

## MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION – NOVEMBER 29, 2022

The Board of Education of the Alpine School District met in a study session on Tuesday, November 25, 2022 at 4:00 PM. The study session took place in the board room at the Alpine School District office and was available through live stream.

Board members present: Board President Dr. Mark J. Clement, Vice President Sarah L. Beeson, Stacy M. Bateman, Amber L. Bonner, Sara M. Hacken, Julie E. King, and Ada S. Wilson.

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Shane J. Farnsworth, Business Administrator Robert W. Smith, and members of the administrative staff. There were approximately five others in attendance.

### 1. Enrollment History and Projections

Jason Sundberg, Director of Budgets, reviewed the enrollment report. The October 1, 2022 enrollment was 84,667, which was an increase of 668 students from October 1, 2021. The projections for October 1, 2023 are 85,525 students which will be an increase of 858 students. Some areas of the district are experiencing a decline in enrollment while Lehi, Saratoga Springs, and Eagle Mountain are seeing an increase. There has not been an increase in the birthrate and currently, there are more students graduating than incoming kindergarten students. Business Administrator Rob Smith said this report is the starting point for the budget. Although not perfect, it is a good representation of the enrollment projections for the district. The entire report is available on the district website: <https://alpineschools.org/business/>.

### 2. Boundary Study/Closed Schools

David Stephenson, Executive Director of External Relations and Communications, reported that state statute requires two opportunities be provided for patrons to make public comment about any proposed boundary changes. Regarding the boundaries for the new Eagle Mountain elementary school and the adjustments to the boundaries for Lehi Jr., Viewpoint and Willowcreek middle schools, the public will have a chance to comment tonight in board meeting and again on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM when a public hearing will be held.

Superintendent Farnsworth said the staff's recommendation is not to close any schools to out of area requests for the 2023-24 school year. State statute requires applications for a student to attend a school outside of their area must be turned in by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Accepting out of area students would be left to the discretion of the principal based on current enrollment numbers.

The Superintendent said the staff recommends the board consider a districtwide boundary study to determine if boundary changes could help with the highly populated schools. Initiating a study doesn't mean all boundaries would change, it would just allow a study to begin. This discussion will continue in the board meeting.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM.**

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 29, 2022

The Board of Education of the Alpine School District met in a regularly scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 6:00 PM. The meeting took place in the board room at the Alpine School District office and was available through live stream.

Board members present: Board President Dr. Mark J. Clement, Vice President Sarah L. Beeson, Stacy M. Bateman, Amber L. Bonner, Sara M. Hacken, Julie E. King, and Ada S. Wilson.

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Shane J. Farnsworth, Business Administrator Robert W. Smith, and members of the administrative staff. There were approximately 65 others in attendance.

Board Member Amber Bonner conducted the meeting.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Dr. Analisis Ruiz.

#### INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT OR REFLECTION

An inspirational thought was given by Rachelle Smith and Miquelin Smith.

#### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

The Ridgeline Singers and Orchestra performed a song, conducted by Andrea Morley.

#### ALPINE FOUNDATION YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE RECOGNITIONS

The following individuals from Ridgeline Elementary were recognized for their excellence:

##### Teachers:

- Kylee Leimer
- Kylie Childs

##### Support Professionals:

- Beth Pribil
- Anne Hunsaker

##### Volunteers

- Rachelle Smith
- Miquelin Smith

#### STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

The following Ridgeline Elementary students were recognized for their excellence:

- Rosie Pence
- Maksim Gifford
- Finn LeBaron
- Maeli Hansen
- Amelia Bugnon-Vaccaro
- McKinley Erskine
- Damian Jones

Principal Tim Pead reported that Ridgeline Elementary has 884 students and serves communities in Highland and Suncrest. The school code is Respect, Responsibility, Resilience. Their focus is reading

and student connection. They have a wellness room called “The Raccoon Den” and it is a great resource for students. Principal Pead said the best thing about Ridgeline is the people.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

**Melissa Hadley** has students at Dry Creek and Willowcreek and is also a teacher in the district. She spoke about connection for students in both elementary and middle school. She asked the board to put students first and not to split Dry Creek Elementary between two middle schools. If boundaries need to be changed, please wait until it can be permanent and not risk another change for the students.

**Clive Burrows** is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student Willowcreek. He asked the Board to not split Dry Creek between two middle schools. He was glad he had friends going from Dry Creek to Willowcreek, but he would have to make friends again if the split takes place.

**Maria Burrows** has two children at Dry Creek and two at Willowcreek. Some children adapt to change better than others. She requested that the board not rush into changing the middle school boundaries, but look at adjusting elementary boundaries first.

**Tara MacArthur** said she is not opposed to realigning middle schools, but would like to address the districtwide boundaries first. She doesn't want boundaries to change and then have them switch back again if the elementary boundaries are changed.

**Cole Robinson** is a parent of two boys, one at Eaglecrest and the other at Viewpoint. He works in the mental health industry and spoke about the rise of depression among students and how it has grown over the past two years. He said if current 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are asked to move to Lehi Jr. next year, it is not good for their social and mental well-being.

**Virginia Richins** has a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student who is upset about splitting Dry Creek between two middle schools. The decision will also split his friend group and keeping kids together as much as possible should be the priority. She said COVID affected the emotional well-being of students. She agrees the decision needs to be tabled until a districtwide boundary study is completed.

**Jennifer Metus** said if Viewpoint boundaries are changed, please grandfather in the students who are already there so they do not have to move again. She prefers option A so her kids could continue to attend the school. She also suggested students who are already being bussed to Viewpoint be bussed to Lehi Jr. and keep the students who are close to Viewpoint at the school.

**Charlene Freestone** said she is opposed to splitting elementary schools into two middle schools. They should be able to stay at the school they started at and not change middle schools. If we have elementary schools that need boundary changes, that is the right order first and then address middle schools.

**Amanda Zupa** has three kids that go to Black Ridge Elementary and would like her students to stay there instead of moving to Hidden Hollow. They are located across the highway from Black Ridge, and closer to the school than Hidden Hollow. There are a lot of students in their neighborhood that are already in Chinese Immersion that will stay at Black Ridge.

**Ashleigh Hatch** has four children who have attended Eaglecrest, Lehi Jr., Skyridge, and Viewpoint. She feels the decision should be tabled for a few years. She is concerned about the mental health of the students and agrees that

students need to stay together as they move middle schools. If the decision is made for the boundaries to change, she asked that the Board consider keeping current students at Viewpoint.

**Karalynne Call** represented the Brooks Meadows Estate Neighborhood. His students have gone to Eaglecrest, Lehi Jr., Lehi High, Skyridge, and Viewpoint. She stressed the importance of minimizing the need for students to change schools. She wants Eaglecrest students to stay together and not be split between two middle schools. Eaglecrest is not in a high growth area anymore and that needs to be taken into consideration.

**Heather Irving** has a student at Viewpoint and Eaglecrest and agreed with the suggestion to table the decision on middle school boundaries until a boundary study is done. She suggested moving areas with high growth to Lehi Jr. instead of an area that is not growing anymore.

**Nate Brusik** proposed keeping his neighborhood at Black Ridge instead of moving them to Hidden Hollow. He lives closer to Black Ridge and it would be a 45 minute bus ride to Hidden Hollow.

#### COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Paul Hancock** is on the Lehi City Council and is disheartened about the bond not passing. When he moved to Lehi in 2006 it was so his children could attend ASD schools. He still thinks it is the best district in the state. In Eagle Mountain, 54% voted for the bond, Saratoga Springs 51%, and Lehi 50%. It was shocking to him that there was not more support for the bond especially in the Eagle Mountain community. He said ASD has great leadership and teachers and supports the district and knows they can work through the challenges.

**Milo Melanson** is a senior at Skyridge and is taking a Government and Citizenship class. A part of the class is encouraging students to be involved in their community. Milo sees a need and would like to get a recycling program in the district. He proposed introducing recycling bins in the high schools and a paper recycling bin in every classroom. He suggested a trial year at Skyridge to see the difference it would make and then could be implemented in high schools throughout the district.

Online comments were received and read by the Board of Education.

#### ROUTINE BUSINESS ITEMS

##### 1. Student Trip Requests

**Superintendent Farnsworth recommended the approval of the routine business.** He explained the reason two of the trips didn't list the cost, and that it would be corrected. He also recommended approval of the exception request from American Fork High asking for an additional day for the trip to New York for a media competition. **On motion by Julie King and seconded by Sarah Beeson, the motion passed unanimously.**

#### ACTION ITEM

##### 1. Resolution #2022-028 – Authorizing the Sale of the CTE House in Saratoga Springs

**Superintendent Farnsworth recommended the Board hold on this resolution until the next board meeting because additional paperwork is needed. Mark Clement made the motion to defer action on Resolution #2022-028 until the next board meeting. Julie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

## DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

### 1. Districtwide Boundary Adjustment Study

Superintendent Farnsworth explained that we are looking at ways to address growth and funding in the district. The bond did not pass, but the needs of the district have not changed. Prior to considering a bond in 2024, he requested that the Board give authorization to move forward with a districtwide boundary study. The 120 day notice required by state statute begins once the cities and patrons have been notified. **Julie King made the motion to authorize a districtwide boundary study and Stacy Bateman seconded it.** Board members shared their support of moving forward with a districtwide boundary study. Based on enrollment projections for next year. We will have 9 elementary schools with over 1,000 students and 22 elementary schools with under 600 students. A study could help the Board see where boundary changes could be made to have more equitable school and class sizes. Superintendent Farnsworth clarified that the requested authorization is for a boundary study to look at different options. It does not mean changes will be made. The Board voted on the motion to authorize a districtwide boundary study and it passed unanimously.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 1. Boundary for the New Elementary in Eagle Mountain

David Stephenson reviewed the process for determining the proposed boundaries for the new elementary school in Eagle Mountain and the community input meetings that have taken place. He noted that there is a charter school being built in Eagle Mountain and he is communication with the director regarding enrollment. As that information is determined, it could help in making a decision about the boundary which would be postponed until the January board meeting. The proposed boundary for the new school will affect Black Ridge, Hidden Hollow, and Mountain Trails. Board Member Julie King shared concerns that even with the new school, all of the elementaries in the area will continue to have high enrollment.

### 2. Boundary Adjustment for Lehi Jr., Viewpoint, and Willowcreek

David Stephenson reviewed the options for the boundary adjustments for Lehi Jr., Viewpoint, and Willowcreek middle schools. Jason Sundberg explained how the enrollment numbers are determined. Board Member Stacy Bateman explained that this decision has been in process for a few years and the boundary should have been established when the school opened. She also explained that with option B, the schools would be open to out of area requests. State statute requires applications to attend an out of area school to be submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the next school year.

## BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

**Stacy Bateman** thanked Councilman Hancock for attending, and appreciates the relationship with Lehi City Council.

**Sara Hacken** reported that the Alpine Foundation will be sponsoring a sub for santa program. Anyone who would like to participate can contact Tyler Vigue, ASD Foundation Director.

## ADJOURNMENT

**On motion by Sara Hacken and seconded by Ada Wilson, the board meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.**