

MINUTES OF THE WORK MEETING held Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the boardroom in the district office building.

**This meeting will be available for public remote participation at the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSydTbPJWn38IQFBvPq8TOW>**

At 5:30 p.m. President Lambert began the meeting.

The following Board Members were present to begin the meeting: Michelle Lambert, Dale Brinkerhoff, Ben Johnson, Dave Staheli, and Jeff Corry. Shannon Dulaney, Superintendent; Todd Hess, Business Administrator; Kevin Garrett, Steve Burton, Roy Mathews, and Monica Torres were also present.

Mr. Johnson offered the prayer.

#### Board Training

President Lambert reviewed chapter one from the book, The Key Work of School Boards Guidebook. The board members discussed their thoughts on what kind of district they hope to see in five to seven years.

#### Legislative Update

Superintendent Dulaney distributed paperwork and gave a brief update of the current legislative session. She reviewed and discussed the bills that are being supported by the Joint Legislative Committee. The supported bills include: HB 38 School Technology Amendments; HB 42, Education Agency Report Process Amendments; HB 93 Youth Suicide Prevention Programs Amendments; HB 105, Students with Disabilities Amendments; HB 134, Notice of Public Education Reporting Requirements; HB 181, Personalized Competency-based Learning; HB 182, Educator Hearings Amendments; HB222, School Land Trust Program Amendments; HB 300, Reporting Requirements for Local Education Agencies; HB 323 S1, High Poverty Schools Teacher Bonus Program Amendments; HB 340, Mathematics and Science Opportunities for Students and Teachers Program; HB 343, School Emergency Drills Amendments; HB 372 Start Smart Utah Breakfast Program Amendments; HB 378, Education Standards Review Committee Amendments; HCR 15, Concurrent Resolution Emphasizing the Importance of Civics Education; SB1, Public Education Base Budget Amendments; SB44, Payment in Lieu of Taxes Funds for Counties; SB91, School Accountability Amendments; SB118, State School Board Candidate Amendments; SB125, Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments; SB136, Higher Education Scholarships Amendments; SB142, Public Education Funding Amendments; SB 154, Teacher Salary Supplement Program Amendments; and SB178 Education Deadline and Fiscal Flexibility.

#### School Climate Survey

Tabled until next meeting.

#### Legal Counsel RFP "Scope of Work" Clarification

Superintendent Dulaney asked the Board for consensus on the Legal Counsel Request for Proposal "Scope of Work". She said the last RFP for Legal Counsel identified that we wanted to

look at proposals state-wide, not just local. Mr. Brinkerhoff indicated he would like to change the point structure to allow for more than 20 points for local Iron County counsel. He had no other objections. Hunter Shaheen explained the point structure can allow for more points if a proposal is within so many miles. The state statute indicates you have to include all of the state in the RFP. The Board made the decision to also add the verbiage that legal counsel must be available to attend meetings upon request.

#### Discussion of American Preparatory Academy's Request for a Letter of Support

Superintendent Dulaney reviewed a request received from American Preparatory Academy (APA) regarding a letter of approval or support. All Board members received a copy of the letter. Mr. Brinkerhoff indicated he would rather write a letter of no protest rather than a letter of support. Mr. Staheli indicated that he traveled to Salem, Utah to tour APA's campus there and was impressed with what they have to offer. He reviewed an email he received from APA regarding three types of scenarios they are interested in. The first scenario is to run the school independent from the district. The second scenario is for the Iron County School District to consider authorizing an APA charter school separate from the state. This would require a separate governing board for that location. Scenario number three is Iron County School District either bonds for a new district elementary school or transforms an existing district elementary school and hires the APA schools to manage that school. This has never been done in the state of Utah. Mr. Staheli again expressed that he was very impressed with the school. He said it's worth looking at to see if we want to expand the choice of education in the county. This school would serve the people of our community who have hesitancy in participating in what public school has to offer. President Lambert indicated the Board can either draft a letter of support now welcoming APA to move forward, or discuss the third option given later in the summer or next fall as this would be a huge undertaking and there are many more board priorities that need to be discussed. Mr. Brinkerhoff expressed his concern that we don't get into any financial obligation. If someone wants to come in as a private school that's great, but there should be no financial connection to the district in any way. Mr. Johnson agreed with Mr. Brinkerhoff and expressed his concern with bonding for a building that APA would use, plus losing the funds that would come in for those students. Mr. Corry said he would like to receive more information. Mr. Johnson indicated he would like to send a letter that the district is not in opposition so that APA can move forward and the Board is not holding them back. Mr. Staheli encouraged the public to come speak in the next regular meeting regarding bringing APA to Iron County. The Board members asked Mr. Staheli to forward the email correspondence from APA as they had not been included in that conversation. The Board decided to continue the discussion in the next meeting.

#### Ten Year Plan and Bond Discussion

Mr. Hess continued a discussion on the District Capital Facilities Plan. Hunter Shaheen distributed a copy of the plan and reviewed the high priority bond projects and high priority capital outlay projects. Mr. Johnson asked how the plan lines up with future growth projections. Superintendent Dulaney discussed the challenge of gauging enrollment due to COVID and online programs. Hunter explained that there has been an average of 1-1.5% increase in enrollment numbers each year for the past seven years. He said that it would be safe to plan for a 2% growth rate in the future. Mr. Brinkerhoff agreed. Mr. Hess presented a PowerPoint and reviewed the estimated growth projections including a 1%, 2% and 3% increase in students in

the next ten years. Based on the projections, the Cedar area elementary growth, with an increase of just 1%, would add 406 students by the 2029-2030 school year. A typical elementary school has around 550 students. A middle school increase of 1% would add 158 students. With this increase the district would need to add five to six new classrooms in the middle schools by the 2029-2030 school year. Hunter explained the first item on the high priority bond list is secure entrances in our schools. He reviewed three different security options and the approximate cost associated with them. Hunter reviewed and discussed the next item on the list, the replacement of East Elementary. The life span of the elementary school has been exceeded. The total cost to replace a school right now is approximately \$22-23 million. That's including all soft costs, architectural engineering, furniture and equipment, etc. Mr. Corry asked if the location of East Elementary is the optimum place to build a new school. Hunter indicated it has been discussed, but that's a decision for the Board to make. The long-term strategy up to this point has been to rebuild East Elementary on the current site and repurpose South Elementary for all of the alternative programs (Launch High School and SEA). Construction of a new South Elementary would be built further south of town which would also help with the current significant growth issues at Iron Springs Elementary. Mr. Corry asked for the number of students who attend East Elementary who are being bussed. Hunter explained the vast majority of students are brought to school by their parents since it is a dual immersion school and students are coming in from out of boundary. The rest of the high priority bond projects discussed included: classrooms and performing arts additions at Cedar Middle School, science area remodel and performing arts additions to Canyon View Middle School, science wing remodel at Cedar High School, fieldhouse style sports complex for Parowan High, bus garage facility, replacement of South Elementary, parking lot upgrade at Parowan High School, parking lot upgrade at Canyon View High School, auditorium/catwalk upgrades to Cedar High School, monitor growth for future elementary, middle and high school construction projects. Hunter noted the Bus Garage's biggest expense will be the cost of asphalt and concrete. He suggested replacing East Elementary first and then ask for a bond a couple years down the road to rebuild South Elementary. The cost to upgrade the Canyon View High School parking lot would be around \$1.5 million and the Parowan High School parking lot upgrade would cost around \$200,000-300,000. The Cedar High School catwalk upgrade would be around \$500,000. Marcus Keller from Zions Public Finance reviewed the district's outstanding general obligation bonds. He explained the district is in good shape as far as the tax levy is concerned. Iron County is growing which means the taxable value as a whole is going to increase and the individual debt burden to each resident or business is going to decrease as a result. He reviewed the district's tax levy bonds. Currently the district has about \$13 million in principal outstanding debts. Legally the district could issue up to \$246 million in bonds before coming close to the debt limit. Marcus gave a quick summary of options for bonding. The first option was to save up and set aside money, or pay as you go. The second option was grant financing and debt financing. The third option was to issue a general obligation bond, or lease revenue bond. Marcus discussed the issue of letting the tax levy drop this year and then raising it again for a bond issuance. Mr. Hess asked if there was an option to accelerate the payment to keep the levy up this year. Marcus indicated it was a possibility but would take a lot of educating the public. He gave the Board a high end scenario of bonding for \$124 million and indicated with this amount the district could keep the same payment they had in 2020 moving forward. The low end scenario would be a bond for \$43 million to show a neutral impact based on the lower amounts. Mr. Hess agreed to bring a recommendation to the Board in March.

### Health Ed Curriculum

Mr. Mathews reviewed the Health Education Curriculum review process. The Board was given the information in their board packet. Mr. Mathews explained the School Board reviews the curriculum every two years. The Health Ed committee will meet on Wednesday, March 10th to review the curriculum and make their recommendations. The committee is made up of parents, administrators, teachers, and community members. Their recommendations will be given to the Board in their March work meeting. The curriculum will need to be approved by the Board by the end of the school year. Mr. Mathews praised the teachers in the district for their professionalism when teaching the subject. Mr. Staheli asked that the Board not rush through this process. He also suggested using the resources in religious text regarding this subject because he said it gets the job done without the graphic features. Mr. Staheli also suggested pushing information back to families and parents because in reality it is their job to teach this subject at home and the district is just here to support. Mr. Johnson pointed out there are high risk students who don't have a healthy family structure and questioned if they are getting enough information to make informed decisions. Mrs. Lambert suggested going through the process and let the committee do their work first and then go from there. Mr. Mathews explained that everything that has been discussed is in state statute.

### Suicide Prevention Policy

Mr. Mathews praised the counselors throughout the district. He informed the Board that there needs to be a suicide prevention policy within the district. A sample policy was sent to the Board in their packet. It will be on the agenda for a first reading next week.

### Curriculum Adoption Policy Review

Mr. Burton reviewed the proposed Curriculum Adoption Policy. The Board had the opportunity to review the policy in their packet. Mr. Corry asked if there will be separate committees for each curriculum that is approved. President Lambert pointed out the section regarding having a board member sit on the adoption committee. She indicated that having a board member on that committee could complicate the grievance process if it comes before the Board for review. Mr. Burton stated the board member who sat on the adoption committee would have to recuse himself or herself if there ever came a request for reconsideration on the material. Mr. Staheli requested adding language to the policy indicating the public will have the opportunity to view the curriculum before it is adopted. Mr. Burton indicated that whether or not it is written in policy there are plans to have the curriculum available online or presented in person at an open house setting. Mr. Staheli suggested holding a public hearing as well. President Lambert agreed that transparency is important, but expressed her concern with bogging down the process with a long, rigorous process before adopting the curriculum. There needs to be a balance where the experts have the opportunity to work with the public and people have the opportunity to get the information they need. She emphasized the importance of not slowing down the adoption process to the point we're spending too much time vetting something that has already been vetted and teachers are not getting what they need when they need it. Mr. Staheli suggested anytime a new curriculum is being considered it should be brought to the Board with an explanation as to why it is needed. Mr. Johnson emphasized the importance of letting the public know when an adoption committee is being formed so parents can request to join, if they desire.

He also suggested not having board members sit on the committee for both the grievance process and also because it may give a false sense of security that all board members have that same opinion. The Board agreed to remove the part that indicated a board member would sit on the adoption committee. Mr. Staheli indicated it is okay to be slow getting curriculum approved. He stated there are a lot of things the National School Boards Association (NSBA) would love us to get into curriculum that he will fight. The Board agreed to add the language that before an adoption committee is formed the Board would grant approval. Principal Murray asked for clarification on what is considered curriculum that would require this adoption process. Mr. Burton indicated that advanced placement, concurrent enrollment, dual immersion, and other special program curriculum packages will not generally be reviewed for recommendation at the district committee level. Schools, under the direction of the principal, are expected to review these materials for appropriateness consistent with state law and district guidelines. Mr. Burton will bring the policy back for a first reading in the regular meeting next week.

#### Policy Handbook Review

The Board reviewed the following policies: BD (Board Meeting Policy), JFBB (ICSD Student Discipline Policy Seclusion and Restraint) and Statement of Policy - Parent and Grievance Policy.

Mr. Corry asked that the word "Board" be eliminated from the Board Listening Tour as he is not participating and is instead doing his own tour. President Lambert agreed and informed him that he is invited to attend at any time. Mr Johnson expressed his desire for all board members to take the time to attend because it is effective and it is an opportunity to hear feedback from our teachers. This is a hard time for teachers with all of the challenges brought on by COVID and it's a great opportunity for board members to hear directly from them.

Mr. Brinkerhoff suggested changing the board meeting times as follows: work meeting from 4-6pm and regular meeting from 5-7pm. The Board agreed to put it on the regular meeting agenda on February 23rd.

At 8:48 p.m. President Lambert adjourned the meeting.

  
Board President

  
Business Administrator

