

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
December 4, 2024

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

Paul Widdison	Board President
Jon Ritchie	Board Vice President
Doug Hurst	Board Member
Janis Christensen	Board Member
Bruce Jardine	Board Member
Jan Burrell	Board Member
Kelly Larson	Board Member
Gina Butters	Superintendent
Clyde Moore	Assistant Superintendent
Dave Hales	Assistant Superintendent
Robert Petersen	Business Administrator

President Paul Widdison welcomed everyone and recognized new Board Member Wyle Williams in attendance and noted he will be sworn in and begin his term in January 2025. President Widdison mentioned the following upcoming events: Dr. Robert Petersen will have a retirement open house on December 16th from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. The Legislative Breakfast will be held this Friday at Weber State University. On Tuesday, December 10, 2024, the Fremont Teen Center Open House will be held. USBA (Utah School Board Association) Conference will be held January 9 -11, 2025.

Board Member Janis Christensen updated the Board on the JLC (Joint Legislative Committee). It was noted there is concern about the legislature consistently passing too many education related bills. Examples were noted in 2022, there were 28 new rules and 17 new programs. A year later in 2023, 39 new rules and 10 new programs. Last year, 2024, 62 new education rules and 10 new programs. There is an effort being shared with legislators the burden it has on individual school districts, so the USBA has come up with a “Push Pause”. Hopefully, this will help with the volume of education related bills. It also puts a weight on school administration and the increased work load it takes to implement and understand new laws, and the impact on teachers with potential teacher burn out. They are working to seek solutions with legislators for the upcoming Utah Legislative Session to be held January 21st - March 7th, 2025. Janis concluded noting we are being asked to jump in and help participate with the “Push Pause” and help legislators understand the repercussions.

Superintendent Butters shared with the Board some recent Weber School District celebrations: Our first Military Festival was held at the district office with about 150 people attending. Student Educational Access & Opportunity Director Jamie Ellis and her department have done an excellent job. Haven Bay Elementary ribbon cutting was held yesterday and a big

thank you to Principal Justin Skeen and all involved. Christmas Tree Jubilee was held last week and Foundation Director Emily Oyler shared the following highlights: Raising money for the teen centers was the “ask” again this year with almost \$300,000 raised, and the live auction raised \$20,000 more this year. Because of this success, we will be able to fund and open all teen centers in each of Weber School District’s high schools. It was also noted many volunteers showed up throughout the district and community to make it a great success.

Community Relations Specialist Lane Findlay recognized Dr. Robert Petersen on his upcoming retirement. A special room here in the district office has been named after him.

Dr. Robert Petersen shared the Board Audit Committee met last Monday and noted there were no findings and no areas of concern. A fund balance sheet was distributed to Board Members. Dr. Petersen highlighted the following: General fund has a surplus of \$3.5 million, debt services fund balance went down, capital projects down \$27million, school lunch down \$1.2 million, but have a healthy balance at \$4 million, student activities flat, and foundation is up. It was noted Matt Geddes with Squire & Company will also be present in tonight’s Board meeting.

Digital Teaching and Learning Director Nick Harris presented to the Board an update on Artificial Intelligence. He explained this year author Matt Miller will be the keynote speaker at Learn Conference in June. We just passed the two-year anniversary for ChatGBT and our district decided to use School AI which implements ChatGBT. DT&L Specialist Blake Pope explained the particulars of the origins of our district wide AI rollout and the first educator user groups to receive training on our new supported platform – School AI. Essential training included Building EdTech Coaches, Library Technology Specialists and a District Professional Learning Day.

Strategic steps took to craft plan:

- Piloted 65 teachers (K-12)
- Consulted with other LEAs
- Participated in the statewide AI, Collaborative
- Assisted with the UEN RFP process
- Undertook in depth product training

DT&L Specialist Jaymee Barrowes explained the safety behind AI & Data Privacy noting State & Federal Student Privacy Laws including FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) & COPPA (Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act), Educators need to keep Student PII (Personal Identifiable Information) safe, and when using AI, educators must be cautious and mindful of student data. What is being done to ensure safety:

Vetting Tools

- Verify Data Privacy Agreements (DPAs) exist
- Ensure tools do not collect or store student data unnecessarily

Training Focus for Teachers

- Privacy & Data Protection
- Bias & Ethical AI Use
- Effective Integration of AI Tools

DT&L Specialist Monica Widdison shared that they are seeing excitement and enthusiasm for utilizing SchoolAI sweeping across the entire district and saving teacher's time. DT&L Specialist Alan Rees explained the impact of AI with 1,347 active AI teacher users (87% of possible staff). We are looking forward to raise the level of adoption for teachers and students with an upcoming administrator dashboard and the following opportunities:

- Increased collaboration
- Data usage within SchoolAI's walled garden to help guide teachers next steps
- Improved student learning
- Improved teacher and student morale over time

Nick concluded thanking the Board for their support with the program.

Assessment, School Improvement/Research Director Dr. Bryan Becherini updated the Board on Dual Language Immersion in the district and explained they are preparing to send out a survey after Christmas break to gain clarity on the program. Superintendent Butters explained it will be sent out district wide and noted other districts in the state are going through a similar study.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder noted there are two policy updates on tonight's Board agenda:

Policy 7900 *Employee Corrective Action and Termination* hasn't been updated for many years. The policy has been updated to specify what an employee can be disciplined for and the difference between performance, evaluations and potential termination for performance issues versus conduct issues. Included a minimum to the statutory definitions that apply to employees and the minimal number of procedures when dealing with performance or conduct. There are few substantive changes, but one regarding provisional employees and the notice administrators send to these employees.

Policy 7100 *Employee Harassment and Discrimination* was requested to be updated by WEA (Weber Education Association) to align with our student policy updated years ago. There are different state and federal laws that apply in the context and incorporated it into the policy. Also created an email address to submit complaints of discrimination to.

Policies on the consent calendar are repealed policies, or combined policies with no procedural or substantive changes.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.