



**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah
May 24, 2022
5:15 p.m.**

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

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Member Hutchinson.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 5:18 p.m. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Litigation

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 5:42 p.m. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND PROJECT ITEM CHANGE

The Washington County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comment on a proposed change to the approved 2019-2023 Bond Projects that would change the funding for the Snow Canyon Lava removal project to the Snow Canyon High School Library remodel.

Brent Bills explained that there was a project planned to remove some lava by the parking. There is really no where to put it. It was determined that it would be better used in the library remodel

No public comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEM

Approval of proposed change to the approved 2019-2023 Bond Projects that would change the funding for the Snow Canyon Lava removal project to the Snow Canyon High School Library remodel.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the change of funding for the Snow Canyon lava removal project to the Snow Canyon High School library remodel. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Policy 4211 Media Center Libraries – Jeremy Cox

Jeremy Cox reviewed the changes to Policy 4211. He said there were additional changes made earlier in the morning. The changes made were made based on the legislative code. The law is very specific in what prohibited material means. Under 4.1.7, prohibited material shall be removed when it meets the criteria of the law. There are a few other minor changes to meet the definition in law. He also noted that 5.8.3.2 was changed to “may” include expert reviews and not “shall.” Becky Dunn suggested under section 3.12, which was changed from PTA to Community Council for the selection of parents, it should also include legal guardian. She also suggested under section 4.2 materials as determined by the District committee prohibited or sensitive material be removed from the District. There is nothing that allows prohibited material removed to be challenged. After Board discussion of librarians serving on the committee, Jeremy Cox suggested, if possible, the school librarian where the book is challenged will be used. If not possible, a substitute librarian will be selected by the chair.

Kristin N Isham asked why a policy is needed when there is already a law in place. She generally likes the policy. She feels some material is inexcusable and needs to be removed.

Julie Behling appreciated the Board listening to feedback. She encouraged the Board to delve in and learn more about what is in the schools. She feels there is a lot more under the system that is coming out including SEL.

Nichole Isom thanked the Board for the good changes. She feels they will work. She has spoken with many and wanted to share some of the things she has learned with open conversations. She said 95% of those she talked with had no idea what was happening. Many are unaware that this material is in the libraries. She suggested that the District wouldn’t want principals and teachers to be distributors. They are unaware of the lingo in the curriculum. She suggested that they get help to understand and some of the things that are coming. She feels teachers and principals to know about this things.

Larry Mulcolk is concerned that the committee chair has a lot of power. He suggested that librarians be invited to participate as watchers. He is also concerned under 5.11, that decisions are final with no appeal. He suggested that the Board needs to take responsibility for that and have accountability.

Derek Larson thanked those involved in writing the policy and the parents and community members who have given feedback. He said we all care about the students and want what is best for them.

Jake Peart – Did not address the Board.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Policy 4211 Media Center Libraries – Jeremy Cox

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve Policy 4211 Media Center Libraries with the changes as discussed. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Pine View High School LAND Trust Plan Change – Brent Bills

Pine View High TSSA Plan Change – Brent Bills

Brent Bills mentioned the change being for a permanent employee changed to provisional.

Board Member Hesson presented a motion to approve the Pine View High School LAND Trust Plan Change and the Pine View High TSSA Plan Change. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board Member Dunn presented a motion to go into a closed session at 6:22 p.m. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Present: Board President Kelly Blake, Board Vice President Becky Dunn, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Laura Hesson, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member David Stirland, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive HR Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, 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 Stirland presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 6:42 p.m. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board President Kelly Blake adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT