



In The District

The official newsletter of the SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

440 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah

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New Board Members



Four Board of Education members took the oath of office during the January 4 Board meeting. Clifford Higbee was re-elected to represent Precinct 1. Alama Uluave was elected to represent Precinct 2. Heather Bennett won the race in Precinct 5. Kristi Swett was re-elected to represent Precinct 7. All four were sworn into office at the same time. The oath was administered by Salt Lake County Clerk Sherrie Swensen.



Ms. Swensen also administered the oath of office to Superintendent McKell Withers for the term of two years, from January 2005 through January 2007.

School Choice Fair

Salt Lake City School District is holding a School Choice Fair for all parents, students and district employees. The Fair will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2005 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the SLCSD's Career and Technical Center (1560 South 200 East).

School Choice Options within our district cover Pre-K, Elementary, Middle, and High School levels and are optional programs that offer a range of instructional strategies, academic rigor, and are responsive to the needs of our diverse student population. Information and applications will be available from many of our optional programs that night.

Programs that will be participating include: Curriculum & Assessment Lab, Open Classroom, International Pathways, Academy for Math/Engineering/Science, Career & Technical Center, Teaching Professions Academy, Academy of Business, Academy of Information Technology, Health Professions Academy, and the Early Childhood program.

High School Music Festival

The Salt Lake City School District will be presenting its High School Music Festival on Feb. 7, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in Abravanel Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at Art Tix, 1-888-451-2784, from the district high school offices, or from student participants.

Board Elections

The Salt Lake City Board of Education has a new President and Vice President. Both will serve a term of two years.

Laurel Young, who had served as Board Vice President for the past two years was elected as Board President, and Doug Nelson was elected as Board Vice President.

Quick Tip

Start the new year by showing initiative. Respond to the following statement: "If I could improve one thing at work, it would be _____." Fill in the blank with several actions you'd like to take right now to be more effective in your job. What's holding you back? What changes can you get started on right now?

Communication Briefings, January 2005

Timeline

Board Meeting:

Jan 18 - Study Session 6:30 p.m.

Calendar Dates:

Jan 17 - Martin Luther King Day
Schools Closed

Newsletter Deadlines:

Jan 20 - Articles Due
Jan 27 - Publication

Testing Dates:

Jan 24-Mar 4 - NAEP

Teaching Tip

Parents can help set rules of order

It's a new year. Ideally, your students are setting new goals for achievement. A big obstacle to any progress can be lack of organization. Many students need help with organization—at school and at home.

Get parents to help. Send home a "Happy New Year" letter. Remind parents of classroom and homework policies. Ask them to ensure students have needed school supplies.

Comment on the importance of organization. Then include ways parents can help to support it at home:

- Have your child put school materials in the same place every day.
- Check daily for parent information from school.
- Insist your child write all assignments in a notebook.
- Limit your child's TV viewing.
- Set a rule that "homework comes first."
- Encourage your child to do harder assignments first.
- Post a reminder of materials to take to school each day.
- List tests, projects and school activities on a family calendar.
- Ask your child to put all school materials in his backpack before bed.

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Congratulations

Congratulations to Nibley Park Elementary and VCBO Architecture! The school and VCBO can now add another award to their already long list of design awards - The Metal Architecture Design Awards 2004 Citation Award. VCBO receives a \$1,000 cash prize as well as a \$1,500 scholarship as part of this recognition. The company has generously agreed to donate the \$1,000 to Nibley Park Elementary and give the scholarship to the University of Utah School of Architecture.

Grant News

The Department of Natural Resources awarded Edison, Franklin and Jackson Elementary Schools \$500 each for science supplies.

CHIP Enrollment

Open enrollment for CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) and PCN (Primary Care Network Insurance) will take place January 10-25, 2005. CHIP is a health insurance plan for children under age 19 who qualify. PCN provides preventive medical and dental insurance to adults who are ages 19-64 and have no other health insurance. For more information, call 1-877-543-7669 or visit www.health.utah.gov/chip or visit www.health.utah.gov/pcn. Also, you may call 1-888-222-2542 or contact the Family Involvement Assistant at your school.

Quote

"Just when you think you've graduated from the school of experience, someone thinks up a new course."

~ Mary H. Waldrup ~

Communication Corner

The Right Way to Apologize

Heavy workloads and stress can create tension, which may lead to inadvertently offending a co-worker or employee. These unintentional slights can easily be blown out of proportion if you're not aware of how your actions affect others. Your first response may be to forget the incident and move on. But minor offenses can turn into major disputes if you fail to address them head-on.

Use these techniques to apologize when you feel you've offended a co-worker:

Speak Privately. A public apology can take the recipient by surprise and create an uncomfortable spectacle. Instead, take your co-worker aside and say:

"I know the incident on Tuesday upset you. That wasn't my intention. I hope you can accept my apology for my behavior."

Be prepared for your co-worker's response. Even when you apologize, your co-worker may not be ready to forgive and forget. Your colleague may say: "I appreciate the apology. However, I'm still disturbed by what happened. I'd like to discuss it with you." That gives you a perfect opportunity to discuss what happened and show that you truly regret the incident.

Communications Briefings - Adapted from "How and When to Apologize," Ingrid Murro Botero