

From Board Meeting

Report on Board Meeting held November 6, 2007

Action:

Traditional School Calendars

The Board of Education reviewed and approved the traditional school calendars for 2008-08, 2009-10, and 2010-11. The district calendar committee developed three calendar options. Those options were then sent to the schools for feedback and were voted on by the school community councils and school improvement councils. The winning option was submitted to and approved by the Board of Education.

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 October 2, 2007, and the Board Study Session held on October 16, 2007; open and closed designations for Open Enrollment; the 2007-08 Consolidated Utah Student Achievement Plan; and revisions to Policies IGBF and IGAK.

Discussions:

Policy Revisions

The Board of Education reviewed suggested changes to Policies IHD and IGDB. Policy IHD would be deleted because it is no longer supported or required by state law. Changes to Policy IGDB would update the policy, make it more concise, and create administrative procedures to guide principals as they act as editors of school publications. Board members recommend some minor wording changes and wanted to have legal counsel review Policy IGDB.

Policy IHD will be placed on the consent agenda for the next Board Business Meeting. Policy IGDB will be placed on the action agenda for the same meeting.

Reports:

School Improvement Report

Principal Frances Battle reported on the school improvement efforts at Bryant Middle School. Her presentation included a video featuring the various programs at Bryant and the diversity of its students. Ms. Battle said the school improvement efforts at Bryant are focused on helping special needs students and ESL students. The school staff and administrators are also looking at ways to reduce class sizes in core content areas. To end her presentation, Ms. Battle had Bryant's Student Body Officers stand and briefly explain why they like Bryant Middle School.

Enrollment Projections

Representatives from Wikstrom Economic and Planning Consultants presented their enrollment projections to the Board of Education. The main findings of the enrollment study are:

- The historical cycle of decline in the district's enrollment will slowly reverse by 2010;
- The district is becoming increasingly diverse;
- The University of Utah will continue to have only modest impact on student enrollment due to the consistent out-migration of university students and their families; and
- Planning and development in the area west of the airport will have the greatest long-term impact on district enrollment.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McKell Withers reviewed many legislative issues with the Board of Education, including capital equalization, legislative priorities, and possible education bills for the upcoming legislative session. Dr. Withers also reported on his recent meeting with the high school principals. He said the meeting was very productive, and issues and ideas from the meeting will be presented at the next Board Study Session.

Other Items:**Recognition**

Escalante Elementary was recognized by the Board of Education for winning the 2007 Intel School of Distinction Award. The board viewed a short video, which highlighted the school's innovative science instruction.