

From Board Meeting

Report on Board Meeting of March 1, 2005

Action:

Bond Refinance

The Board of Education reviewed a resolution authorizing the refinancing of up to \$25 million in general obligation bonds. Business Administrator Kent Stephens said he and the district bond advisors have been watching the bond market for the past several days, looking for the right time to refinance the bonds based on lower interest rates. Board members approved a motion authorizing staff to continue watching the bond market and refinance the bonds when the market is right. If a refunding option is available at a time when the Board is not regularly scheduled to meet, the Board would be requested to meet for the sole purpose of approving the refinancing.

Discussion:

Policy Revisions

The Board of Education reviewed recommended changes to Policy IGAC – Religion in the Curriculum. The changes were developed by staff and reviewed by district legal counsel. The policy says discussions of religion are a valid part of school curriculum, but ridiculing someone based on their religious beliefs or because they do not believe in religion is not permissible. Board members discussed some minor edits to the recommended changes and agreed to put the policy on the consent agenda for the next Board Business Meeting.

Board Meeting Schedule 2005-06

Board members reviewed the proposed Board Meeting Schedule for 2005-06. The Board would hold public meetings twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. However, only one meeting would be held in July and December 2005. The 2005-06 Board Meeting Schedule will be placed on the consent agenda for the next Board Business Meeting.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent gave board members a brief review of the legislative session. He handed out a list of bills related to public education that had passed the House and Senate as of Tuesday evening. He also gave Board members a list of education bills that could be considered on the last day of the Legislature, a listing of how representatives voted on the tuition tax credit bill, and a memo outlining the work of the appropriations committee. Dr. Withers thanked Board member John deJong for the countless hours he spent on Capitol Hill lobbying for Salt Lake City School District and public education.

Other Items:

Recognition

The Board of Education recognized Escalante Elementary Principal Nancy McCormick. Ms. McCormick has been named the Instructional Leader of the Year by the Utah Association of Elementary School Principals.

The Board also recognized several high school students, who had won awards at the State 4-A Swimming Tournament.

Consent Agenda

The Board of Education reviewed and approved the consent agenda, consisting of the Purchasing/Accounting Report; the Human Resources Department Report; minutes for Board meetings held on February 1 and 15, 2005; minutes for the Board Retreat held on February 8, 2005; student trip requests from Highland and West High Schools; a resolution opposing tuition tax credits; revisions to Policies JH and IB; and the year round elementary school calendar for 2005-06.