

From Board Meeting

Report on Board Meeting held February 5, 2008

Action:

Policy C-7 (KH)

The Board of Education reviewed and approved changes to Policy C-7 (KH), Community Donations, Contribution, and Gifts. The policy directs how community members, businesses, and foundations can make donations to the Salt Lake Education Foundation, the local schools, or the district in general.

Consent Agenda

The Board of Education reviewed and approved the consent agenda, consisting of the Purchasing/Accounting Report; the Human Resources Department Report; minutes from the board meetings held on January 8 and 22, 2008; the Board Meeting Schedule for 2008-09; a Hearing Officer recommendation; student trip requests from Highland High School and Northwest Middle School; and revisions to Policy I-14 (IGAD).

Discussions:

Board Policies

Human Resources Executive Director Patrick Garcia recommended changes to Policy P-3 (GBCA), Nepotism Prohibited and Policy P-8 (GBEB), Security Inspections. The two policies were being reviewed as part of the five-year policy review cycle. In both policies, minor wording changes were made and a purpose statement added. Board members agreed to place Policy P-3 on the consent agenda for the next Board Business Meeting and Policy P-8 on the action agenda.

2008-09 Fee Schedule

Christelle Estrada, a member of the School Support Team, presented the proposed 2008-09 Fee Schedule to the Board of Education. The fee schedule lists all of the fees students would be asked to pay. It includes information on whether certain fees are waivable or can be paid on a sliding scale. There were a few fee increases. Most were designed to keep up with increased material costs. The Board agreed to place the fee schedule on the consent agenda for the next Board Business Meeting.

Reports:

Hawthorne School Improvement Report

Principal Marion Broadhead reported that Hawthorne Elementary and the surrounding neighbors have adopted a new slogan to build a stronger community – “Doing it the Hawthorne way.” Broadhead said the slogan is based on the idea of bringing the three programs housed at Hawthorne – the neighborhood school, the Curriculum and Assessment Lab, and the Extended Learning Program – together and having a shared focus. The principal then highlighted some of the notable achievements at Hawthorne, including the fact that students have read nearly 300,000 minutes so far this year. Volunteers have donated nearly 10,000 hours of personal

time this year, and students have increased their fitness by walking nearly 10,000 miles, as the school strives to become a Gold Medal school.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McKell Withers gave the Board of Education a short review of the legislative session. He handed out a list of education related bills as well as a tracking sheet compiled by the Utah State Office of Education. He then reviewed the top ten bills for the district, five of which will benefit education and five that will hurt education.

Dr. Withers asked Board members if they were willing to continue paying for a crossing guard at Redwood Road near Northwest Middle School. The city normally pays for crossing guards but only at elementary schools, and the Utah Department of Transportation is now on its third traffic study to determine if a traffic light can be installed near the school. While that study is being completed, the district will pay for a crossing guard to help keep students safe.

The superintendent reported he has been asked to participate on an accountability advisory committee. The committee will debate and make recommendations on how to measure student growth accurately. Dr. Withers is optimistic the results will be worth the time and effort.

Other Items:

Recognition of National Board Certified teachers

The Board of Education recognized and honored employees who have recently become National Board Certified teachers: Kathy Barnson and Lisa Peterson, Highland Park Elementary; Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, Dilworth Elementary; Dessie Olsen, Beverlee Simpson, and Laura Cheney, East High School; Tracey Slinger, Northwest Middle School; Rebecca Mathis, Rose Park Elementary; and Jean Vandertoolen, Highland High School.

The Board also recognized two employees who received their National Board Certification prior to employment in the district: Jennifer McCoy, East High School and Richard Aslett, Escalante Elementary.