

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Meeting  
and Closed Executive Session

August 1, 2017

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Meeting and Closed Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Heather Bennett, Vice President Katherine Kennedy, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Michael Nemeika, Tiffany Sandberg, Kristi Swett, and Alexandria Vasquez, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent Alexa Cunningham; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Mozelle Orton, Executive Director of Human Resource Services; John Goldhardt, Executive Director School Leadership and Performance; Tiffany Hall, Executive Director Teaching and Learning; Yándary Chatwin, Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations; Alan Kearsley, Director of Finance; Paul Schulte, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services; Rebecca Pittam, Highland Network Director; Christine Marriott, Open Classroom Principal; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Rickie McCandless, representing the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Allison Sisam, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Meeting of August 1, 2017, ten motions were made, including a motion to adopt a tax rate of .005748. 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 Bennett, who presided.

1. BOARD CONVENES

- General Pronouncements

2. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation, Negotiations, and/or Property

At 6:00 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, and/or property.  
\*\*(Sandberg and Ford)

Present for Closed Executive Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property were Heather Bennett, Katherine Kennedy, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Michael Nemelka, Tiffany Sandberg, Kristi Swett, Alexa Cunningham, Janet Roberts, and Kristina Kindl.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property at 6:10 p.m.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	1,2,3,5,6,7,8 & 9	4	
EMERY	X		
FORD	1,2,3,5,6,7,8 & 9	4	
KENNEDY	1,2,3,5,7,8 & 9	4 & 6	
NEMELKA	X		
SANDBERG	1,2,3,5,6,7,8 & 9	4	
SWETT	1,2,3,5,6,7,8 & 9	4	
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

**B. Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual and/or Deployment of Security Personnel, Devices, or Systems**

There was no Closed Executive Session for Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual; and/or Deployment of Security Personnel Devices or Systems.

Board members returned to the Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**3. BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

- President Bennett welcomed everyone in the audience and said the district is looking forward to the start of the school year. She introduced Alexandria Vasquez, 2017-18 Student Board Member. She recognized the presence of Rickie McCandless, representing the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office, and Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association. She told the audience at precisely 7:00 p.m. the Truth in Taxation Hearing on the 2017-18 Proposed Tax Rate would begin
- Superintendent Cunningham introduced Jill Baillie, Glendale Middle School Principal; Anna Zarate, Edison Elementary School Assistant Principal; and Kalisi Uluave, East High School Assistant Principal. They each thanked the board and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity.
- Student Board Member Alexandria Vasquez led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Honorary Diplomas:

Tiffany Sandberg, recognized Lorin Don Briggs, former West High School student, and presented him with an Honorary Diploma. He thanked the board and expressed his appreciation for their kindness and thoughtfulness.

Katherine Kennedy recognized Robert Warren Rice, former West High School student, and presented him with an Honorary Diploma. She noted Mr. Rice entered the Marine Corps and served in the Vietnam War. She thanked him for his service to the country. He thanked the board and said he is glad to be here.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

\*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the five items included in the Limited Consent Agenda. These items are listed below.

\*\* (Swett and Sandberg)

1. The Purchasing/Accounting Report:
  - a. The Purchasing Report dated August 1, 2017.
  - b. Budget Report for May 2017.
  - c. Budget Report for June 2017 (Pre-Final).
  - d. Payment Voucher Report for May 2017.
  - e. Payment Voucher Report for June 2017.
2. The Human Resource Services Report.
3. Minutes for the Board Meeting held June 6, 2017.
4. Minutes for the Board Meeting held June 20, 2017.
5. Open Classroom Charter Renewal.

B. REQUEST TO SPEAK

There were no requests to speak.

C. TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

At 7:00 pm. President Bennett opened the Truth in Taxation Hearing. She thanked those who were present for the hearing, asked those who spoke to state their name and address, and said Ms. Roberts and Mr. Kearsley would be available to speak with anyone who has questions relative to their specific tax notice.

1. Public Comment on Proposed Tax Rate.

Renee Chase, Salt Lake City taxpayer residing at 1908 South 600 East, addressed the board on the proposed tax rate. She said she has owned her home for 28 years and has questions on her property tax notice. She asked why the Utah Charter School Salt Lake City is listed separately on the tax notice and asked if there is a public document stating it can be listed separately. Ms. Roberts responded stating two years ago the Legislature authorized the levy be listed separately so it is required by law.

Spencer Nitz, representing the Utah Taxpayers Association, addressed the board on the proposed tax rate. He said the Utah Taxpayers Association is looking at two alternatives statewide. The first equalization across all school districts. Secondly, a way to increase teacher's pay by adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, teachers would teach 50% more students, which in turn would address the teacher shortage. He urged the board not to approve the tax increase.

President Bennett closed the Public Comment of the Truth in Taxation Hearing.

D. BOARD ACTION ON TAX RATE

Prior to the motion, Ms. Roberts provided the board with a presentation. The presentation included information on the Certified Tax Rate, Countywide Equalization, the Impact of the Tax Rate on Taxpayers, and the Charter School Levy. A copy of the presentation has been added to the official minutes. She told the board because of how the Certified Tax Rate is determined even though this is considered a tax increase, taxpayers will actually see a decrease if the value of their home is the same. She also said it is the County Assessor who determines the value of a home or business, and noted many homes in the City are still valued less than they were in 2008. She also told the board equalization has never benefited the District and she would not anticipate any further equalization as helping the District.

1. 2017-2018 Proposed Tax Rate.

\*(3) A motion was made that the board approve a resolution adopting a tax rate of .005748 for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 as it has been presented to the Board of Education during this meeting on August 1, 2017, which includes an increase to the Capital Local Levy. These funds will be used to meet the capital needs of the district.

\*\*(Sandberg and Kennedy)

Prior to voting on the motion, board members talked about the Countywide Equalization. They noted for the past 8 years the district has been sending approximately \$7.5 million to other districts and by approving this tax rate the district will be able to use those funds to meet the Capital needs of the district. They said this increase will enable the district to continue the process of rebuilding Meadowlark and start the process at Edison.

A copy of the Resolution approving the adoption of the tax rate has been added to the official minutes.

E. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Draft 2017-2018 Board Meeting Calendar. Board members discussed the Draft of the 2017-18 Board Meeting Calendar. Prior to and as part of the discussion three handouts were distributed: 1) a revised 2017-18 Board Meetings Tentative Schedule/Basic Outline Annual Occurrence Items by Ms. Bennett; 2) Board Priorities for 2017 by Ms. Emery; and 3) Discussion Priorities 2017-18 dated July 11, 2017. Copies of these handouts have been added to the official minutes.

President Bennett told board members the 2017-18 Board Meeting Calendar had been a collaborative effort to schedule topics of interest to most board members. In considering the scheduling or reports and updates, it was noted there are a lot of new principals and all but one of the leads for the Student Achievement Plan are new to their positions and need time to become familiar with the Essentials and determine if there are changes that need to be made. She also said in determining their schedule the board needs to consider the Jurassic Parliament procedures they received training on last month and whether they would like to make changes to the format of the agendas and minutes.

Superintendent Cunningham told board members she had talked to principals about the School Reports and Network Reports. She said the principals really like the opportunity to come and talk about their schools with the board. She said they are not opposed to having Network reports, but feel the school reports give them an opportunity to have a conversation with the board and hear from them directly.

Board members discussed the Tentative Schedule. There were concerns expressed relative to items that had been scheduled and some that had not been scheduled. Board members also considered whether there is a need for additional meetings, longer meetings, study sessions, and/or small group meetings. During the discussion the following motions were made and board members discussed each.

<sup>F</sup>(4) A motion was made to table the 2017-18 Board Meeting Calendar for discussion at another time and give the Superintendent time to meet with each board member. The motion failed on a vote of 2 to 5 with Ms. Bennett, Ms. Ford, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Sandberg, and Ms. Swett voting "No".

\*\* (Nemelka and Emery)

Following the motion, President Bennett said it was clear additional work needs to be done on the Tentative Schedule for further discussion by the board.

\* (5) A motion was made that the board hear a report on the Spring 2017 Late Start Conference and bring in Dr. Wendy Troxell to provide an overview of the research. Unanimous approval was given to the motion as amended by Motion #6.

\*\* (Kennedy and Nemelka)

<sup>N</sup>(6) A motion was made to amend Motion #5 that at the next board meeting there will be a school report, a network report, a report on Spring 2017 SAGE Results, a report on the Spring 2017 Late Start Conference that will not include an overview by Dr. Troxell, a discussion on the Jurassic Parliament Training, and a discussion on the format for board agendas and minutes. Approval was given the motion on a vote of 6 to 1 with Ms. Kennedy voting "No".

\*\* (Bennett and Sandberg)

Board members also discussed the importance of providing guidance on what they would like included in school reports, network reports, and Student Achievement Plan reports. Concern was also expressed about the importance of training for School Community Councils and the important role they play at schools.

\* (7) A motion was made to direct the Superintendent to reach out to School Community Council chairs and schedule a training prior to the start of the school year.

\*\* (Swett and Kennedy)

## F. ACTION AGENDA

### 1. Architect Selection for Edison Elementary School.

\* (8) A motion was made that the board select Naylor Wentworth Lund Architects as the architects for the Edison Elementary School rebuild.

\*\* (Ford and Swett)

Board members extended their appreciation to the Purchasing Department for their efforts in securing a successful bid and fee negotiations for the Edison Elementary School rebuild.

2. Any Item transferred from Consent/Discussion Agenda.

There were no items transferred from the Consent/Discussion Agenda.

G. BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Board Member Swett reminded board members of the Utah School Boards Association (USBA) Delegate Assembly scheduled for Saturday, August 12. She noted Ms. Sandberg and Ms. Kennedy would both be out of town and said the board would need to select substitute delegates to represent the district to vote on USBA's legislative priorities. A letter will be sent to Richard Stowell at the USBA notifying him of the change.

\*(9) A motion was made that the board select Rosemary Emery and Kristi Swett as the District's substitute delegates at the USBA Delegate Assembly.

\*\* (Nemelka and Ford)

Board Member Ford spoke about the USBA Pre Delegate Assembly. She said the topics will be relevant to the upcoming legislative session, which will impact the district, and she feels it is important to have an understanding of how they will affect the district and our students.

Board Member Kennedy reported she had attended the Beyond Diversity Conference last week. She said she felt it was very successful and enlightening and she appreciated the opportunity.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates: Superintendent Cunningham noted tomorrow is the Salt Lake Education Foundation's celebration for Teacher of the Year, High Performing Schools, and the district's partners and those who contribute to the Foundation. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Sydney Dickson from the Utah State Board of Education. Following the celebration the Administrators Institute will be held.

Superintendent Cunningham said the district is close to having all positions filled and is excited about the individuals who have been hired. She reported many schools are in the process of registering students, students are thinking about their classes, and the next few weeks will be extremely busy getting everything ready for the start of school.

Superintendent Cunningham addressed the recent severe weather incident, the damage caused by the flooding, and the clean up taking place at a number of the district's schools. She has met with the principals impacted to talk about communicating with parents to let them know the goal is to have everything cleaned up and that the schools will be safe. She said she is impressed with the entire Facilities Services Department and expressed appreciation to Mr. Schulte and his

team who have worked tirelessly so students can return to clean, safe campuses. Board members also shared their appreciation to Mr. Schulte and the Facilities Services staff.

Following the Superintendent's report, representing the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office, Ms. McCandless noted the support of the Mayor's office and the request for emergency funds through FEMA for the flooding. She also said the Mayor has requested funds to hire another Education Coordinator. She said it is her recommendation that person would be the Mayor's designee at board meetings.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mr. Nemelka, seconded by Ms. Sandberg, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

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Janet M. Roberts  
Business Administrator

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**Salt Lake City School District  
Addition to the Minutes of the Board Meeting 08/01/2017**

**OFFICIAL EXHIBITS OF BOARD MEETING**

Official exhibits provided to the board and made available to the public as part of the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

**ADDITION TO THE MINUTES**

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District acts by vote of a majority of the board members in an open and public meeting. Statements by individual board members, in or out of board meetings, written, oral or in social media, do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the board or any other board member. Nevertheless, out of respect to the elected office that each board member holds and consistent with state law and board policy, the board allows its members to attach to board meeting minutes any other information that any member requests. When the board votes to approve minutes, that vote signifies that the minutes are a correct record of what occurred and what was asked to be included in the minutes. It does not signify any individual board member's agreement with the substance of the content.

The following information was distributed in the public meeting of the board, and has been included in the minutes at the request of the board member(s):

Presentation on the 2017-18 Tax Rate	<a href="#">Agenda Item D1a</a>
Resolution approving the 2017-18 Tax Rate	<a href="#">Agenda Item D1b</a>
2017-18 Board Meetings Tentative Schedule/Basic Outline	
Annual Occurrence Items – Distributed by Board Member Bennett	<a href="#">Agenda Item E1a</a>
Board Priorities for 2017 – Distributed by Board Member Emery	<a href="#">Agenda Item E1b</a>
Discussion Priorities 2017-18 dated July 11, 2017	<a href="#">Agenda Item E1c</a>