



**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Washington County School District**  
**121 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah**  
**May 9, 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, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, Communications Director Steven Dunham, and Executive HR Director Darin Thomas.*

*Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer*

**WORK SESSION**

**Dixie High and Millcreek High Tour**

The Board went to see the Dixie High Vocational Building and toured Millcreek to see the school and programs there.

**Reverence offered by Superintendent Larry Bergeson.**

**Board Member Simmons presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:40 p.m. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**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, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Nate Esplin, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Steve Gregoire, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Technology Director Jeremy Cox, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Executive HR Director Darin Thomas, and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer*

Property, legal and Personnel

*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*

Personnel

**Board Member Stirland presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 4:13 p.m. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

## **WORK SESSION**

### **Board Handbook Training – Becky Dunn**

Becky Dunn complemented the Board on communications and their ability to agree to disagree on some items but still talk and communicate. She appreciates their courtesy and respect.

### **Board PLC Training – Steve Gregoire**

The Board PLC Training was postponed.

### **Capital Growth Plan Update – Steven Dunham**

Steven Dunham reported that meetings have been held in every cone site. Now he is working to get in front of employees to present the information. He will be presenting to the Springdale and Rockville towns tomorrow. Becky Dunn suggested putting a Q/A spot on the website to answer some of the commonly asked questions. Terry Hutchinson will work to schedule something for the Sun River Community. Steven Dunham is working on a third flyer that will explain and break out the different levies. He will meet with the county assessor to make sure how information will be shown on the notice. Becky Dunn would like an email for visits to cities during the summer.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD**

### **Board Committee Discussions**

Craig Seegmiller asked about getting an audit committee meeting scheduled.

Becky Dunn mentioned starting a legislative committee with David Stirland, LaRene Cox, and Terry Hutchinson.

Richard Holmes said Dixie Technical College needs a new board member to serve. Nannette Simmons will serve with Dixie Technical College and Terry Hutchinson will serve on Healthy Dixie.

## **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, Nannette Simmons, and Terry Hutchinson. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson and Business Administrator Brent Bills.*

## **OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.**

### **Reverence by Member Hutchinson**

### **Welcome – Board President Dunn**

### **Pledge of Allegiance by Member Staheli**

### **Foundation Kite Festival Presentation**

Steven Dunham said the Kite Festival is one of the largest fundraisers of the year and brings in money for literacy. Rick Schofield said this year was another great year with 20-30,000 people attending. He said it could not be done without the Dixie Power team. He expressed gratitude for the committee and all they do to put the event together. This year Nets on Fire was a presenting sponsor. He thanked all the sponsors for supporting the event. He presented a check in the amount of \$70,000 for literacy in Washington County School District. Steven Dunham said that Dixie Power has been such a great support. This was the 24<sup>th</sup> year. The Kite Festival is an event for the whole community.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes

- a. April 10, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
  - b. April 11, 2023 Meeting of the Board of Education
  - b. April 24, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
2. Financial Report
  3. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve the Personnel items with the recommendation to select Warrin Richins as principal of Enterprise Elementary. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

## **WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSD SCHOOLS**

### **Bloomington Elementary School – Principal Susan Moore**

Principal Susan Moore shared some of the data from testing. The goal this year was to have 80% of students proficient. They reached 82% proficiency with 78% of the students showing growth. Math proficiency was 85%. Rise proficiency went from 34 to 41%. ELL showed 87% student improvement with 80% overall. Eight students passed the WIDA. She shared a video of things happening at the school including peer goals, math tasks, science, computer science, WIN, gathering data, WOW principal time, Choir, drum club, Chinese Dual Immersion, Meet the Master, Relationships, Dedicated staff, and the building of extraordinary students at Bloomington Elementary School.

### **Dixie Middle School – Principal Paul Hurt**

Alice Ericson, assistant principal, said there are many good and notable things happening at Dixie Middle School. An Intervention Team was created to research and implement SEL and emotional learning and academic targeted interventions. Dixie Middle School Tier 1 mentoring ensures that every student has two trusted adults working with them. Targeted Learning time (TILT) was created. Teams use Friday time to identify students who need extra time and support to master skills. After targeted learning time they look at attendance progress and growth. They are seeing progress.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

No public comments were given.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

### **2023-2024 School Improvement Plans (TSSA and School LAND Trust) – Brent Bills**

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the 2023-2024 School Improvement Plans (TSSA and School LAND Trust. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Post High School LAND Trust Community Council Exemption – Brent Bills**

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Post High School LAND Trust Community Council Exemption. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **Millcreek High School LAND Trust Community Council Exemption – Brent Bills**

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Millcreek High School LAND Trust Community Council Exemption. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **CT High School Tax Credit Allocation – Brent Bills**

Brent Bills explained the tax credits when building new efficient design buildings. We can't take them but can give them to contractors who were involved in the project and allow them to apply for the tax credits. Naylor Wentworth Lund has asked for the approval to use the tax credits from the CT High School.

**Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the CT High School Tax Credit Allocation to Naylor Wentworth Lund. Board Member Simmons seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **Policy 2810 School Community Councils – Brent Bills**

Brent Bills explained that our policy is not up to date with numerous changes in state code. The policy is a cut and paste from state board rule in the composition. The biggest change in wording is from more parents to two more parents. Becky Dunn suggested changing the wording to include "at least" to the committee size. The chair must be a parent. Terry Hutchinson said it is great to see parents serve and have a direct say in how the funds are used.

**Board Member Stirland presented a motion to approve Policy 2810 School Community Councils with the addition of "at least" for sections 4.1 and 4.2. Board Member Staheli seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **Policy 9100 Adult Education and High School Completion– Cheri Stevenson**

Craig Hammer reported on the onsite review. The policy states "graduate," but the code was changed to "other completer." The policy must be changed to "other completer."

##### **Policy 4212 Learning Materials – Jeremy Cox**

##### **Policy 4215 Textbook and Instructional Materials – Jeremy Cox**

##### **Policy 4220 Review of Instructional Media – Jeremy Cox**

Jeremy Cox said Policy 4212 replaces Policy 4215 and Policy 4220. The language comes from HB 374. With a captive audience it requires censorship. Terry Hutchinson said we are not using censorship but are controlling the curriculum. Jeremy Cox said we have had the proposed policy out for employees to review and it has had legal review. Teachers are concerned about the workload in reviewing all content used in the classroom. Terry Hutchinson said he has been receiving questions about the curriculum since starting the media policy a year ago. Jeremy Cox said the library policy does not apply to the classroom but the sensitive materials in schools does. This will help instruct teachers on how to apply the law. David Stirland is concerned for the time it will take teachers. He asked how we will help them. Jeremy Cox said a couple things have been added to the policy to help simplify the process for teachers. We need to align the materials with the standards being taught. Supplemental materials can create a challenge to make sure it aligns with curriculum. The library can provide self-selection. Terry Hutchinson said as time passes it will be less burdensome on the teachers. Jeremy Cox said with the new Learning Materials Policy, the other two policies would be deleted.

##### **Policy 4210 Instructional Media – Jeremy Cox**

Jeremy Cox said Policy 4210 was designed for the print shop. The language is outdated and does not need to be in policy. The recommendation is to delete the policy.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

No information items were presented.

#### **REPORTS**

##### **Superintendent**

Superintendent Larry Bergeson thanked the lacrosse students for coming to the meeting.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned the JROTC VEX Robotics Worlds Championships. Dixie High cadets participated for the first time and earned a spot in the semi-finals. They earned the AFJROTC #1 team finish in the spirit division. Washington County School District has two units and is looking to add a third unit in the Hurricane area.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson mentioned the retiree recognition. There are 1077 combined years of service from educators retiring which makes ¼ million days they have served in this community.

### **Board**

No reports were given.

### **Association**

Amy Barton, WCEA, reported on the end of the school year with all of the exciting celebrations before moving on to the next grade level. It is an important time looking forward as to what comes next. Reece Jacobsen will be the next WCEA President. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Board.

### **PTA/PTO/Community Council**

No reports were given.

### **RECOGNITION OF RETIREES**

#### **The Board recognized those retiring from Washington County School District.**

Becky Dunn thanked the retirees for all the years of service and for the service given to students in Washington County. It is hard work. She also thanked spouses and families for their support.

### **PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each**

**Porter Alleman**, Dixie High, addressed the board on sanctioning lacrosse. He feels sanctioning is a step in the right direction. He asked the board to join.

**Xander Weaver** said he has participated in several activities and leadership. Lacrosse has made the biggest difference for him. He asked the Board to sanction lacrosse.

**Lele Karmeli** said she was the first female player to join in the area. She talked about all the good things that have come with playing the sport. She feels that the players have the opportunity to expand. She asked the board to sanction and make lacrosse more than just a club sport.

**Bronson Plumb**, Crimson Cliffs High, said he is a three-sport athlete. Lacrosse gives him a chance to play at the next level. The players are connected by the sport they love. He asked the Board to sanction the sport.

**Damian Lewis**, Desert Hills High School, said there is competition with lacrosse. Players can't grow without competition. They need the next level to be able to compete. He asked the board to sanction the sport.

**Maddix McArthur**, Snow Canyon High School, said lacrosse has impacted his life and built connections. Benefits allow varsity letters and scholarships if sanctioned. It will allow them to play in state championships. There is excitement for the direction lacrosse is headed and he invited the Board to support and join the team.

**Aidan Johnson**, Desert Hills High School, said Lacrosse has grown over the years. There are several teams at each grade level running and catching the ball to score at the end of the field. He would like to help grow the sport in any way he can. Sanctioning the sport will bring more attention to lacrosse and bring support to the players and coaches.

**Theron Stevens** shared what Lacrosse means to him and why it is important to him for the sport to be sanctioned. It has taught him accountability, responsibility, and discipline. He has worked to help bring others to lacrosse. He wants other kids to experience what he has. He encouraged sanctioning sport.

**Brighton Law**, Pine View High School, requested support for lacrosse and starting a program at Pine View High. It has taught many life skills that help in academics. The board can change lives by sanctioning the sport. It would provide legitimacy and structure by starting a program at Pine View. It would allow students to letter. He encouraged the Board to sanction lacrosse here in Washington County.

**Taylor Sanger** said he is an advocate for sanctioning of lacrosse in Washington County. He shared how it has been a valuable experience for him. Additionally, lacrosse would give more students the opportunity to play, and he would love to play at the state level. He encouraged the sanctioning of lacrosse.

**Zachary Moore** said family runs deep in the community. He addressed the rising popularity of the lacrosse sport and asked for support to sanction. He feels it has helped attitude, happiness, and grades. He is grateful for coaches and players. Sanctioning would help and improve opportunities.

**Rhanda Todd** – No public comments were given.

**Board Member Stirland presented a motion to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. Board Member Cox seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**