

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
December 2, 2020

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Study Session in the Superintendent's office 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
Paul Widdison	Board Member
Jeff Stephens	Superintendent
Art Hansen	Assistant Superintendent
Lori Rasmussen	Assistant Superintendent
Robert Petersen	Business Administrator

Board Members, Doug Hurst, Bruce Jardine, Janis Christensen and Jan Burrell joined via Google Meet. Also attending virtually, Barbera Whitman, Uniserve Executive Director, Brandon Baca, WEA President and teacher Cheryl Parkinson.

Superintendent Stephens began by welcoming those joining virtually.

Dr. Stephens explained COVID testing will begin for high school students participating in extracurricular activities. Students pursuant to the health order will need to show a negative test within 14 days. The intent was not to force teachers into the position to test every two weeks, so they were not included in the test mandate. If we have sufficient tests available, we can accommodate those that would like to be tested. We didn't want the impression to be that student athletes took priority.

Superintendent Stephens requested Weber School District be the host site for test training and included representatives from Weber, Morgan and Ogden districts. Each of our four traditional high schools will have a team of seven conduct testing and recording. Testing teams will consist of two nurses, an athletic director, athletic trainer, OWATC students in a medical related education path, and an administrator. Testing will be held the first and third Monday of each month. January and February, we observe Martin Luther King and Presidents day, so testing will be on the Tuesday following those holidays. In addition, we may not have all Personal Protective Equipment from the State by this Monday so testing may be delayed to Wednesday or Thursday. The test is a swab nostril test inserted one inch into the nose, turned five times, then placed into a booklet fifteen minutes for the results. The nurse will perform the test in full PPE, consisting of a

disposable gown, face shield, gloves and N95 mask. One team member will record data into a system called REDCap. We need to ensure student data remains private, so results will not show in My Student, but in the statewide REDCap database. If a student tests positive on Vinex Now test, they have the opportunity, within 48 hours of testing positive, to be tested elsewhere. Most tests used are PCR(Polymerase Chain Reaction) tests. If the test is negative, the PCR test will become the official result, because they are more reliable.

A \$3 million grant was released statewide. This grant has a \$10,000 base for every district or charter school and a dollar amount per student. This money may only be used for expenses related to COVID testing. Superintendent Stephens noted we are asking a lot from those conducting testing, so each member of the testing teams will receive a stipend from the grant. PPE is provided from the state, but has not been received yet.

Board Member Paul Widdison asked how parents and students will be contacted with positive test results. It was explained they will be notified and if they question the validity of results they have the option to go elsewhere to have a PCR test within 48 hours.

Business Administrator Robert Petersen asked what happens if a student refuses to test. Superintendent noted students will not be allowed to participate if they do not test as per the public health order.

Board Member Jan Burrell asked about PPE for our employees and what if a student tests positive. Superintendent noted we would refer to the definition of exposure. They would not have long enough exposure time with students. Superintendent explained in the training, they were assured this is a safe environment and protocol. Nurses will conduct tests, while other members of the team will have other responsibilities. Every person participating in testing has volunteered.

Board Vice President Dean Oborn asked if the testing will affect the number of students testing positive, currently required at fifteen to close a school. Superintendent Stephens shared an example of a basketball team. If one team member tests positive, the team will need to quarantine. It was also noted there has been discussion about relaxing the quarantine days due to more frequent testing. The current number of fifteen positive cases required for a school closure has not changed. Dean also asked if it would help to change the positive case number to a percentage rather than fifteen positive cases. Superintendent explained that we continue to follow health guidelines, and if guidelines change regarding school closures, we would recommend the Board follow. We are trying to balance and maintain in-person school while remaining safe. As a result of school closures at Roy High, the positive case went to almost zero. This has been very effective. We may have new guidelines from the CDC, but will continue to follow guidelines from the State.

Superintendent Stephens noted our Equity Director, Lillian Tsosie-Jensen, separated as of the end of November. It was noted how her influence will be felt for years to come and wished to thank her. The position for Equity Director was opened and candidates have been narrowed down to six finalists interviewing this Friday. There are three applicants from in district, and three out of district. The position will be filled by January. It was also noted this is important work and the pandemic has only heightened its importance. Tonight the president of our local NAACP, Betty Sawyer will address the Board with a statement regarding our equity efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.