

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Business Meeting
and Closed Executive Session

August 2, 2011

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Business Meeting and Closed Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Kristi Swett, Vice President Heather Bennett, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson (leaving at 8:30 p.m.), Amanda Thorderson, Alama Uluave, and Laurel H. Young.

Members Excused: Maria Chevesich, Student Board Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Dorothy Cosgrove, Associate Superintendent School Support; Patrick Garcia, Executive Director Human Resources; Gary Smith, Executive Director Information Systems; Rick James, Director of Budget Development; Jo Ellen Shaeffer, Director of Performance and Accountability; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Barbara Kuehl, Director Academic Services; Paul Sagers, Principal East High School; Sam Quantz, Data Base Administrator; Susan McFarland, President Salt Lake Teachers Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Mark Stevens, President Building and Grounds Employee Association; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Danette Schrock, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Business Meeting of August 2, 2011, three motions were made, including a motion to adopt a tax rate of .006408, which includes an increase to the Transportation Levy tax rate and an increase for rebates paid to various tax payers and legal judgments. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Swett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:40 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

*(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, personnel, and property items.

** (Young and Uluave)

Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, Heather Bennett, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Amanda Thorderson, Alama Uluave, Laurel H. Young, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, and Dorothy Cosgrove.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
EMERY	X		
NELSON	X		
SWETT	X		
THORDERSON	X		
ULUAVE	X		
YOUNG	X		
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	* Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. and returned to the Board Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2. BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience and recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; and Mark Stevens, President Building and Grounds Employee Association. She also excused student board member Maria Chevesich.
- Zack Kopasz, son of Lorie Kopasz, led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Leigh VandenAkker, 2012 District Teacher of the Year Paul Sagers joined President Swett and Michael Williams at the podium to recognize and present Leigh VandenAkker with a certificate of recognition and check for \$2,000 as the 2012 District Teacher of the Year. Mr. Sagers expressed his appreciation to Ms. VandenAkker for her ability to deal with any situation presented to her, and said she is making a huge impact in the lives of her students, and he is honored to have her teaching at East High School. Ms. VandenAkker expressed her gratitude and said she is honored to be the recipient of this award.

Mr. Williams also presented Tina Dinh, RosePark Elementary; Liz Buirley, Glendale Middle School; and Emily Fama, Mountain View Elementary with a certificate of recognition and a \$500 check for their accomplishments as finalists.

Lori Kopasz, 2012 District Special Education Teacher of the Year. President Swett, Michael Williams, and Susan Horne recognized Lori Kopasz as the 2012 District Special Education Teacher of the Year. They thanked her for her dedication and hard work and presented her with a certificate of recognition and a check for \$1,000.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

*(2) Approval was given to the three items included in the Consent Agenda. These items are listed below.

** (Thorderson and Young)

1. The Purchasing/Accounting Report, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, increases to existing purchase orders, a payment voucher report that includes travel and professional expenditures, and the Budget Report for June 2011.
2. The Human Resources Department Report, included new contract employment for one employee, non-contract to contract employment for four, and releases for three.
3. Minutes of the Board Annual Planning Session held July 5, 2011.

B. TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING:

At 7:00 p.m. President Swett opened the Truth in Taxation Hearing. She thanked those in the audience present for the Hearing.

Janet Roberts provided board members with a PowerPoint presentation and distributed to board members a handout showing examples of "2011 Property Notices" and "2011-12 Budget Cut Options." A copy of each has been added to the official minutes. She said due to decreased revenue from the Legislature and the use of one time funds in the prior year, the district needs to decrease the overall budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year by \$5.8 million. In addition to budget cuts, budget efficiencies, and one time funds to make up the deficit, the board made the decision to increase its taxes by \$1.7 million. She noted the assessed value in the city increased by \$261 million which is a 1.7% increase from last year. In closing, Ms. Roberts said in order to balance the budget, the board must take action tonight to approve a tax rate of .006408 which includes an increase to

the Transportation Levy rate and an increase for rebates paid to taxpayers and legal judgments.

At 7:15 p.m. President Swett invited anyone in the audience who would like to speak to the board on the proposed tax increase to come forward.

1. Public Comment on Proposed Tax Rate

Terri Harrison addressed the board. She said she no longer has children in the district and feels she has given her fair share. She said the parents of students attending school should be asked to pay extra to help raise the \$1.7 million.

Jim Godnick addressed the board. He told board members his tax increase was 25% and it is very difficult for him as a disabled individual living on a fixed income. Ms. Roberts suggested he contact the County Assessor and ask about the increase in his assessed valuation.

Georgina Valls addressed the board. She said parents need to make more of an effort to help raise this money and asked board members to not approve a tax increase.

Fred K. addressed the board. He said he owns property in Rose Park and agrees with the comments of people who spoke before him. He asked how the market value is determined. Ms. Roberts told him the County Assessor determines the assessed valuation for a property and questions on the value should be directed to their office.

Anne Jimenez addressed the board. She said she has three kids in the Salt Lake City School District and is upset as landowners they are forced to pay these taxes. She said she is frustrated and not happy about the continued increase in taxes every year. She asked the board not to increase their taxes, she would be happy to pay extra for her kids.

President Swett expressed her appreciation to those who had addressed the board.

At 7:30 p.m. President Swett closed the public comment for the Truth in Taxation Hearing.

C. SPECIAL ACTION ITEM:

1. Proposed Property Tax Rate:

*(3) I move that the board approve the adoption of a tax rate of .006408 which includes an increase to the Transportation Levy tax rate and an increase for rebates paid to various taxpayers and legal judgments.
(Uluave and Emery)

Prior to voting on the motion, board members thanked everyone in the audience for coming and expressed their appreciation to all who had shared their comments with them.

D. REQUESTS TO SPEAK:

1. There were no Requests to Speak.

E. REPORT(s):

1. AYP and U-PASS. Superintendent Withers distributed to board members a copy of the "Utah State Office of Education Accountability Appeal Process 2011 Timetable." A copy has been added to the official minutes. Ms. Shaeffer provided board members with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting 2011 AYP accountability issues and AYP scores for schools within the district. A copy of the presentation has also been added to the official minutes. She said the district is one of the few urban districts in the country to reduce the percent of schools not making AYP. Ms. Shaeffer briefly talked about the demographic trends and said it is encouraging that assessment performance continues to improve in math and language arts as diversity increases.

PowerSchool. Gary Smith and Sam Quantz provided board members with a presentation on PowerSchool, including examples of how to enter attendance, and distributed a quick reference guide. A copy of the reference guide has been added to the official minutes. Mr. Quantz told board members staff have been asked to complete the online training modules in order to better understand PowerSchool prior to attending the scheduled training. The "log-in" information will remain the same and he also said PowerSchool is very user friendly and easy to understand.

F. DISCUSSION

1. Redistricting Criteria. Superintendent Withers distributed to board members a copy of a draft letter to be sent to the Salt Lake City Council. A copy has been added to the official minutes. He asked board members to review the letter and said it addressed the Board of Education redistricting criteria as previously discussed at the board's planning session. Consensus was given to accept the letter as written.

Superintendent Withers provided board members with a copy of a letter requesting two volunteers to help with the redistricting effort. A copy has been added to the official minutes. He provided a background and highlighted who would be potential candidates for this group. He asked board members for their recommendations as soon as possible.

G. ACTION AGENDA:

1. There were no Action Items.

H. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Legislative Priorities. Superintendent Withers said the real challenge this year will be to articulate resources for new students and growth.

Utah Education Online Consortium. Superintendent Withers reported other districts within the state are interested in becoming partners to help develop the online consortium. He said with this model any course offered online will be available to all students.

2. Other Superintendent Reports:

Superintendent Withers reported LAND Trust funding is 20% more than anticipated. He said the district would be sharing this information with schools within the next few weeks.

Superintendent Withers told board members the Capital projects previously discussed at the planning session are on track and moving forward. He noted the School for the Performing Arts (SPA) is very excited to be moving into the former Rosslyn Heights Building.

Superintendent Withers told board members about USBA's new project. He said they are creating a DVD entitled "Tell Your Story" which will be shown at the convention highlighting various programs and services.

Superintendent Withers reported President Swett, Ms. Roberts, and Ms. Thorderson will be attending the USBA convention in August. He also noted Ms. Thorderson, Ms. Young, and Mr. Uluave will be attending the USBA Leadership Academy in September.

Superintendent Withers distributed to board members a copy of a letter sent from the Education Interim Committee to the Legislative Management Committee identifying additional priorities to be studied this year. A copy has been added to the official minutes. He said the topics are all politically charged and not helpful at all.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Ms. Young , seconded by Ms. Thorderson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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