

December 1, 2005

## **K-8 Exploration Update from McKell Withers, Superintendent**

### **Team Recommendations and Future Board Discussions**

As neighborhood school team K-8 recommendations begin to come in, it is time to provide another district-wide update and clarification of our anticipated next steps in this community based process. I am deeply grateful to every individual who has participated in the current K-8 explorations as well as day-to-day conversations and efforts to help us improve our educational services for all students.

In an earlier update (October 24, 2005, available on our website), I outlined the K-8 exploration process in general terms, including the fact that all school communities in the Clayton and Hillside feeder systems had been invited to participate.

### **Please be assured: No Board of Education discussion of the K-8 recommendations, nor action to develop one or more K-8 schools, will occur until after the first of February 2006.**

- **Neighborhood School Team Recommendations:** The first of the written neighborhood school team recommendations will be delivered to the Board of Education in early December 2005. By the end of January 2006, the Board expects to receive written reports from all school teams in both the Hillside and Clayton feeder systems. The Board will take the time necessary to read and study these written reports prior to any board meeting discussion or action.
- **Administrative Recommendations:** After the current group of neighborhood school team recommendations are received (end of January 2006), the District K-8 Exploration Team will also prepare a district-wide K-8 recommendation for the Board of Education to consider. That recommendation will be consistent with neighborhood school team recommendations and the District's Student Achievement Plan. It will not replace the school team recommendations. *It will neither propose nor endorse the closure of any schools.*
- **Future K-8 Explorations:** We anticipate that over the next 18 months, all elementary school communities in the Salt Lake City School District will have the opportunity to explore the K-8 option and develop a neighborhood school team recommendation.

For additional K-8 information, and to learn more about our great neighborhood public schools, please visit our website: [www.slc.k12.ut.us](http://www.slc.k12.ut.us)