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PROVO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Joint Meeting with the Provo School District

- Minutes

12:00 PM, Thursday, September 22, 2022
Provo Peak Meeting Room
445 W. Center Street, Provo, UT 84601

Agenda ([0:00:00](#))

Roll Call

The following elected officials and staff members were present:

Council Chair George Handley, conducting
Council Vice-Chair Katrice MacKay
Board President Melanie Hall
Justin Harrison, Council Executive Director
Wayne Parker, CAO
Board Member Nate Bryson
Councilor Travis Hoban
Derek Anderson, Business Administrator
Councilor Shannon Ellsworth
Councilor Bill Fillmore
Board Member Jennifer Partridge

Board Member McKay Jensen
Board Vice-President Rebecca Nielsen
Board Member Gina Hales
Board Member Teri McCabe
Councilor Rachel Whipple
Councilor David Shipley
Elizabeth VanDerwerken, Council Exec. Asst
Superintendent Keith Rittel, arrived 12:13 PM
Robert Hunter, Engineer
David Day, Engineering Dev. Coordinator

Prayer

Rebecca Nielsen offered the prayer.

Business

1. An update on Timpview High School (including sports programs and long-term parking plans) ([0:11:41](#))

Derek Anderson, Business Administrator, presented. Timpview High School reconstruction has experienced some delays due to concrete shortages, however they still expect to finish on time. He provided additional details on the construction and the impacts to the school, including to school sports. The football season has been concluded early due to some of the constraints of the construction project. Councilor Katrice MacKay asked about the impacts to school revenue due to the home games. With the Timpview games taking place at Provo High School, that revenue will still go to Timpview High sports programming. Ms. MacKay also asked about parking. Mr. Anderson indicated that once they demolish the old academic wing, that will impact parking the most. They anticipate about 2 years for completion of the project. **Presentation only.**

2. An update on Safe Routes to School (including the new Wasatch Elementary School

site) ([0:17:11](#))

Rob Hunter, Engineer, answered questions from the Council and Board members about Safe Routes to School. For Wasatch Elementary, they are planning to connect the sidewalk where it ends at 1450 East—right now they are working through some design considerations due to the steep grade, but they are going to be connecting the sidewalk all the way to the corner of Oakmont Lane, where they will do an 8-foot wide sidewalk. They are working with the School District engineers on this as well. They are also hoping to tie in a pedestrian and bicycle access point onto the site. There are several intersections in the neighborhood that they are considering for high visibility crossings and other improvements where needed.

Councilor George Handley asked if it is more expensive to do a stair sidewalk on Oakmont. Rob Hunter indicated it would be a regular sidewalk, as stair steps would push children on bicycles into the street. It's a steep slope of about 15-20% grade. Councilor Shannon Ellsworth asked if 820 North feeds into that school; Mr. Hunter indicated that it does. There are sidewalks going in along the north side of 820 North; the south side of the school is open right now, but a developer is making plans for the adjacent area which would include some improvements to the sidewalks and street. Ms. Ellsworth asked about the crossing at 900 East and 820 North. Mr. Hunter said the traffic study illustrated the need for a signalized crossing there—30% of kids at Wasatch are from outside the boundaries of the school, so they will be addressing that crossing.

Board Member McKay Jensen asked what was the best process for them to check in—they hear from constituents but they don't always know if the concerns are getting addressed. Mr. Hunter explained the Safe Routes program is run through the school district and that they coordinate with Alex Judd. Proposals should go through the school's community council as designated by state code. The traffic safety committee includes Alex Judd, Rob Hunter, representatives from the Police Department, and Dixon Holmes from Mayor's Office, who then discuss the proposals received from the community council at each of the schools.

Board member Rebecca Nielsen asked what qualifies for what types of school crossings and zones. Mr. Hunter indicated they would definitely need a crossing guard at 900 East, however most of those neighborhood streets will not have high enough volumes or speeds that they'll need crossing guards. They will continue to do studies throughout this year. Mr. Jensen indicated they hear many concerns about 1100 East and 1200 East as well. Mr. Hunter indicated the new development would likely add bulb-outs at appropriate intersections. Public Works discouraged the use of the informal trails as an official route, as they are often out of sight and not necessarily the safest for kids. **Presentation only.**

3. An overview on the pay schedule for Provo teachers ([0:34:25](#))

Derek Anderson, Business Administrator, presented. Board Member McKay Jensen shared some thoughts on teacher pay and some of the constraints and disparities between the Provo School District and other districts. Other districts are allocated more funding for growth, but Provo is not considered a growth district. There's also a demographic issue in that Provo hires young teachers. Superintendent Keith Rittel said Provo has the most generous leave provision in their teachers' contracts of any district, as well as very rich professional development opportunities.

They receive a 96% approval rating from teachers on their professional development. Take-home pay is obviously an issue but there are other things Provo does that add to the total benefits.

Councilor Rachel Whipple asked about how Provo's increase of 30% to teacher pay compares to other districts. Mr. Anderson displayed a slide showing employee earnings compared to other districts. He clarified some of the major differences between the Provo and Alpine School Districts and how they function compared to their teacher pay. The Alpine District uses a productivity model that requires other things from their teachers outside of work hours, for higher pay. Mr. Jensen said about one third of departures are about salary; two thirds are related to life circumstances or other factors. They only lose about 4% teachers per year. Councilor Travis Hoban asked how the Council could help and Mr. Jensen said communication and coordination about holding truth in taxation was appreciated. **Presentation only.**

4. An update from the Provo School District on their upcoming superintendent search (0:35:05)

Board Vice-President Rebecca Nielsen reviewed their process for finding a new superintendent. Keith Rittel will be retiring this coming July. They hope to finalize their choice in February or March. The process will include a lot of stakeholder input and involvement from community members. **Presentation only.**

5. A discussion on how the Provo School District and Provo City Council and neighborhood program can collaborate to build community (including a brief overview of the new neighborhood program) (0:56:47)

Council Chair George Handley indicated that in the remaining time, the Council could share a brief overview of the updates to the neighborhood program. The changes will be implemented in January and they are in the process of hiring a replacement for Council Office staff member who will be working with the neighborhood program. Councilor Katrice MacKay gave a brief overview of the changes. Instead of a neighborhood voting on their chair, the Council will take applications and nominate appointments. Individual neighborhoods (34 total) will still exist, but will meet as a larger group or "neighborhood district" (5 total). Communication was a huge issue of the old program; this will be improved by using more of the City's resources to reach more residents. Meetings will be held live with virtual options for participation and the district councils will be comprised of 7-11 individuals. The new program will still have matching grants, as well as facilitate feedback on zoning and development proposals, but will be less of a burden on staff and will allow more regular interactions with the public.

Councilor Shannon Ellsworth commented that there was a lot of ambiguity with the neighborhood program in the past. Sometimes community members would reach out directly to the neighborhood chairs and bypass the Council. The new program will be more directed through the Council and Council staff so there is better communication happening at all levels as well as better management of expectations. Mr. Handley explained the intent was to improve the overall experience and make it more uniform. He thanked the group for gathering and he hoped they could continue the conversation about community-building at a future time. Mr. Handley

expressed appreciation for the board members and the time and commitment they dedicate to public service.

Adjournment

Adjourned by unanimous consent.