

# From Board Meeting

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## *Report on Board Meeting of July 12, 2005*

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### **Discussion:**

#### **Charter School Update**

Learning Services Executive Director Dorothy Cosgrove gave the Board of Education an update on charter schools. Currently, there are a few state-sponsored charter schools located within the district boundaries, but there are no district-sponsored charter schools. She said there are two programs interested in submitting charter school applications to the district. The first is the Open Classroom program. Open Classroom is currently a district optional program housed at Washington Elementary. However, OC parents have expressed an interest in expanding the program, and one way to accomplish that is to become a charter school. The second group is interested in establishing a school for the performing arts. The group has discussed building a performing arts center near a Salt Lake City high school. The arts center charter school would be for students who are interested in pursuing a career or higher education in the arts. Ms. Cosgrove said the Board may see applications from both of these groups by the end of the summer.

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### **Reports:**

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

Superintendent McKell Withers gave Board of Education members an update on the progress made in the past two years. He reviewed the eight essentials in the Student Achievement Plan and highlighted several points for each essential. He reminded Board members and those in attendance that public education is a necessary part of a strong democracy.

Dr. Withers then gave Board members a copy of the USBA/USSA legislative priorities for the 2006 Legislature. He asked the Board to review the list and get back to him with any comments or suggestions in time for the next USSA or USBA meeting.

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### **Other Items:**

#### **Introductions**

Superintendent McKell Withers introduced two new principals to the Board of Education. Jane Fitts is the new principal at Whittier Elementary. Ms. Fitts served an internship last year at Jackson Elementary. Prior to that, she worked at Clayton Middle School and in the Jordan School District. Sue Heath is the new principal at Beacon Heights Elementary. She comes to Salt Lake City from Alpine School District.

Dr. Withers also introduced the new Student Board Member, Sophie Jin. Ms. Jin is a junior at West High School and will serve on the Board of Education for the 2005-06 school year.

#### **Recognition**

The Board of Education recognized and honored Emily Shipp for serving as the Student Board Member for the 2004-05 school year. The Board also recognized the Child Nutrition Department for receiving the USDA Best Practice Award for "Reaching Needy Children in the Summer." The award was presented to Support Services Director Kelly Orton by Darlene Sanchez from the USDA Regional Office.

## **Other Items cont.:**

### **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 Business Meeting held on June 7, 2005 and the Business Meeting and Study Session held on June 21, 2005; and the revised Board Meeting Schedule for 2005-06.

*Note: This report is not intended to be a legal record of the board meeting. Minutes will be available approximately two weeks after the meeting on the district's Web site: [www.slc.k12.ut.us](http://www.slc.k12.ut.us).*