



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah
March 7, 2023
4:30 p.m.

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire.

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Member Seegmiller.

WORK SESSION

CT High and Property Tour

The Board toured the CT High building and went to see property for future school sites.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:39 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Present: Board President Becky Dunn, Board Vice President David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member LaRene Cox, Board Member Burke Staheli, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Nannette Simmons, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes.

Personnel

Board Member Cox presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 4:11 p.m. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Richard Holmes briefly reviewed the District Sterling Scholar Award night assignments.

Proposed 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar – Becky Dunn

President Becky Dunn asked the Board to review the proposed calendar dates. She suggested moving the March meeting to March 5, 2024 and removing the second meeting in May of 2024. She also mentioned the Board may want to look at changing the November 2023 and April 2024 dates. The calendar will be approved next month.

Financial Growth Planning – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said the plan was reviewed in the last meeting. It may be best to do all the tax changes at once by moving the debt service funds to capital outlay with the Truth-in-Taxation. More education is needed. The Board member expressed they would like to do both and continue as planned. Flyers will be reviewed at the next meeting. The PTA will be meeting on the 30th and the principals on March 21st. The Board is welcome to attend both of those meetings.

Board PLC Training – Steve Gregoire

The Board PLC Training was postponed.

Board Handbook Training

The Board Handbook Training was postponed.

Legislative Update – Superintendent Larry Bergeson

Superintendent Larry Bergeson gave a brief update on the Legislative Session. The biggest concerns were the teacher pay/voucher bill and the constitutional earmark. Support for the constitutional earmark was conditional. The 2% is onetime and will hold harmless. On good faith, the JLC felt it would put them in a better position to move forward for support in the future. The defeat of HB372 was huge, but it may come back again in the future. The JLC will be watching to see what the legislation does over the next year in 2024. There will be three superintendents positioned in each of the committees and assigned to attend the meetings on the bills. They will be able to have legal counsel and language ready for bills to help public education. LaRene Cox is concerned about the earmark being removed from the constitution. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said it does not guarantee us the funding we need, and the changes will help with funding for education.

Burke Staheli shared some cards that could be given to teachers and staff doing good things in the schools.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Committee Discussions of the Board

The Committee Discussions of the Board were postponed.

USBA Update

The USBA Update was postponed.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

- 1. Enrollment**
- 2. Safe Schools**
- 3. GRAMA Requests**
- 4. Department Reports**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Washington County School District was held after due, legal, and timely notice being given to all members and interested parties. Board President Becky Dunn called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were David Stirland, Craig Seegmiller, LaRene Cox, Burke Staheli, Terry Hutchinson, and Nannette Simmons. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson and Business Administrator Brent Bills.

OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

Reverence offered by Member Stirland
Welcome – Board President Dunn
Pledge of Allegiance by Member Hutchinson

PUBLIC HEARING - SECONDARY BOUNDARY CHANGE

The Washington County School District Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. to receive public comment on a proposed change to the secondary boundary between Crimson Cliffs and Pine View. The hearing will address the proposed secondary school boundary changes for the students who live in the Red Waters and Sunrise Valley Subdivisions east and west of Country Way, and north of the Virgin River. The boundary changes will also include the undeveloped land east of 1000 east and north of the Virgin River to the current Pine View High boundary line. Proposed changes would be effective beginning Fall 2023 and are being proposed to help with the growth at Crimson Cliffs High School.

Maps of the proposed boundary considerations are available on the Washington County School District website www.washk12.org or at the District Office.

Richard Holmes shared the boundary change information. He said he has heard from some parents. He would like to continue to move forward with the boundary change. There may be additional changes needed next year. Current students in secondary schools would be allowed to remain in Crimson Cliffs cone-site but will need to provide their own transportation. Elementary students would need to do a boundary waiver to attend the different cone-site. There are about 18 secondary students currently in the area being considered for the boundary change. Crimson Cliffs High will be pushing about 1500 students this next year. Additional boundary changes will be needed as growth continues.

No public comments were given on the proposed secondary boundary changes.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2023-2024 SCHOOL FEE SCHEDULE

The Washington County School District Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 4:35 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed 2023-2024 School Fee Schedule.

Copies of the proposed 2023-2024 School Fee Schedule and School Spend Plans are available on the Washington County School District website www.washk12.org or at the District Office.

Brent Bills reviewed the changes to the Fee Schedule from the spend plans. Driver's Education was increased to \$175. The District Finance office has been meeting with schools about including the hotel rooms on the spend plans. The plans are out for review. Richard Holmes said the staff at St. George City is new and they are working on the Ibigawa trip. Brent Bills said the fee waiver form and rules are available on the website. The finance secretary at each school can help walk parents through the process. Becky Dunn appreciates having consistency among the schools on the fees being charged.

No public comments were given on the proposed 2023-2024 School Fee Schedule.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes
 - a. February 14, 2023 Meeting of the Board of Education
 - b. February 27, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
2. Financial Report
3. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items
4. UHSAA 150-Mile Reports

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, not including item #3 Personnel and LEA Specific License Items. Board Member Seegmiller seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Nate Esplin thanked Principal Mona Haslem for hard work and service at Horizon Elementary. He said she has had an excellent educational career and will be retiring at the end of the school year. He said the District's recommendation would be to move April Heath from Bloomington Hills Elementary to Horizon Elementary and to select Kristie Wheeler as principal at Bloomington Hills Elementary.

Richard Holmes said for Pine View Middle School, the recommendation would be to hire Brett Gifford as the replacement for Principal Steve Gustaveson, who is retiring.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Personnel Items with the recommendations for April Heath as principal at Horizon Elementary, Kristie Wheeler as principal at Bloomington Hills, and Brett Gifford as principal at Pine View Middle School. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSD SCHOOLS

Coral Canyon Elementary School – Principal Anthony Horrocks

Principal Anthony Horrocks introduced Coco the colt, Coral Canyon's mascot. In 2017 the school had a student competition to name the mascot. Principal Horrocks mentioned he has been at Coral Canyon for three years now. He shared that there are unique things being on corner of Washington and Hurricane. They have a great view. They have students coming from three cities: Leeds, Washington, and Hurricane. They have nine buses transporting students to and from the school. He shared about the caring professional staff at his school. They have a great student leadership that also make a difference. They have been working to get 500,000 reading minutes since Christmas break and are half-way there. They are a recent STEM school and have reached platinum. They have STEM-tastic Fridays that allow students to select activities and learn from community partners. Social Emotional Learning is a big part of the school. They have had 800 visits in the wellness center and students are learning how to handle emotions.

He said that Coral Canyon is a great place to learn.

Water Canyon High School – Principal Steve Showalter

Principal Showalter shared video of school showing the school opening, students, activities, sports, learning, awards, programs, and graduation. Their mission statement is, "Lifelong Learners striving for excellence. He thanked the District for supporting the school. They are well on the way for their students to have the same opportunities as other schools. Attendance is up and students are proud to be Wildcats. The Learning Coaches and teachers are amazing. Students are performing above state average, ACT scores up, and they are seeing growth in every area. They are focusing on the things that help kids learn.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No public comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Proposed Secondary Boundary – Richard Holmes

Craig Seegmiller said he hates disrupting families, especially at the secondary level.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve the secondary boundary changes as proposed. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Sale of Apple Valley Property – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said the offer for the 61.6 acres in Apple Valley was \$851,000. The recommendation was for the Board to accept the offer.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Sale of the Apple Valley Property. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

JUUL Settlement – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said we received settlement offer with JUUL. There is still a pending suit with Phillip Morris. The recommendation is to accept the offer of \$400 million. The District would receive part of that settlement.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to accept the JUUL Settlement. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 2910 Leaving School Before Final Scheduled Day – Secondary Students – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said the policy is an old policy that is outdated. The recommendation would be to just delete the policy.

INFORMATION ITEMS

No information items were presented.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned the legislative session was challenging this year. One concern is to make sure we receive adequate funding. There was concern with HB 215 that did not include funding or classified. Classified personnel are essential to run the district. He expressed appreciation for our local legislators. There are 41 districts that constitute the gatekeepers to work with legislators on public education. We have made conditional agreements and will be watching to make sure legislators take care of public education. Public education teaches students to go out and serve and be responsible citizens. He is confident moving forward that there are good people in place to make sure a quality education is provided in Utah. We have good teachers, parents, and students.

Board

Terry Hutchinson said a lot of time was spent to determine some really important decisions for personnel. Many don't realize how much time it takes. He is grateful for the opportunity to work with Board members, who have the best interest of students and the community in mind. Burke Staheli shared a little about the process for principal selections and said the future looks bright.

Association

Amy Barton mentioned frustrations with nine buses coming to Coral Canyon. She said it is horrific, but she appreciates the positive attitude of the principal. Students stay in their classroom until their bus arrives. The last bus arrives at 3:50 p.m. Amy Barton also addressed legislation. She said Senator Vicker's bill for a teacher increase is a positive. She also appreciated HB 308 removing the letter grade and feels that full-day Kindergarten is a positive. Passing the voucher bill was less positive. She said public money should stay with public entities. She said here were some egregious bills that make teachers feel micromanaged and untrusted. She said we need to make sure we have the constitutional guarantee. The UEA is not on board yet with the bill. Feedback from teachers includes the love for teacher prep days after holiday breaks. That time is so critical to teachers.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

No reports were given.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

Erika Hodges addressed the Board about HB 348. She encouraged the board to prepare for things to come. She reviewed a bill on religious beliefs. She appreciates the work to recognize student religious beliefs and state of conscious.

Jaele Lammert addressed the Board about some concerns with the Second Step program. She feels parent concerns are being pushed under the rug. Parents are not being heard and the program is being

included anyway. She said the school has the Leader in Me program and she feels that the Second Step program is not needed. She also shared concerns about a bullying issue in the school that is not being addressed. The bully is still being allowed at the school. She is concerned about the safety issues.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to adjourn at 5:31 p.m. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Board President Becky Dunn adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT