

November 18, 2021 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meeting (Thursday, November 18, 2021)

Generated by Brooke Wardle on Tuesday, November 23, 2021

A. Study Session - 5:00pm

Study Session Roll Call:

Tom Hansen, President

Tyler Bluth, Vice President

Kimberly Dickerson, Member

Marianne B. Allen, Member

Absent: Cory Holmes, Member

Keith Johansen, Business Administrator

Paul Sweat, Superintendent

Welcome -

Welcome by Superintendent Sweat, recommendation to move Wasatch Band Boosters to the beginning of the meeting, then move on to GSBS.

Discussion, Information: 1. GSBS Update on Future Schools Project

Move to Second Item

2. Wasatch Band Boosters Discussion

Wasatch Band Boosters to present with Teaching and Learning Directors Eric Campbell and Tod Johnson, and Booster President and Parent Allen Gayle.

The band booster president made a request to the board of education to present at an open meeting. The agenda item tonight is intended to be an exploratory discussion, not one of negotiations.

Focus on a Music PLC in the district; Align to the state standards, Focus on Learning, Collaborative Culture and Goal Setting and Results Orientation.

With a high quality music PLC, we begin with talking with music experts in education in the state. Sam Tsugawa, Springville HS is an orchestra experts that Wasatch can learn from. They have offered to provide collaborative support to our Music PLC. John Miller at American Fork HS is also well respected in high school music.

Proposal to start an after-school 4th and 5th grade music program on January 6th, 2022 on Tuesday's and Thursday 3:45-4:30pm at Rocky Mountain Middle School. Busing to be provided from DCE, JRS, MES and OME. This will allow for critical music skills and small group instruction in band and music.

Parents, Principals and students show interest in Elementary Fine Arts Specialists. Proposal would provide certified teachers in the areas of Dace, Music, Theatre or Visual Arts. 40 minutes per week for every elementary student and all elementary schools would be included in the Beverly Taylor Sorenson arts resources.

Mr. Gayle is grateful for the district's interest in supporting the band boosters. Wasatch has 3% enrolled in band. Other school districts report to have 8-10% participation. Choir and orchestra numbers are also down at Wasatch. Mr. Gayle has two students in WCSD. "Music provided a scholarship to me allowing me to receive three degrees. Everything I have is because of music. The goal of the Wasatch is to be the best. Wasatch is just not there yet." Band Boosters are hoping to see more music students that are successfully continuing their education through their music abilities. They would like to see the program grow with a change of focus and culture.

GSBS Update on Future Schools Project

Guests Valarie Nagasawa and Lindsey Ferrari (virtual guest)

Kickoff of masterplan began in September. Since then the project has launched including a the website launch, Community Steering and Advisory Community meetings, Educator workshops and a few Management Team meetings. The project is still in the information gathering phase. Results of a resident survey, approximately 450 responses by students, community members and parents. The data has been shared with the Board of Education. Various community neighborhood meetings are scheduled in January as well as more Community Steering and Advisory Community meetings, Educator workshops and a few Management Team meetings. The final goal is to present a draft masterplan to the school board on April 21, 2022. Through the course of receiving feedback a suggestion was made to have a zoom session to share the data received by the Y2 Analytics survey.

In the initial Summit Meeting ideas shared then help to create Guiding Principals for the project. Guiding Principals have now been shared with the Steering Committee, the Advisory Committee and the Educator committee. They are still in draft form at this point. The advisory committee is focusing on growth options.

Educators are helping to analyze the space of the schools to determine how well the spaces of the school are being utilized to meet the mission of the district.

Upcoming events include many community events, civic groups, elementary neighborhood meetings - with specific board members, youth groups and religious groups.

Lindsey Ferrari is supporting the communication efforts of the project. One of the challenges is helping people understand what the end product of the master plan might look like. The facilities master plan is assessing the condition of the current facilities and buildings, identify the public's vision on how our buildings support our goals and providing options for the community to consider as they consider growth. Moving forward, the website has had about 400 individual hits - visitors are not going to the feedback pages, changes are going to be made to make it easier. The postcard mailer went out to the community, three articles have been published in the Wave. Steering committee members feel like we need to do a better job. The public is confused about what they can attend in person, we are going to identify those dates early and publish them for people to put on their calendars. The Steering committee would like tools to support them about the process - a one-page sheet will be created to accomplish that. Data will also be added to the website that will be easy access for visitors to view. The goal is to continue to get people involved and interested in the process.

Those that are participating in the process are thankful to have a voice. The teachers are giving great feedback and making good suggestions on how to continue to get all stakeholders involved.

The technical assessment will begin in December. The process will be to inventory the schools and report on the findings.

Board President Hansen - Is there some inconsistency on who is in charge, who is the face or the group that is leading the process? There are so many people in charge and would like some clarification.

Lindsey Ferrari - Two spokes people have been assigned, Kim Dickerson and Tyler Bluth. The School Board is the body that is in charge of the process. We should do a better job talking about who is opening and closing each of the meetings. Videos might also be a good idea for Kim and Tyler to do to be the front facing people.

Valerie Nagasawa - Interaction should be from everyone involved. The community steering committee is a representation of all of the stakeholders. Advisory committee is built of partners of Wasatch School District. Educators are a key part of giving the voice of what goes on in the schools. Christine is the facilitator of the process. Superintendent has been asked to introduce a lot of the meetings. Going forward, if it is Tyler and Kim it might be a good idea. We should identify them on the website in a more clear way.

Superintendent Sweat will include the principals and faculties in meetings to help provide more information about the Future Schools Project.

B. Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm

Called to order at 6:34pm

Procedural: 1. Welcome - Board President Hansen

Procedural: 2. Board Member Roll Call

Study Session Roll Call:

Tom Hansen, President

Tyler Bluth, Vice President

Kimberly Dickerson, Member

Marianne B. Allen, Member

Absent: Cory Holmes, Member

Keith Johansen, Business Administrator

Paul Sweat, Superintendent

C. Community Comment

Discussion, Information: 1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes. LINK- <https://bit.ly/WCSDBoENovember>

No Public Comment

D. Celebrations/Information

Information: 1. Utah Law and Policy: Sex Education Instruction Assurances; Local Board Review

Local and State statistics show that Utah in 2019 Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis are all on the rise. Those 3 STDs are relatively low in Wasatch County. We have zero cases of HIV. The adolescent birth data for Wasatch County per 1000 females age 15-19 is 9.5% in 2019.

The last piece of data to review is the number is the count of victims with reported sex abuse for the last six years is less than 25. When collected with Morgan, Summit and Wasatch Counties the number increases to 44 in the year 2020. This boils down to we need to have high quality sex education within our District. Training of Health and CTE teachers is very important with these assurances that have to be reported back to the State in May. The State has a training and our teachers are required to participate in. We also have a committee that reviews our health curriculum. We meet in January to discuss the existing curriculum. We will not be introducing anything new at this time.

E. Consent Items

Action (Consent): 1. Consent Items
 Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. Minutes -10.21.21 School Board Meeting
 Action (Consent): 3. Employee Separations
 Action (Consent): 4. Employee New Hires
 Action (Consent): 5. Employee Status Changes
 Action (Consent): 6. Financials
 Action (Consent): 7. Home School Affidavits
 Action (Consent): 8. School Choice
 Action (Consent): 9. Staff or Student Travel

Motion by Tyler Bluth, Second by Kimberly Dickerson
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries
 Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

F. Action Items

Action: 1. CAPS Student Homebuilding Project-Jason Watt

The CAPS students have put together a presentation to show you our specific needs for this project. Raegan and Dario, two students in CAPS program explain what hard work they have done to try and find a lot in the Valley to build the home/homes that this program will build over the next few years. In the real estate market right now in Heber it was tough for them to find a lot in their budget. They eventually got the contact of Mountainlands Community Housing Project. This company does self-help homes in the valley. With the help of Jason Watt they came to an agreement on purchasing a few lots. The lot is in South Fields and is a pretty new development over near RMMS. The pavement is already done and the lot is ready to build on. The lot we hope to purchase will have two homes and a shared driveway. Cost for two lots is \$208,000 with a deed restriction of 3% per year. The cost of the house can go up but whoever owns the lot of can't just sell for market value. The lot will also have income restrictions. The students can adjust the floor plan slightly, but it still has to stay within the envelope of the building plan. These homes do not have basements either. There is a city owned park nearby that will be convenient for family's.

Marianne B Allen: can you explain what the deed restriction is?

Jason Watt: The deed restriction is put in place by the affordable housing company. They believe the person would most likely own the home for 8-10 years but could still sell it and make a little money with the intention of staying the county. We are still working on the details of this and hope to have it all ironed out before presenting the board with a contract. The students have done a great job with finding a lot within budget. We plan to build one house each year for the next two years. We have had a few issues with permits holding us up, but it seems to be coming together. We would love to have the digging done and maybe even the foundation poured before the end of year, so we can start framing at the beginning of the school year. We have had awesome community support. They have donated money and tools to us and it's been awesome.

Board Members share that the program is amazing, they can't wait to see how these homes turn out.
 Recommendation to approve the purchase of two lots for the CAPS Homebuilding program.

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Tyler Bluth
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries
 Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 2. 2022-23 School Calendar - Kirsta Albert

Last Month the calendar listed Spring Break in April, and school started on a Tuesday instead of a Monday, and no PD days over Fall Break. 100 comments came through with this last update and some comments said Fall Break seemed quite long. That would be the main thing we should consider if we send this out for comment again. Every school district in our area starts school that same day, so we feel we should keep it this way. Starting earlier means first semester ends right before Christmas Break.

Board comment that the fall break is seeming long maybe we could move one of the PD days from Fall Break to have one day before and one day after?

Kirsta and Garrick explained the philosophy of having two PD days together. We are really trying to track Literacy, so we have a training the first day then the second day it gives the teacher the opportunity to take what they learned in the training and apply to their teaching immediately following the training. Having those two days back to back is really critical for teachers. One more thing to think about and that there were several comments about calling Christmas Break, Winter Break.

Superintendent Sweat: "This calendar is the best version for education purposes. This is also made for the right reasons. The PD days are very important."

Recommendation to approve the 2022-2023 Calendar.

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Mariannne B. Allen

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 3. Employee Retirement Eligibility Policy for Review - Shawn Kelly

This policy is to dictate who is eligible for retirement. We had a URS audit, and they recommended we have a policy stating who and how a person can qualify for retirement benefits. We would like to put this out for 30 day review and make this a permanent policy at our next board meeting.

Recommendation to put the Employee Retirement Eligibility Policy out for review.

Motion by Tyler Bluth, second by Kimberly Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 4. Ellevation Agreement, English Language Learners Platform - Eric Campbell

We have just over 1000 ELL students in our district. One responsibility we have is once they receive a score on their WIDA test we have to monitor their progress over the next 4 years. It's a big task for our teachers and administrators. This test goes over listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Those that have not passed the test yet are at many different levels and their needs are different. This program allows the teachers to know what kids can do in each of these domains and offers suggestions to help move students to the next level. The teachers have to keep all the assessment data and this program would also allow us to store that information.

Recommendation to approve the ELlevation Contract for two years at \$40,815.80. This amount includes a 5% discount and the State money will cover this contract price.

Motion by Marianne B Allen, second by Tyler Bluth

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 5. IXL Learning Platform Agreement, Grades 6-8 Math Reinforcement Software and Curriculum -Garrick Peterson

Jim Judd and Jamie Hagen: Created a scoreboard for each teacher per class that keeps track of each student's progress throughout the year. This is a collaborative living document that is updated at every CFA data discussion. Goal is that every student with no barriers should be passing their CFA's on their first try. Becuase data can be found in many different places this program is great because we can have it all in one space. It also allows us to compare scores from last year and see how far the student is away from getting to the next level of proficiency. It can target what skill each student needs to work on and give us example questions we can test that student with. Our teachers can also see non-impacted: proficient, non-impacted: not proficient, impacted: proficient, and impacted: non-proficient. This is an amazing thing for our students and for our teachers. This scoreboard allows us to get very clinical about every class and be able to set goals. Every teacher can target a specific kid and have specific questions that will help that student get to proficient. If a student is passing everything then this program generates an enrichment packet for that child. We have piloted this since the beginning of the year, and we are loving the results. We fee at this point we would like to ask the board to allow us to have a contract with this company.

Garrick Peterson: This is a really great program and will help with students in our intervention classes to get to grade level learning.

Recommendation to approve an 18-month contract with IXL for \$16,835.00. This program would use the ESSER money that came from the State. We will monitor this program for the next 18 months to see if it is helping us to achieve our goals.

Motion by Tyler Bluth, second by Marianne B Allen

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

G. Board Report

No report.

H. Superintendent Report

End of level scores will soon be in, and we like to compare ourselves to other districts to see how we are doing. I would like to celebrate our ACT scores tonight.

Tod: In comparing school districts in Utah, Wasatch sits 3rd on ACT testing across the state.

Board: Where has Wasatch set in the past?

Superintendent Sweat: The highest that I know of is 9th. The work that has happened in the last several years is amazing, and we are so proud. The ACT score is the only score that students leave with. It opens or closes doors for students. In the last 10 years for Wasatch to have come from 1 point below the states average to sitting in 3rd place is really something to celebrate.

Also want to remind everyone in the room that as we continue to raise rigor we can get push back but as we do that we get jumps in our scores. It is worth it to us. It's about giving every student the shot at a successful post education career. The board support is incredible, and we have such great leadership.

I also want to invite Piper up she is the Principal of WLA. I would like to invite Piper to tell us how Wasatch Learning Academy is doing.

Piper: I have amazing staff in my building and that has been very important as we take on a very heavy endeavor. We have learned so much about Special Education in the process, and we are proud to be one of the only online schools that meet the FAPE standards. We are now nearing 130 students in our live Connect learning program. We are doing great things and it's been fun to customize learning for families that brick and mortar schools can't for some kids.

Discussion, Information: 1. Information/Updates

I. Adjournment: 7:42PM

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

J. Executive Session