WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
June 10, 2020

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Study Session in the Board Room at 5320 Adams Avenue Parkway, Washington Terrace, Utah. The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Jon Ritchie	Board President
Dean Oborn	Board Vice President
Jan Burrell	Board Member
Douglas Hurst	Board Member
Paul Widdison	Board Member
Janis Christensen	Board Member
Bruce Jardine	Board Member
Jeff Stephens	Superintendent
Robert Petersen	Business Administrator
Art Hansen	Assistant Superintendent

Superintendent Stephens gave the Board information regarding the Chinese Dual-Immersion program and the problems with J-1 Visas in our district at Bates, & Uintah Elementary. We have one new 1st grade teacher that has signed a letter of intent. There are three teachers returning to China that we are concerned about and their inability to get back into our country. The State department is not processing any visas at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The State office would like us to have long term substitute teachers but we are proposing to hire certified teachers that are not Dual Immersion teachers. The two schools will develop a plan to keep a little Chinese instruction in the classroom but will mainly be taught in a traditional setting. We will honor our contracts with Chinese teachers when they are able to return so the schools may be over staffed for a short time which will have a little expense. We have sufficient money to cover these one-time expenses. There are more Chinese teachers at Uintah that cannot return back into the country. Bates is only missing one or two teachers. It could possibly be year 2021 that they can return. This plan has also been well accepted by the communities in which these schools are located.

Board Member Jan Burrell asked if there will be an impact with J-1 Visas for our Foreign Exchange students. All foreign exchange students come with J-1 visas but it will depend on the country of origin they will be coming from. Superintendent Stephens indicated that he has not been informed of any changes.

Superintendent Stephens introduced our SAFE WEBER Framework. Superintendent Stephens indicated that he has heard of several districts developing many different scenarios preparing for next school year. He has heard of one district that has 97 "what if" scenarios. We want a framework unique to Weber School District. It will draw from best practice experts from the health department & CDC.

There are five components to the framework:
1. Facilities Sanitation.
2. Personal Protection & Hygiene- Masks or face shields are a possibility for teachers that would show faces.
3. Distancing & Social Gathering.
4. Academics - Recognizing and completing unfinished learning.
5. Digital Instructional Design and Delivery- In the shutdown last March, teachers did an amazing job going digital in two days. There is a lot of work to do though, such as not just assigning work but still teaching. Teacher fellows will build templates for teachers in every grade level and every subject area that teachers can build on.

We have different levels of intervention: Moderate Precaution, Enhanced Precaution and Intense Precaution. We can elevate the level of precautions as needed. There are committees working on each of the areas headed by Scott Zellmer - Facilities & Sanitation, Karla Porter - Personal Protection & Hygiene, Art Hansen - Distancing & Social Gathering, Sheri Heiter - Academics, Lynn Raymond & Nick Harris - Digital Instructional Design. This framework allows us to be agile and responsive to what may be happening in our district or in a given school. Lane Findlay is looking in to posting a video to parents to go over the framework showing what we are planning for in-student school with enhanced precautions and a plan in place. We will provide every student and employee a face mask furnished by Coleman Knitting. Disposable masks will also be available at each school. At the moderate level, students would not wear masks during class. Every teacher would create a little more space between children and encourage hand washing and sanitizing. At the intense level, masks would be worn all the time. Teachers may need to ensure that students sanitize as they enter or leave the classroom and wipe down desks several times a day.

The funding for all of this will be paid out of the federal CARES money we receive in the amount of about $2.1 million. Our responses to parents regarding this fall are that we are planning for in student school with enhanced precautions and with a plan in place.

Superintendent Stephens noted that last spring the Board suspended the attendance credit policy for the class of 2020. This will probably be an issue again. He has already discussed with elementary principals to eliminate any perfect attendance awards so to not encourage students to come when they may be symptomatic. It has been suggested that we should suspend attendance credit requirements for this upcoming year, as well as suspending eligibility aspects for sports.

Superintendent Stephens briefed the Board regarding the upcoming budget. He indicated that the States' budget will be highly impacted. We have heard about 2%, 5% ,10% cuts from the base budget. Our priorities are base budget, enrollment growth and anything that can be salvaged on the WPU. Possible suggestions for cuts he suggested to the legislature were on education related bills that have fiscal notes attached to them in the amount $140 million. These are restricted dollars, and school districts need unrestricted dollars. It is believed that there will be no cuts into the base budget. The legislature will hold a special session on Thursday, June 18th. that will then determine our budget. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were set to be able to give an increase to teachers that may not happen.

After determining no further business need be conducted, President Ritchie adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.