

From Board Meeting

Report on Board Meeting of April 5, 2005

Action:

Policy Revision

The Board of Education reviewed and approved changes made to Policy IGAC – Religion in the Curriculum. 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 appropriate or allowed.

Student Trip Request

The Board also reviewed and approved a last-minute student trip request from Highland High School.

Board Meeting Schedule 2005-06

The Board of Education reviewed the proposed Board Meeting Schedule for the 2005-06 school year. With just a few exceptions, Board meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. Superintendent McKell Withers said once it is approved, this schedule will be posted, but changes could be made throughout the year if needed. Board members voted to move this schedule from the discussion agenda to an action item and then approved it.

Discussion:

Parent Involvement

Superintendent McKell Withers discussed with Board members the possibility of creating and using parent contracts at each school in the district. Such contracts are now used at Title I schools. They help encourage parental involvement by outlining the expectations and responsibilities for students, parents, and the schools. The Board liked the idea and directed the Superintendent and his staff to form an ad hoc committee that could design a general template. Schools could then modify the template to fit their particular needs.

School Fees for 2005-06

The Board of Education reviewed the recommended school fee schedule for the 2005-06 school year. The recommendation included a small number of fee increases and a few new fees. Assistant to the Superintendent Kathleen Christy said the fees changes were due to the increased cost of supplies and resources. The Board asked staff to clarify which after school programs charged a fee and which programs were free because they are designed as academic support for struggling students. Ms. Christy said she would prepare that information and get it to the Board. Board members agreed to put the fee schedule on the next business meeting agenda as an action item.

Multi-Purpose Community Construction Projects

Superintendent McKell Withers discussed with Board of Education members the possibility of partnering with other community agencies in future construction projects. There are no solid plans in place, but Dr. Withers said there are ideas being worked on, such as partnering with the city to build a library next to or on a school campus. The library would be used by both the public and the school. Rose Park Elementary is working

on a partnership with IHC to build a clinic and community drop-in center at the school. Board members liked the ideas and asked the superintendent to keep them updated if any plans move forward.

U-PASS vs. NCLB Update

Associate Superintendent Charles Hausman gave Board members a review of Tuesday morning's Legislative Education Interim Committee meeting. The meeting focused on possible legislation which says Utah should focus its priorities on its own accountability system – U-PASS – instead of No Child Left Behind. Many of the legislators in the meeting supported the idea. However, Dr. Hausman said he has some unanswered questions and concerns about U-PASS. He is also worried U-PASS would not provide the same amount of accountability for minority students. The proposed legislation will be discussed in an upcoming Special Session of the Legislature.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McKell Withers told Board members he had received a request to name the West High football stadium after a former coach. Dr. Withers asked the Board how they would like to proceed since current policy does not specifically discuss naming athletic fields. Board members asked the superintendent and staff to have West High follow the steps outlined in the policy for naming schools. After that is done, the Board will discuss the issue.

Other Items:

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 the Board Meetings held on March 1 and 15, 2005; minutes for the Board Retreat held on March 8, 2005; scheduling a Board Study Session on April 19; selection of a contractor for Glendale Middle School; and student trip requests from Mountain View Elementary and West High School.