

From Board Meeting

Report on Board Meeting of June 15, 2004

Action:

2004-2005 Annual Budget

After holding a public hearing on the 2004-2005 Annual Budget, the board approved motions to adopt the budget, the revised budget for 2003-2004, and the 2004 tax rate. The 2004-2005 budget will exceed the certified tax rate, and therefore, the district will hold a truth in taxation hearing on August 3, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

School Improvement/Land Trust Plans

Board members approved the 2004-2005 school improvement plans for all 36 schools without an approval or commitment for additional funding from the Eccles Salt Lake School Improvement Challenge. This will allow the Eccles Challenge Governing Board a chance to review and prioritize the funding requests (see Superintendent's Report for more information). The board also approved the School Land Trust plans and directed staff to submit them to the Utah State Office of Education.

Discussion:

Policy Revisions

Accounting Director Rick James gave board members a recommendation to delete Policy DF – Revenues from Non-tax Sources; Policy DFC – Grants from Private Sources; and Policy DID – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting. He said the information in these policies is redundant. Legal counsel has reviewed the recommendation. Board members agreed to place the policies on the consent agenda for the next board meeting.

Reports:

School Improvement Report

Highland High School Assistant Principals Gene Bonella and Mary Margaret Williams reported to the board on the school improvement effort and various activities at Highland. Mr. Bonella listed a number of activities that were focused on helping incoming 9th grade students make the transition from middle school to high school. He said it is vital to catch the students' interest before they enter the school. Mr. Bonella told board members of several student activities that earned local or national recognition and awards. He said all teachers at Highland are focusing on teaching literacy across all curriculum areas and on student advocacy. Teachers and the community are teaming together to form a committee, which will market and promote Highland High School. The goal is to attract more students to the school. Thanks to a federal grant, the school has also added an additional resource officer.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McKell Withers reported to board members on the transition plans for the Eccles Challenge Community Governing Board. In the past, the Governing Board approved all school improvement plans and focused on improving professional development. Now, state law requires the Board of Education to approve school improvement plans. The Governing Board will focus on funding unique and innovative

Reports:
(cont.)

projects that enhance student learning. Schools that believe they have such a program will request funding from the Eccles Challenge. The Governing Board will review the requests and determine which schools receive funding.

Dr. Withers said this year almost all schools requested funding from the Eccles Challenge. He said the Governing Board will take the next couple of months to review the requests and make funding decisions. Schools that currently have Eccles money, which has been carried over from previous years, will be able to keep that money to meet their original goals or they can submit new plans for spending that money.

Dr. Withers offered his thanks to Assistant Superintendent Charles Hausman and his staff for their work on delaying the state's PerformancePlus plan. The State Board of Education was set to approve a new version of the PerformancePlus plan earlier this week, but Dr. Withers said the plan had been radically changed and had not been properly reviewed by education officials throughout the state. He told board members the district will continue to work with the State Office of Education to express concerns about and make improvements to PerformancePlus.

Other Items:

Consent Agenda

The board reviewed and approved the consent agenda, consisting of the Purchasing/Accounting Report; the Human Resources Department Report; minutes for the Board Meeting held on June 1, 2004; and the 2004-05 Teacher and Child Nutrition Salary Schedules.

Recognition

The Business Administration Department was recognized for receiving the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the district's 2003-2004 Annual Budget.