

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

May 19, 2015

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 6:09 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Heather Bennett, Vice President Tiffany Sandberg, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Katherine Kennedy, and Kristi Swett.

Members Excused: J. Michael Clára and Josh Whisenant, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Craig Ruesch, Interim Executive Director Human Resources; Barbara Kuehl, Executive Director, Academic Services/Professional Development; Kenneth Grover, Director Career & Technology Education and High School Support; Brian Conley, Lead Director, School Leadership Support; Julie Atwood, Director of Educational Technology/Library Media/Elementary School Leadership Support; James Martin, Elementary School Leadership Support; Joann Price, ELP Supervisor and Elementary School Leadership Support; Tracy Vandeventer, Elementary School Leadership Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Ricky Martinez, President, Buildings & Grounds Employee Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Brady Brammer, board legal counsel from Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Allison Sisam, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Study Session of May 19, 2015, two motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Bennett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation, Negotiations, and/or Property

Board Study Session

May 19, 2015

At 6:09 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

*(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, and/or property.

** (Swett and Sandberg)

Present for Closed Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property were Heather Bennett, Tiffany Sandberg, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Katherine Kennedy, Kristi Swett, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and Brady Brammer, board legal counsel from Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA			X
EMERY	X		
FORD	X		
KENNEDY	X		
SANDBERG	X		
SWETT	X		
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property at 6:40 p.m. Board members returned to the Board Study Session at 6:45 p.m.

B. Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual

There was no closed session for Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Bennett welcomed everyone to the Board Study Session. She excused Student Board Member Josh Whisenant and said Mr. Clára would be joining the board later. She briefly noted the purpose of the study session. During the meeting she recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Ricky Martinez, President, Buildings & Grounds Employee Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; and Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association.
- James Martin led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Limited Consent Agenda

*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the one item included in the Limited Consent Agenda. This item is listed below.

** (Swett and Sandberg)

- a. The Purchasing Report dated May 19, 2015, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, and increases to existing purchase orders.

A. STUDY TOPICS

1. 2015-2016 School Improvement/LAND Trust Plans. School Leadership Support team members Kenneth Grover, Brian Conley, Julie Atwood, James Martin, Joann Price, and Tracy Vandeventer were present to answer questions and provide clarification. They thanked board members for taking their time to go through the plans and said it reaffirms their work with the schools to make the plans more effective and collectively better district-wide.

Some of the issues that were raised include: problems schools are experiencing hiring and retaining paraprofessionals; supports that can be put in place for kids, e.g., prep classes for ACT tests; things that are being done to promote accountability, and what that means in the early grades; and the importance of understanding what students know and building from there.

In response to questions raised, it was noted some of the things board members should look for in their review of the plans is whether the plans seem doable, whether the plans will make sense to the community as a whole, and whether the way goals are measured is reasonable. It was also suggested, if board members have questions or concerns, both the principal and the School Leadership Support member over the school be contacted.

Board members noted it was easier to understand the plans of the schools for which they had attended School Community Council meetings, and suggested it might be helpful to review the same schools two years in a row. In response to a question, it was noted the plans are scheduled to be on the June 2, 2015, Board Business Meeting agenda for approval. It was also requested board member be given an update on the current year's plans in order to hear what the schools accomplished, and whether this year's goals were achieved and were measurable.

Board members expressed their appreciation to the School Leadership Support Team for everything they have done to make the process easier for the principals and the school communities. They also noted feedback from parents that the plans are easier to understand, parents are more involved, and including budget information has made the plans more transparent.

2. Student Achievement Plan.

- a. Family and School Collaboration. Patrick Garcia and Kim Nettles provided an update to board members on the current year's efforts for the Family and School Collaboration Essential of the Student Achievement Plan. Ms. Nettles reviewed the description and highlighted the 2014-15 action steps. She said they worked with the Curriculum Department to make sure curriculum brochures were current, accurate, and easily accessible on the district website. Informational sessions were held during new teacher orientation to ensure new teachers were aware of communication policies, and meetings were held in the fall to review the information with existing school faculties. She said throughout the year they have encouraged schools to communicate with families using a variety of methods, such as newsletters, Powerschool, Facebook, and face to face conversations.

Ms. Nettles updated board members on work for the new Student Achievement Plan. She noted their committee has met five times since March and they have had good

conversations. She said Family and School Collaboration equals Family and School Communication. She said it is important to move beyond just the “boiler plate” activities (back-to-school night, parent teacher conferences, newsletters, etc.) to have authentic and engaging conversations. She said collaboration between the school and family needs to be based on mutual respect and responsibility, and work on building capacity for all stakeholders. She said it is important to reach out to the communities so families know who to go to at the schools when they have questions and problems and need answers.

Mr. Garcia said the committee is still working to resolve some of the issues and develop a plan for moving forward. Ms. Nettles said one of the challenges facing schools is they do not have the resources to foster authentic relationships between families and schools. She said the schools and district need a system that can gather and analyze data related to parental participation. She said the current district infrastructure makes realizing the Family and School Collaboration Essential difficult, because no one person or department is responsible for the Essential which is spread broadly, with as many as six departments involved.

Ms. Nettles said students with involved parents, regardless of income or background, are more likely to earn high grades and test scores, have better attendance, have better social skills and behavior in school, and graduate and go on to post-secondary education.

In closing, Mr. Garcia briefly addressed the next steps. He said it is important moving forward that an individual be assigned who will “own” the Essential. He noted current personnel resources and raised the issue of shifting some of the resources in order to appoint an interim Family and School Collaboration Director who can lead the Essential moving forward.

Board members briefly discussed the issue. President Bennett noted as the board hears updates on each of the Essentials, additional requests will be brought to them and the board will need to consider all of the requests collectively. A copy of the presentation has been added to the official minutes.

3. Budget Development. Janet Roberts provided the board with an update on the budget. She said after the proposed budget was provided to board members, the district received notification the Utah State Auditor is requiring the district to include an additional piece in the budget. She distributed a page that will now need to be included in the budget for a Tax Increment Fund. A copy has been added to the official minutes. She told the board tomorrow morning a new version of the budget will be posted on the internet that will include this required change, and she noted the change will impact approximately ten pages in the budget book. She said the district’s tax levy generates a Tax Increment amount that is remitted directly to the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency. She said it is not available for the district, and the State Auditor is now requiring it be included in the district’s budget.

Ms. Roberts expressed appreciation to board members who have called her with their questions. She said the June 2, 2015, Board Business Meeting will include a public hearing on the budget. The board will need to approve a budget for the 2015-16 year, the revised budget for the 2014-15 year, and the proposed tax rate. She said the

proposed budget includes a \$1.5 million tax increase so the district will be required to hold a tax hearing in August. She said the date of the August meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 4, 2015, but Salt Lake County will tell the district which date the district can hold its hearing.

Board members briefly discussed the proposed budget, additional requests that will come to the board as they continue to receive updates on the Student Achievement Plan, and possible funding options and/or reprioritizing for some of the requests.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

New Laws and State Rules. Superintendent Withers reported the State Board approved the weighting of the three pieces of the teacher evaluation model, 70% observation, 20% student growth, and 10% stakeholder feedback. He said he thinks it is a good first step.

Superintendent Withers told board members in regards to their legislative priorities they might want to consider weighing in on priorities and governance issues related to how the State works with local schools districts. He said some of the changes and the loss of advocacy for local schools and kids is noticeable. He noted in the past at the board's Annual Planning Session all the legislative priorities have been focused on kids, and said this year they might want to talk about including this as one of their priorities.

President Bennett raised a question of whether the board would like to send a letter or resolution supporting the next generation science standards at middle schools. She will send a link to board members for their review in consideration of support.

2. Other Reports.

Board Member Emery distributed a handout with changes she would like to see made to the Administrative Procedures for Policy B-2, School Board Meetings. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Board Member Emery requested the board have a discussion in the future on the difference between the school resource officers at the schools, security at schools, and student interventionist. She said it is very interesting to see how even the name has a huge impact on people's perception. She said she feels it would be a good discussion and would like to see some of the statistics at the schools.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

Salt Lake City School District
Addition to the Minutes of the Board Study Session 05/19/2015

OFFICIAL EXHIBITS OF BOARD MEETING

Official exhibits provided to the board and made available to the public as part of the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

ADDITION TO THE MINUTES

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District acts by vote of a majority of the board members in an open and public meeting. Statements by individual board members, in or out of board meetings, written, oral or in social media, do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the board or any other board member. Nevertheless, out of respect to the elected office that each board member holds and consistent with state law and board policy, the board allows its members to attach to board meeting minutes any other information that any member requests. When the board votes to approve minutes, that vote signifies that the minutes are a correct record of what occurred and what was asked to be included in the minutes. It does not signify any individual board member's agreement with the substance of the content.

The following information was distributed in the public meeting of the board, and has been included in the minutes at the request of the board member(s):

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| Family and School Collaboration Presentation
distributed as part of a presentation | Agenda Item A2a |
| Tax Increment Fund Budget
distributed as part of a presentation | Agenda Item A3 |
| Proposed Changes to Administrative Procedures for Policy B-2
distributed by Board Member Emery | Agenda Item B2 |