

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

October 15, 2013

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 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, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, and Lavenita Vaitai, Student Member (arriving at 6:45 p.m.).

Members Excused: Laurel H. Young.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Craig Ruesch, Interim Executive Director Human Resources; Ann Cook, Supervisor, Early Childhood; Jo Ellen Shaeffer, Director of Performance & Accountability; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Joan Andrews, board legal counsel from Fabian & Clendenin; Mike Harman, representing the Salt Lake Teachers Association, Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Allison Sisam, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Study Session of October 15, 2013, two motions were made. 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 5:40 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

^N(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, property, and personnel items. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 5 to 1 with Mr. Clára voting "No".

** (Nelson and Sandberg)

Prior to the motion, President Swett said she had received a letter via electronic mail from Board Member Clára regarding the Closed Session. Mr. Clára told the board the letter was sent to board leadership informing them he would be voting against going into Closed Session for the purpose of evaluating the Superintendent and his reasons why. A copy of Mr. Clára's letter has been added to the official minutes.

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W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		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

Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, and Patrick Garcia.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 6:30 p.m.

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience.
- Audrey Powell led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Limited Consent Agenda
 - a. The Purchasing Report dated October 15, 2013, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, and increases to existing purchase orders.
 - b. West Capitol Hill RDA Project Amendment Resolution.

Prior to the motion, President Swett told board members she had received a letter via electronic mail from Mr. Clára requesting the West Capitol Hill RDA Project Amendment Resolution be moved from the Limited Consent Agenda and placed on the Action Agenda. President Swett noted the meeting was a Study Session so there was not an Action Agenda, it would need to be moved to the November 5 Board Business Meeting. She said since the RDA Taxing Entity Committee meeting is scheduled for October 29, there are a couple of options. The board could go ahead and debate the matter on the Limited Consent Agenda or schedule a Special Meeting to consider that one item.

Mr. Clára said he did not realize the item could not be moved to the Action Agenda at tonight's Study Session. He said he submitted a letter outlining his concerns, thinks the majority of the board would still vote to approve the West Capitol Hill RDA Project Amendment Resolution, recommended the board go ahead and vote on the item, and requested that his letter be included as part of the record for why he voted no. A copy of Mr. Clára's letter has been added to the official minutes.

^N(1) A motion was made that the board approve the Limited Consent Agenda, consisting of the Purchasing Report dated October 15, 2013, and the West Capitol Hill Redevelopment Agency Project Amendment Resolution. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 5 to 1 with Mr. Clára voting "No".

** (Sandberg and Nelson)

A. STUDY TOPICS

1. Student Achievement Plan – Early Childhood. Ann Cook recognized Audrey Powell, Early Childhood Coordinator, Robyn Giovacchini, Teacher Specialist, and JoEllen Shaeffer, who would be helping with the report. She thanked the board for the opportunity to come provide them with an update and introduced others in the audience who were present to show their support for the Early Childhood programs.

Ms. Cook began with a brief update of their activities. She said the past year was spent refining the implementation of the Teaching Strategies Curriculum and Assessment. She said she feels the strength of the program has increased due to the professional development, and also due to the instructors' knowledge of the curriculum and their skills for observing and assessing students. She said they will continue to build on these skills each year. She told the board staff members participated in rigorous training this summer for the new Parents as Teachers (PAT) foundational model. She said seven teachers were recertified and nine additional teachers were certified. She said this extensive training allowed the district to retain its affiliation status with the PAT National Organization. She expressed her appreciation to the board and superintendency for their support and the funding that made the training possible. She also expressed appreciation for Early Childhood's new location at the Glendale-Mountain View Community Learning Center and said their new staff members and office have been a great help. She said it has been good for them to be located in the community, to have the opportunity to see students every day, and it has been well worth the move.

Robyn Giovacchini spoke briefly to the board about the curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment and said they dovetail perfectly with the Utah Early Childhood core. She said the program focuses on teaching and assessing the whole child and the six areas of development and learning: social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics. She told the board development and learning is uneven, overlapping, and interrelated. Instructors are continually assessing where students are, taking notes while observing their students, changing lesson plans based on what they see, and fostering growth. She provided the board with data on how the 427 students who had been in the program for the entire 2012-13 year had progressed. She also highlighted reports that demonstrate how the district's students did compared to the widely-held expectations range, noting that in all six developmental areas they were within a couple of percentage points of the top of the range.

Audrey Powell talked to the board about community relationships. She said a survey of parents was taken at the beginning of the year asking what parenting topics they would like to participate in or know more about. Some of the responses include health, nutrition, reading, writing, and discipline. Additional classes they would like to see offered for children were dance, exercise programs, teaching manners and being kind, math, social communication, and personal security. She said a wide range of families

also put their names down saying they were willing and wanted to volunteer at the Community Learning Center. She reported on the Community Learning Family Connection event "Read for the Record." She said there were 126 people who participated. Robyn Giovacchini and Patrick Garcia were there and read to students, and tips were given to families on how to promote literacy in the home and making reading exciting. She said all of the activities related to literacy, and every child was given a book to take home. She said they had received positive feedback on the event. Those who attended felt more confident and connected and would recommend future events to their friends.

Ms. Powell said the PAT and Early Childhood programs strive to empower parents and instill in them the knowledge that they are their child's first and most influential teacher. She said the Community Learning Center has provided them with the opportunity to establish relationships and the power to grow. She also updated board members on the 3 year old Parent/Child classrooms at Rose Park and Mountain View. She said each site has the capacity to serve 12 for a total of 24 families, and currently there are 61 families on a waiting list for the program. She said parents want programs for younger children. She noted the year-end report to PAT includes 124 families served with at least one home visit, and 493 families served at the Family Connection events.

Ms. Powell introduced Angelina Lotulelei. Ms. Lotulelei told the board of her experiences as a PAT recipient. She said she appreciated the things she had learned from the program, including that she as a parent was the first and most influential teacher for her children. She said the program made her feel empowered as a parent and helped her to understand the development stages her children went through. She said it was good to have people there who supported her through her struggles and she in turn has been able to share the things she learned with others. She said she attributes the PAT program for giving her the help and knowledge she needed to make sure her children were prepared to go to school. She said her children enjoy school, have had success both socially and emotionally, and their family has grown because of the program. She thanked the district for providing the PAT program.

Jo Ellen Shaeffer went through data included in the presentation that showed how the students who attended the Pre-K program perform over time as compared to their peers who did not attend the district's Pre-K program. She said the positive outcome results over time hold, especially for those kids with at risk factors.

In conclusion, Ms. Cook told the board they feel they are on a good path. She said their goals for the future include providing new programs for Pre-K and PAT based upon community needs and wishes, continuing to build relationships in the community, and expanding programs as funds allow. A copy of the report and the presentation have been added to the official minutes. On behalf of the board, President Swett thanked them for the report and for everything they are doing.

2. Determining State and Federal Dropout/Graduation Rates. JoEllen Shaeffer provided the board with what will be the first of several reports focused on graduation. She told board members the presentation she will be talking about tonight was distributed by the state in 2011 when the new federal formula went into effect for the graduating class of 2011. She said prior to that you couldn't really compare dropout rates because districts

and states all had different formulas for determining dropouts. She said 2 classes have now gone through the system and information for the class of 2013 will be available in December. She noted graduation information lags a year behind and said students have until September 30 to have a final status code entered to their Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) to be counted with their class. She told the board the SSID enables students to be tracked throughout the entire state. She briefly highlighted some of the high school final status codes; exit codes for early graduates, transfers, and others; and the business rules for who is counted as a graduate and who is not.

Ms. Shaeffer distributed the following handouts and briefly went through each with the board. A copy of these handouts has been added to the official minutes:

- Utah State Office of Education – Graduation Code Changes that compares how some of the codes were previously counted and how they are counted now relative to graduate, dropout, and excluded.
- Utah 4 Year Graduation Rates for Salt Lake City School District
- 2012 Salt Lake City School District Graduation Cohort that provides graduation data comparing students who attended high school all four years in the district with those that did not.

Board members briefly discussed the next steps and timeline for additional discussion on dropout/graduation rates. It was agreed that Ms. Shaeffer will report back to the board in January after analyzing the data for the class of 2013, which should be received in December. The board will talk about next steps following the report. President Swett expressed the board's continued appreciation to Ms. Shaeffer for all her efforts.

3. USBA Master Board Training (B Policies and Board Handbook). President Swett discussed the USBA Master Board Training, noting that December 1 is the deadline for turning in paperwork. She walked board members through the process of logging into the USBA website. She distributed a handout outlining the requirements for Level 1 and Level 2 mastery and briefly went through them, noting those the board had done together as a group. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes. She noted the board will continue to work on the training throughout the year during the Study Session.

Vice President Bennett addressed the B Policies. She said the Board Policy Subcommittee reviewed the policies and suggested a discussion of the policies by the entire board. She distributed a "draft" of the policies, a copy of which has been added to the official minutes. She said changes recommended by the subcommittee are highlighted in red. The subcommittee is recommending those items highlighted in blue be moved from the Administrative Procedures into the policy, and a discussion on possibly eliminating the Administrative Procedures for Policy B2. She said the three sections highlighted in green on Policy B1 have not been discussed by the subcommittee, they have been discussed by board leadership and the Superintendent and will be addressed by the subcommittee at their next meeting. She said she wanted all board members to have a copy of the draft and asked them to send any comments they might have to her, Ms. Sandberg, Ms. Young, or Superintendent Withers.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Mayor's Family Forum. Superintendent Withers reported the Mayor's Family Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23. He said at 5:30 p.m. there would be a ceremonial signing of the collaborative partnership between the City, school district, Salt Lake City Council, University of Utah, and Salt Lake Community College.

Collaborative Priorities. Superintendent Withers told the board they are putting together a spreadsheet that will include the priorities of the Education Taskforce, Education Interim Committee, Prosperity 2020, Education First, Governor's Excellence Commission, and USBA/USAA Joint Legislative Taskforce. He said the spreadsheet will be used to come up with some common priorities and to track the priorities of each.

Academic Progress – Test Results. Superintendent Withers noted the miscommunication at the last board meeting and said if the board would like he can schedule Ms. Shaeffer to come and present the results that were provided to them in the printed report at the October 1 Board Business Meeting. He also noted additional information has been sent to them on AP Tests by School and the College Board Overview.

2. Other Reports. Superintendent Withers distributed a copy of an email from Tami Pyfer regarding Utah's Graduation Rates. A copy has been added to the official minutes. Superintendent Withers told the board he would be sending them a report from the Utah State Office of Education entitled "Dropout Prevention in Utah" in their upcoming Friday mailing. He also reported the Education Task Force has asked Mindi Holmdahl to come talk to them about alternative schools.

Superintendent Withers told the board after further study, they are recommending the district move forward with the Smart School Technology Grant at Newman Elementary School, and that enough funds be invested to include both the Apple and PC platforms, and also the Pre-K program at Newman.

President Swett noted the invitations board members had received to attend the UEA conference this weekend. When asked which parts of the conference he would suggest, Mike Harmon recommended they attend the Opening Session at 9:00 Thursday morning if their schedules would allow.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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