

From Board Meeting

Report on Board Meeting of August 16, 2005

Action:

Truth in Taxation

The Board of Education conducted a Truth in Taxation Hearing prior to approving the property tax rate for the district, which includes a judgment levy. Business Administrator Kent Stephens said the judgment levy will give the district about \$500,000 in tax revenue that was lost because of property tax appeals.

Discussions:

Policy Revisions

The Board of Education reviewed several policy changes. Changes to Policy IGF, Charter Schools and Policy IGBI, Optional School Programs were presented by Learning Services Executive Director Dorothy Cosgrove. Definitions were added to clarify the differences between regular school programs, optional programs, and charter schools.

Assistant to the Superintendent Kathleen Christy reviewed recommended changes to Policy IICA, Overnight/Extended Day Trips. The rules for the policy will be changed to administrative procedures. Language about fee waivers was added to the policy, and minor formatting changes were made.

Student and Family Services Director Pat Roberts presented to the Board recommended changes to Policy JFCG, Smoking by Students. Ms. Roberts said the changes were small wording changes that were necessary due to a change in state law. She also told Board members the district will be working with the state to pilot a new anti-smoking program for students.

Board members agreed to place all the policy changes on the action agenda for the next Board Business meeting.

Facility Future Use

Superintendent McKell Withers gave the Board a small matrix outlining the possible use of some district facilities, such as Matheson, Garfield and the district shops on 300 West. The matrix listed possible uses for these buildings, such as a district charter school, district optional program, sharing a building with an outside organization, or leasing a building. The matrix also included recommendations by staff on how to use the buildings. Board members were thankful for the information and agreed to have staff continue studying the recommended options.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McKell Withers reported the recent USSA/USBA Delegate Assembly offered good insight into the perception of public education. He said a panel discussion comprised of lawmakers, state education officials, and rural educators showed that some do not understand the challenges we are facing in our district.

Dr. Withers told Board members that test results from last year are starting to come in, and they look good. He said it is evident that teachers and all employees have worked hard on increasing student achievement. He said

the Board will hear a presentation on the CRT scores in September. The Adequate Yearly Progress reports are also scheduled to be released in September.

The Superintendent then told Board members they may soon start hearing from their communities about K-8 schools. Elementary school teams from the Hillside and Clayton Middle School feeder systems will be meeting in early September to discuss K-8 schools. The meeting is designed to share the research and information surrounding K-8 schools. The individual school teams will take the information and then meet with their local communities to gauge the interest in becoming a K-8 school. Dr. Withers said Hillside and Clayton are scheduled to be torn down and rebuilt. So, now is the ideal time to have these discussions. However, he said the motive for creating one or more K-8 schools needs to be focused on providing better service to students.

Other Items:

Recognition

The Board of Education recognized two teachers for winning significant awards. Michelle Condie, a teacher at Emerson Elementary, has been named Salt Lake City School District Teacher of the Year. Rebecca Pittam, a teacher at Beacon Heights Elementary, was recognized for winning a 2005 Utah PTA Golden Apple Award.

Introduction

Curriculum Director Shauna Carl introduced the district's new Chinese Language teacher to the Board of Education. Jin (Jesse) Fang will teach Mandarin Chinese to students at East and West High Schools. Ms. Fang came to the district due to an agreement between the Utah State Office of Education and China. The Chinese government is paying Ms. Fang's salary and providing textbooks and workbooks for her students.

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 Business Meeting held on July 12, 2005.