

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Business Meeting and Closed Executive Session

January 3, 2012

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, January 3, 2012, 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; Alan Kearsley, Financial Director; Laurie Lacy, Director Title One and Elementary School Support; Sue Parker, Elementary School Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Principals John Erlacher, Glendale Middle School, and Earl Arnoldson, Indian Hills Elementary School; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Mark Stevens, President, Buildings & Grounds Employees Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Kathleen Curry, President, Comprehensive Employees Association; Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Allison Sisam, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Business Meeting of January 3, 2012, 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 5:40 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

Exhibit: A3
Board Meeting: 02/07/12

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

** (Young 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, Janet Roberts, and Dorothy Cosgrove.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. and returned to the Board Business Meeting at 6:32 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 BUSINESS MEETING

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience. She recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Mark Stevens, President, Buildings & Grounds Employees Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Kathleen Curry, President, Comprehensive Employees Association; and Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association.
- Cathy Johnson led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- President Swett, Superintendent Withers, and Susan McFarland recognized Glendale Middle School for being named a National Education Association Priority School. Superintendent Withers reported Glendale is the only school in Utah selected. He said the partnership with NEA is a collaborative effort focused on kids in order to serve students in the best way possible. Glendale Principal, John Erlacher, told the board Glendale is looking forward to the partnership with NEA to make Glendale a better place.

President Swett and Vice President Bennett recognized the district's newest National Board Certified Teachers: Melody Francis, Rose Park Elementary, Cate Pragastis and Todd Slade, East High School, and Amy Kinder, Mathematics Coach. On behalf of the board, President Swett expressed appreciation to them for all their hard work and for their commitment to achieve National Board Certification. Dessie Olson briefly outlined the process required for a teacher to achieve national board certification and said it is the highest certification a

teacher can achieve in the country. On behalf of the teachers, she thanked the board for their support of the teachers who endeavor to receive this certification.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

*(2) Approval was given to the five 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 a Budget Report for November, 2011.
2. The Human Resources Department Report, included non-contract to contract employment for two employees, and releases for three.
3. Minutes of the Board Business Meeting held December 6, 2011.
4. School Improvement Plan for Meadowlark and Riley Elementary Schools.
5. Board Policies
 - a. Policy C-5, Distributing and Posting of Promotional Materials.
 - b. Policy F-3, Conference Attendance and Travel Expense Reimbursement.

B. REQUESTS TO SPEAK

There were no requests to speak.

C. REPORTS

1. Highlights from School Improvement Plans:
 - a. Indian Hills Elementary School. Earl Arnoldson, Indian Hills Elementary School Principal, provided the board with a brief report on Indian Hills. He introduced Nancy Chisholm, SCC chair, who was present to show her support and answer questions. Mr. Arnoldson expressed his appreciation to the board for the opportunity to be principal at Indian Hills. He said he has enjoyed the new challenge and there are great things happening at Indian Hills.

Mr. Arnoldson reported to the board Indian Hills was successful in meeting AYP and 17 of the 18 Indian Hills teachers were recognized with the Academic Achievement Award for 70% or more of their students achieving above average growth on CRT tests. He briefly reported on the unique hands-on science opportunity and supplemental music opportunities students are able to experience due to the tremendous amount of parent volunteers and partnerships. He said Indian Hills does have its share of challenges and he noted there are three self-contained classrooms housed at the school. He said they are concerned about their English language learners and teachers are continually working to create safety nets for students. He said they monitor student growth throughout the year, including their strengths, and he said individual goals are established for all students.

Following the report they answered questions from board members. In closing, he said Indian Hills is a wonderful school with a very committed faculty and school community. President Swett thanked them for the report and for everything they are doing at Indian Hills Elementary School on behalf of students. A copy of the Indian Hills Elementary School Highlight Report has been added to the official minutes.

2. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011. Prior to the report, Janet Roberts recognized Alan Kearsley, Financial Director and the accounting staff for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada and the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International for the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2010. She said this is the 34th year in a row the district has received the GFOA Award.

Ms. Roberts reminded board members an annual external audit is required by law. She turned the time over to Alan Kearsley and David Brown from Squire & Company. Mr. Brown told board members a complete report was given to the Board Audit Committee in December and the Committee had requested a brief report be given to the board. He said the audit is done in accordance with governmental auditing standards and generally accepted auditing standards. He said Squire & Company has issued an unqualified or clean opinion for the district's basic financial statements, the federal programs audit or single audit, and the state compliance guidelines. He noted this is the best grade that can be given

to an audit. He encouraged board members to read through the Management's Discussion and Analysis. He expressed appreciation for the willingness and help they receive from district staff in providing them with the information and reports they need in order for them to do their job and for the association they have with the district.

On behalf of the board, President Swett thanked Mr. Brown for the report and expressed appreciation to Mr. Kearsley and the entire accounting department for all their great work. A copy of the CAFR has been added to the official minutes. Ms. Roberts also noted the report would be available on the district's website.

3. Student Progress and Teacher Recognition. Mike Williams began the report with an update to the board on the Teacher Achievement Recognition Program. He told board members the program is a partnership with the Salt Lake Education Foundation and Grand America Hotels. He reviewed the events that had led to the partnership and said the program uses data to measure success. He said the Exemplary Teacher Awards will feed into the teacher of the year selection. A copy of a handout outlining the program has been added to the official minutes.

Christine Marriot provided the board with a presentation of the Student Growth Model & Teacher Recognition. A copy of the presentation has been added to the official minutes. She outlined the rationale behind the development of the Student Growth Model. She said the model will help teachers understand how effective they are and said to date the feedback they have received on the model has been great. Teachers will receive reports in August so they can become familiar with the students they will be teaching and so each student's goals will be based on their individual level. The model is able to compare teachers who are teaching similar students and is able to provide data to principals that will help them to make decisions on how to best place their resources. Ms. Marriott said the model will be able to provide the most direct feedback ever given to teachers and administrators.

Ms. Marriott briefly highlighted a few of the preliminary findings:

- every school has highly effective teachers
- every school has marginal or ineffective teachers
- students in Title I schools have a higher chance of being with a marginal or ineffective teacher
- new teachers generally experience positive changes during their first three years
- the lowest growth teachers in the bottom effectiveness level are in Title I schools with career status.

In closing, Ms. Marriot said the model shows there are many excellent and very strong teachers in the district. Superintendent Withers told board members the model is a way to provide feedback to teachers and identify teachers who would benefit from additional help. President Swett thanked them for the report.

D. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. School Accountability Models. Superintendent Withers distributed a handout entitled Utah School Accountability Systems (last 30 Years). A copy has been added to the official minutes. He briefly went through the history. He said assessments are different than accountability systems and not everyone understands that. He said a new assessment system needs to be established and accountability should be based on that assessment system. He noted different districts use different assessments to measure students and briefly updated the board on the proposed school grading program. He said some of the changes made to the proposed grading program have helped to improve the program but he feels AYP is better than the proposed school grading model.

E. ACTION AGENDA

There were no Action Items.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:
Proposed Legislation. Superintendent Withers provided board members with 2012 Legislative Priorities cards for them to use during the upcoming legislative session. He also distributed a copy of 2012 General Session Legislation – by Subject. A copy has been added to the official minutes. He said USBA and the Utah State Office of Education will be meeting to determine the stands they will take on proposed legislation. He said the Legislative Session will begin on January 23 and said the Friday afternoon meetings will continue again this year.
2. Other Reports. Superintendent Withers reported the Mayor held his State of the City address. In his address, Mayor Becker talked about education. He told board members Mayor Becker is assembling a multi-sector network of community leaders to assess the capital city's status for "A Capital Education." The goal of the initiative is to expand access and success in education beyond high school, particularly among adults, first-generation college students, low-income students, and students of color.

Superintendent Withers also reported the Mayor's inauguration had been held earlier this morning and the Highland High School Madrigals performed and West High School's JROTC presented the colors.

President Swett reminded board members of the Annual USBA Conference being held January 12-14 at the Little America Hotel.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Ms. Young, seconded by Mr. Uluave, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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