

# From Board Meeting

## Report on Board Meeting held September 2, 2008

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### Action:

#### 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 from the Business Meeting/Tax Hearing held on August 5, 2008.

### Discussions:

#### High School Boundary Options

Superintendent McKell Withers reviewed with Board members a recommendation for some minor high school boundary changes. The changes were developed by a committee, which was given the charge to see if there were minor changes that would help reduce enrollment at West High School, increase and stabilize enrollment at Highland High School, and maintain current enrollment at East High School. The recommendations are:

- Adjust the Highland High School boundary to include all students in the Hawthorne and Lincoln Elementary School areas.
- Adjust the East High School boundary to include all students in the Franklin Elementary School area.

Superintendent Withers said these recommendations are a small first step in addressing enrollment and choice issues at the district's high schools. More and bigger steps could and should be discussed in the future. Informational meetings will be held at the three elementary schools mentioned in the recommendations.

### Reports:

#### School Improvement Report

Principal Heidi Kunzler reported on the school improvement efforts at Uintah Elementary School. She said the school typically has high average test scores, but science scores have raised some concerns. To increase science instruction, the school will be setting up science labs where students can get hands-on experience with scientific principles and concepts. Teachers are also receiving extra training in science and math. Kunzler reported her teachers and staff are looking at ways to boost early intervention in language arts by using K-3 booster groups, where students receive instruction in small groups.

In addition to academics, employees, students, and parents at Uintah are working to improve student behavior and have recently seen a drop in office referrals. The school is also involved in the Gold Medal program in an effort to help students focus on physical fitness.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent McKell Withers reported on several recent issues.

- The district's performance-based compensation plan has been approved. A task force will meet next week to develop guidelines on how schools and employees can apply to be part of the program.
- The draft AYP and U-PASS reports have arrived and are being reviewed. The data used by the state to compile these reports is being reviewed for any errors. The public release for the reports is scheduled for the end of September.
- While reliable enrollment reports are still a few weeks away, there seems to be no big surprises at any of the schools. This year's enrollment projections were very accurate. Staffing seems to be going smoothly as well. The Human Resources Department reports only three schools have called with staffing concerns. There are only two school staff positions not filled, and all teacher positions are filled.

Dr. Withers also reviewed the new rules for school community councils. He says he has a few questions about the new rules, which he will discuss with the Utah State Office of Education, and he wanted the Board of Education to be aware of the changes.