 with Ms. Bennett absent at the time of the vote. **\*\***(Nelson and Young)

- The Purchasing/Accounting Report, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, increases to existing purchase orders, a payment voucher report that includes travel and professional expenditures, and a Budget Report for April, 2013.

2. The Human Resources Department Report, included changes for one employee, non-contract to contract employment for one, and releases for one.
3. Minutes of the Board Business Meeting held May 7, 2013, with the following correction.
  - Page 5, Item #D2 – Educator Evaluation Pilot, first paragraph, line 5, will be changed to read:

“administrators. The following members of the Committee were present in the audience and recognized: Christopher King, parent representative; and Dan Bergman, representing administrators. A copy of the ...”
4. Minutes of the Board Study Session held May 21, 2013.
5. Salt Lake Center for Science Education Charter Renewal.
6. Required Board Resolution for the Utah Retirement System. Required Board Resolution for 45 employees who are required to contribute to the Utah Retirement System.
7. Utah Consolidated Application (UCA) for 2013-2014. Salt Lake City School District's 2013-14 Utah Consolidated Achievement Plan.
8. Annual Review of Approved Resources for Human Sexuality Education.
9. Annual Review and Approval of the Rental Fee Schedule.
10. Tentative Agreement with Salt Lake Teachers Association for 2013-2014 – was moved to the Action Agenda.
11. 2013-2014 Employee Agreements for Buildings and Grounds, Child Nutrition, Comprehensive, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel, and Transportation – was moved to the Action Agenda.
12. Board Policies:
  - a. Policy I-1, Basic Educational Program.
  - b. Policy I-4, District Sponsored Charter Schools.
  - c. Policy I-7, Selection of Instructional Materials.
  - d. Policy I-9, Testing.
  - e. Policy S-1, School Admissions.
  - f. Policy S-3, Student Discipline.

## B. REQUESTS TO SPEAK

There were no requests to speak.

## C. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2013-2014 BUDGET

At 7:00 p.m. President Swett opened the Public Hearing on the 2013-14 Budget.

• Requests to Speak on 2013-14 Budget.

Joel K. Briscoe, District 25 Utah House of Representatives, addressed the board to speak in favor of the proposed tax increase. He said no one likes tax increases and expressed his view the reason the board is having to propose a tax increase is because the legislature is not doing their job by funding education adequately. He said as a taxpayer he wants all of the kids in his neighborhood and this city to go to quality schools and he thanked the board for proposing the increase.

Sharon Grey, Salt Lake City School District taxpayer and President of the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association, addressed the board to speak in favor of the proposed tax increase. She said as a property owner she is willing to make her contribution to Salt Lake City students, programs, teachers, and staff who support education. She applauded the fiscal responsibility and integrity of the district and said it is a direct response to the board's fiscal management that Salt Lake City School District has not had to make large numbers of personnel cuts and furloughs. She said she is honored to have had a place at the negotiations table, and appreciates the candor and respect shown by Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Beth Strathman and Alan Kearsley. She said the Classified Employee Groups appreciate the difficult decision the board made in proposing a tax increase and expressed their support to the board.

Amanda Thorderson, Salt Lake City School District taxpayer and former board member, addressed the board to speak in favor of the proposed tax increase. She said over the past five years the board has cut over \$25 million, cutting services to children either directly or indirectly. As a parent she is tired of spending cuts that directly affect children's ability to excel in school. She said she is in awe of the work teachers do in tremendously hard circumstances, said they deserve more than thanks, and they deserve to be compensated fairly for their services. She said she knows all resources have been explored and she trusts Janet Roberts implicitly with her tax dollars. In closing, she said the legislature seems to be fine with Utah being last in per student expenditures, and said everyone needs to hold the legislature responsible for inadequately funding education. She encouraged the board to adopt the budget as proposed.

President Swett thanked those who addressed the board.

D. BOARD ACTION ON BUDGET

1. Approval of 2013-14 Annual Budget.
  - Revised Budget for 2012-2013
  - Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
  - 2013-2014 Proposed Tax Rate

<sup>N</sup>(3) A motion was made that the Board approve the written resolution to adopt the 2013-14 Annual Budget, which resolution is as follows. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 6 to 1 with Mr. Clára voting "No".

\*\* (Young and Nelson)

A resolution approving the revised budget for the Fiscal Year 2012-13 as it has been presented to the Board of Education during this meeting on June 4, 2013. Also, approving the budget for the Fiscal Year 2013-14 as it has been presented to the board on this date. Also, approving an increase to the property tax rate necessary to generate \$3.6 million. This rate shall exceed the certified tax rate that will be set by the Salt Lake County Auditor.

<sup>E</sup>(4) A motion was made to amend Motion #3 to adopt the 2013-14 Annual Budget with a 3% cost of living increase as opposed to the 1% proposed. The motion failed on a vote of 1 to 6 with Ms. Swett, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Emery, Mr. Nelson, Ms. Sandberg, and Ms. Young voting "No".

\*\* (Clára and Emery)

Prior to voting on the motions, Mr. Clára expressed his concern that he feels it is not clear where the increased dollars are going. He said his amended motion would make clear where the dollars are going, allow the district to increase student achievement, and retain quality teachers and staff. Ms. Young spoke against the amended motion. She said the board has been discussing the proposed budget for three months. She said that would have been the time to discuss Mr. Clára's proposed amendment but at this time feels that board cannot go backward.

Following approval of the budget, Ms. Young expressed appreciation to Ms. Roberts and her staff for all their efforts. She said it is not easy raising taxes, but her constituency has said it is time.

#### E. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. 2014 Legislative Priorities and State Legislators Education Task Force. Superintendent Withers distributed a draft for discussion of legislative priorities for the coming year and a Revised Notice of Meeting of the Education Task Force. Copies have been added to the official minutes. He said due to the new task force, he wanted to give board members an early draft of the priorities and obtain feedback. He proposed this year's top five priorities be continued next year, and reported the legislative committee from USBA, USSA, and UASBO have met and set their three main priorities.

He told the board the Education Task Force is made up entirely of legislators. He reported they held their first meeting and had only made it through part of the reports they had requested in order to obtain information. He said the Task Force will meet once each month and he has been asked to represent superintendents across the state.

Superintendent Withers said he felt the board made progress on their priorities last year. He said he feels the priorities are aligned to the 2010-15 Student Achievement Plan and the school improvement plans. He suggested when approaching legislators this year they talk about investments in education in specific dollar amounts instead of WPU percentage increases. No concerns were expressed over continuing to work on this year's top five priorities.

#### F. ACTION AGENDA

1. 2013-2014 School Improvement and LAND Trust Plans.

\*(5) A motion was made that the board accept the 2013-14 School Improvement and LAND Trust Plans.

\*\* (Young and Nelson)

Board members said they like that the plans have become ongoing, living documents for the schools, and expressed their appreciation to the School Support staff for all the help they provide schools during the School Improvement/LAND Trust process. Complete copies of the Plans have been added to the official minutes.

2. Other Action Items.

Tentative Agreement with Salt Lake Teachers Association.

^(6) A motion was made that the board approve the tentative agreement with SLTA for 2013-14. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 6 to 1 with Mr. Clára voting "No".

\*\* (Sandberg and Emery)

For the record, Mr. Clára said he had requested these agreements be pulled from the Consent Agenda in the event his amended motion for the budget would have been approved.

2013-2014 Employee Agreements for Buildings and Grounds, Child Nutrition, Comprehensive, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel, and Transportation.

^(7) A motion was made that the board approve the 2013-14 Employee Agreements for Buildings and Grounds, Child Nutrition, Comprehensive, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel, and Transportation. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 6 to 1 with Mr. Clára voting "No".

\*\* (Sandberg and Young)

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Common Core State Standards. Superintendent Withers distributed a handout entitled Common Core Setting the Record Straight. A copy has been added to the official minutes. He reported briefly on how the Common Core State Standards had come about. He noted the belief that high expectations are needed for all students that are rigorous so students can compete in a global economy. He spoke briefly about Utah's implementation of the Standards and concern the state is failing to adequately fund professional development that will help teachers teach the Common Core State Standards. In response to concerns and complaints that board members have heard, he said the failure is not related to the Standards, but to not enough time and materials to support teachers in its implementation. He said as publishers and assessments catch up with the Common Core it will definitely help and will certainly be a priority of the district. Board members briefly discussed a concern raised by student member Cao as

to whether the Common Core makes it more difficult for students to take some higher level courses and that students must take certain classes before moving to the next. His concern was noted and Ms. Bennett said she thinks they are working on integrated pathways and how to compact courses for certain students. Board members stressed the importance of making sure students have information on what the pathways are.

Superintendent Withers distributed a handout entitled 2013-14 Proposed Budget – Facts. A copy has been added to the official minutes.

Superintendent Withers told board members the district had received a confirmation of its Aaa credit rating from Moodys Investor Services and Fitch Ratings. He said with the district selling bonds next week this is good news. He expressed appreciation to Janet Roberts, her staff, and the district's financial advisors for all their efforts.

2. Other Reports. Vice President Bennett reported the graduation ceremony at the Salt Lake Center for Science Education was fabulous. She noted this is the Science Center's first graduating class. President Swett reported she and Board Member Young had attended the graduation ceremony for Innovations High School, which is also their first graduating class. She said it is great to have these two graduation ceremonies complete, and reminded them the remaining four graduation ceremonies would be held tomorrow, June 5, 2013, throughout the day at the Huntsman Center.

#### H. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Ms. Young, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Janet M. Roberts  
Business Administrator

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