

# From Board Meeting

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## ***Report on Board Meeting of January 4, 2005***

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### **Oath of Office**

Four Board of Education members took the oath of office at the beginning of the meeting. Clifford Higbee was re-elected to represent Precinct 1. Alama Uluave was elected to represent Precinct 2. Heather Bennett won the race in Precinct 5. Kristi Swett was re-elected to represent Precinct 7. All four were sworn into office. The oath was administered by Salt Lake County Clerk Sherrie Swensen.

Ms. Swensen also administered the oath of office to Superintendent McKell Withers for the term of two years, from January 2005 through January 2007.

### **Election of Board Leadership**

The Board of Education has a new President and Vice President. Outgoing Board President Clifford Higbee led the Board in the nomination and voting process to elect new leadership. The new president and vice president will serve for two years. Laurel Young, who had served as Board Vice President for the past two years was elected as Board President, and Doug Nelson was elected as Board Vice President.

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### **Discussions:**

#### **Policy Revisions/Deletions**

Board members reviewed and discussed recommended changes to several policies. The policies had been reviewed by staff and legal counsel. The changes are designed to update the policies or eliminate them if they are redundant. Board members reviewed and discussed each policy individually. The Board agreed to the recommended changes to Policy IAA – Instructional Priority Objectives, Policy IC – School Year/School Calendar, and Policy IGCA – Summer School. All three policies will be placed on the consent agenda for the next Board Business Meeting.

The Board wanted the opportunity to further review, discuss, and possibly rewrite changes to Policy IB – Academic Freedom and Policy IGAC – Religion in the Curriculum. Both policies will be revised and brought back to the Board for more discussion.

#### **Board Committee Assignments**

Board President Laurel Young passed out a list of committee assignments and then reviewed each assignment and committee. Outdated committees were eliminated from the list, and Board members were assigned to the remaining committees.

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### **Reports:**

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent McKell Withers asked Auxiliary Services Executive Director John Taylor to review the ongoing and upcoming construction projects in the district. The review included an update on projects currently under construction or in the design phase. It also included a list of buildings left to renovate or rebuild and other properties

such as warehouse sites. Dr. Withers told board members that during the January 18 Board Study Session he would bring a list of options of how to move forward with the remaining projects. Issues that need to be considered include, but are not limited to, where to relocate students during construction, timelines, and future use of properties such as warehouses and former school sites.

Superintendent Withers asked Board members about extending the use of electronic communication versus paper communication. He said with the upcoming legislative session there are several ways to keep Board members updated on bills. Board members agreed they would like to avoid printing paper copies of the bills and would prefer Internet links or files that could be e-mailed to them.

Dr. Withers reviewed with Board members a list of legislative priorities for the upcoming session. The priorities were developed by coordinating the eight essentials from the Student Achievement Plan and the Utah School Boards Association legislative priorities. A bullet-point list of the priorities has been printed on a business card along with phone numbers people can call to get more information. The business cards will be handed out to legislators in the next few days.

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## **Other Items:**

### **Recognition**

The Board of Education recognized several people for winning national awards. First, Board members honored William Hagen, a student at Bonneville Elementary, for winning the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award from the National Association for Gifted Children.

The Board then recognized Sue Sakashita, the Extended Learning Program Coordinator. She received the Jewel Bindrup Award from the Utah Association of Gifted Children.

Finally, Board members recognized Rick James, Director of Accounting, and his staff for receiving awards from the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials. The awards honored Mr. James and his staff for their work on the district 2002-03 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

### **Consent Agenda**

The Board of Education reviewed and approved the consent agenda, consisting of the Purchasing/Accounting Report, the Human Resources Department Report, and minutes for the Board Meeting held on December 7, 2004.