

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

September 20, 2011

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 5:07 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 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, Amanda Thorderson, Alama Uluave, Laurel H. Young, and Maria Chevesich, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Dorothy Cosgrove, Associate Superintendent School Support; Patrick Garcia, Executive Director Human Resources; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Jared Wright, Assistant Principal, Clayton Middle School; Andy Shaffer, Web/Graphic Designer; Susan McFarland, President Salt Lake Teachers Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel 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 Study Session of September 20, 2011, two motions were made. 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 5:07 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.

** (Uluave and Nelson)

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

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 6:40 p.m.

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W Withdrawn	* Unanimous Approval		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			

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience.
- Jared Wright led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Limited Consent Agenda

*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the Purchasing Report included in the Limited Consent Agenda.

** (Young and Emery)

- Purchasing Report dated September 20, 2011, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000.

A. STUDY TOPICS

Student Achievement Plan – Internal Communications/External Relations.

Mike Williams, Jason Olsen, and Andy Shaffer provided board members with a brief overview of the Internal Communications/External Relations essential of the Student Achievement Plan. They introduced representatives from the Summit Group: Mike Winder, Director of Public Affairs; Rebecca Romley, Director of Public Relations; and Marina Greenberg, Public Relations Specialist. A presentation highlighting the recommendations of the Summit Group was provided to board members. A copy has been added to the official minutes. Ms. Greenberg said as part of their research the Summit Group had looked at current communications and various demographics of the district. She noted more than half of the district’s patrons are low income and 37% are non-English speakers. Three objectives have been identified: effective two way communication between the district, schools, families, students, and staff members; a unified voice utilizing a key message as to

why the district is “Your Best Choice”; and a way to meet the communication needs of all stakeholders.

In closing Ms. Greenberg said it is vital for information coming from the district to be unified and consistent. Communication should reflect the diversity within the district, opportunities for reciprocal communication readily available and inviting to all stakeholders, and restructuring the district’s website for easy navigation. Mr. Olsen noted the current goals and action steps of the Student Achievement Plan follow closely the recommendations made by the Summit Group. A Community Advisory Committee will be created in order to develop a unified message for the district as well as methods to share it with all departments and district patrons.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the information presented.

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Proposed Legislation Superintendent Withers told board members there are five items in proposed legislation the Utah State School Board is looking at. He said there has been some progress made on a couple of the items but there are still concerns over previous legislation.

Superintendent Withers reported distributing resources out to the schools on a local level makes determining resources for students much harder than it would be if decisions were made at the district level. He also reported on the collective bargaining issue and said he feels identifying ineffective teachers and helping them improve is a better way to go.

Susan McFarland expressed her gratitude to Superintendent Withers for his support and advocacy of teachers.

Redistricting Superintendent Withers said the announcement of members of the redistricting working group is about a week away. He asked board members to get maps or information to President Swett or Jason Olsen before the October 4, 2011, Board Business Meeting.

2. Other Superintendent Reports.

Janet Roberts provided board members with a packet of information on Redevelopment Agency Projects. A copy has been added to the official minutes.

Superintendent Withers reported the High School Boundary Open House will be held at Riley Elementary on October 13, 2011 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Superintendent Withers encouraged board members to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Lincoln Elementary library on September 23, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.

Superintendent Withers said October 6, 2011 is the date set for "Read for the Record." More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Superintendent Withers reported adults working in schools may have to provide current vaccination information as a result of the measles outbreak last year.

C. BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE APPROPRIATE.

Ms. Young said she was unable to attend the SLCC School of Technology luncheon scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011 and asked if someone would be able to take her place. Ms. Thorderson said she would be happy to attend. Ms. Young expressed her appreciation and said she would forward the information to her.

Ms. Emery said she has had a teacher inquire about the classes that do not have standardized tests. She said the difference in the way a test is given may impact student scores. Superintendent Withers reported with the new core and assessments the district will have a better way to provide feedback to teachers. He said it is important that everyone knows they have a vested interest in student success and skill development.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator