

# From Board Meeting

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## ***Report on Board Meeting of October 7, 2003***

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### **Action Items:**

#### **Policy Revisions**

The board reviewed and approved changes to Policy KMA and Policy KC. Policy KMA - Relations with Parent and Community Organizations - was changed to include language that specifically addresses the board's philosophy regarding relations with parents and community organizations. Policy KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making - is a new policy created to define school community councils and district advisory groups.

#### **School Improvement Plans**

The board reviewed and approved school improvement plans from Bennion, Ensign, Highland Park, North Star, Parkview, Uintah, and Whittier Elementary Schools as well as Horizonte Instruction and Training Center. The plans detail efforts to increase student achievement at each school. The plans were developed by a team of teachers and administrators and have been reviewed by school community councils. The plans have also been reviewed and approved by members of the Eccles Salt Lake School Improvement Challenge Governing Board.

#### **Student Board Member**

The board approved the selection of a student board member. Abigail Adams from Highland High School will serve from October 7, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Ms. Adams and another student at Highland suggested that an alternate be selected. Superintendent McKell Withers told the board the administrative procedures would allow the selection of an alternate if the board agreed it was a good idea. Board members did agree and asked the Superintendent to facilitate the selection.

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### **Discussions:**

#### **Policy Revisions**

Associate Superintendent Rickie McCandless reviewed with board members some suggested policy changes. The changes to Policy DLC, KBA, KG, and KJA would be minor wording and formatting changes. Rules and Exhibits would no longer be considered as parts of the policies, but they would be set as administrative procedures. The board agreed to vote on the recommended changes at its next board meeting.

#### **Draft NCLB/AYP Consolidated Plan**

Integrated Support Services Executive Director Dorothy Cosgrove and Assistant Superintendent Charles Hausman updated board members on the progress of the district's consolidated No Child Left Behind/Adequate Yearly Progress Plan. The district is required to write the plan before Title I monies can be released from the state. The state has changed the deadline for submitting the plan a few times, but the current deadline is October 30. The consolidated plan will also have to be approved by the Board of Education. If the current state deadline holds, the board will vote on the plan in November.

**Reports:****East High School**

Principal Robyn Roberts reported to the board on the school improvement efforts and the accreditation process at East High School. Dr. Roberts said the school combined the accreditation review and the school improvement planning into one process. The school's efforts focused around four questions: Where are we? Where do we want to be? How do we get there? How do we know when we get there? The school also focused their goals on two areas: increasing students' numeracy and literacy skills and increasing attendance. Dr. Roberts said the accreditation team was very complimentary of the school's school improvement plan and gave the school a 6-year renewal on its accreditation.

**Guadalupe**

Principal Mike Albritton reported to board members on the busing program and other programs at Guadalupe that have led to impressive test scores. Mr. Albritton said the school operates a unique bus program that offers door-to-door service for students. Even if a student moves, the bus will be re-routed to pick the student up. He said the program is costly, but it makes a world of difference. Guadalupe has a 95 percent on-time attendance rate and a turnover rate of only three percent.

Besides the busing program, Mr. Albritton said the culture of the school and an army of volunteers contribute to the school's success. Eighty-eight percent of the school's funding comes from investors and grants. Mr. Albritton said that he meets regularly with investors of foundations and has an extra sense of accountability to them. All of this has produced impressive test results for a student population where 100 percent of students live in poverty and many come from single parent homes.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent McKell Withers updated the board on a variety of topics. He gave board members a draft copy of the district's official enrollment report. It showed that the district's enrollment continues to decline slightly. A new format on the report this year also compares last year's enrollment with the current enrollment. He reminded board members of the State Board of Education meeting on October 14. At this meeting the state board is scheduled to discuss the PerformancePlus proposal. Before the October 14 meeting, Dr. Withers said he and Assistant Superintendent Charles Hausman will be meeting with state board members to illustrate how the current PerformancePlus plan would affect Salt Lake City's children.

**Other Items:****Recognition**

The board recognized school principals in conjunction with Utah School Principals Week, which is set for October 20 through 24. About a dozen principals attended the meeting, and the Board of Education thanked them and all principals for their tireless efforts.

**Consent Agenda**

The board reviewed and approved the consent agenda, consisting of the Purchasing/Accounting report, the Human Resources Department report, minutes from the board meeting held on September 16, 2003, and minutes from the board retreat held on September 23, 2003.