

**WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**5320 Adams Avenue Parkway**  
**Ogden, UT**

**General Board Meeting**  
**May 5, 2021**

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Board Meeting in the Board Rooms at 5320 Adams Avenue Parkway, Washington Terrace, Utah. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Business Administrator Dr. Robert Petersen
2. Consent Calendar
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Warrant Register
  - C. Budget Update
  - D. New Hires
  - E. Bid/Purchase Approvals
  - F. Leave of Absence Requests
3. Presentation of Proposed Fee Schedule for 2021-2022 School Year
4. Public Meeting – Public Comment on Proposed Fee Schedule
5. Recognitions
  - A. Mark Daniels, Weber High School – *WSD Teacher of the Year 2021*
  - B. Rebekah Jamison, Municipal Elementary – *WSD First Year Teacher Award*
  - C. Derrick Gainsforth, Two Rivers High School – *WSD First Year Teacher Award*
  - D. Caitlyn Singley, H. Guy Child, Special Education *WSD First Year Teacher Award*
  - E. Diana Farley, West Haven Elementary – *WSD Classified Employee of the Year 2021*

6. Discussion/Action Items
  - A. Approval of Revised Policy 4120 – *Student Discrimination and Harassment Policy* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
  - B. Approval of Revised Policy 4370 – *Graduation Requirements* – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

## **AGENDUM ITEM #2 – Consent Calendar**

### A. Minutes

That the minutes for the Study Session and General Board Meeting Session dated April 14, 2021, be approved.

### B. Warrant Register

That check numbers 00016334 through 00016563; and 00527107 through 00527888 totaling \$5,167,388.58 dated April 26, 2021, be approved.

### C. Budget Update

That the budget update dated April 26, 2021, be approved.

### D. New Hires

That the list of personnel changes and additions dated March 30, 2021, through April 29, 2021, be approved.

### E. Bid/Purchase Approvals

### F. Leave of Absence Requests

That Heidi Tilley, Unit Manager at Wahlquist Jr. High School be granted a leave of absence per her request.

That Chelsey Westergard, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Green Acres Elementary be granted a leave of absence per her request.

Board President, Jon Ritchie, called for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion: Doug Hurst

Seconded: Paul Widdison

That the above Consent Calendar be approved. Voting was unanimous in support of this motion.

### **AGENDUM ITEM #3 – Presentation of Proposed Fee Schedule for 2021-2022 School Year**

Secondary Education Supervisor Clyde Moore addressed the Board seeking approval on school fees for the 2021-2022 school year. Information was gathered by the fee committee. The updated fee schedule creates transparency and equity for all students. On April 14, 2021 the changes and updates were presented to the Board and open for public comment on a 1<sup>st</sup> reading. With no questions or concerns from the Board or public, it is recommended the Board approve the proposed fee schedule for 2021-2022 school year on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

### **AGENDUM ITEM #4 – Public Meeting – Public Comment on Proposed Fee Schedule**

President Ritchie invited members of the audience to comment on the proposed fee schedule if they would like. There were no requests to address the Board on fee schedules. It is recommended the Board approve the proposed fee schedule for 2021-2022 school year on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Motion: Paul Widdison      Seconded: Bruce Jardine

That the proposed fee schedule for 2021-2022 school on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading be approved. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **AGENDUM ITEM #5 – Recognitions**

- A.     Mark Daniels, Weber High School – *WSD Teacher of the Year 2021*  
Assistant Superintendent Art Hansen began explaining Mark has a show tonight at Weber High, presenting Fiddler on the Roof and he has never missed a show. Mark is an amazing educator and it's about time we recognize this wonderful man, with the nomination from Weber High principal Chris Earnest and the selection committee. Mark has been in education for 26 years and is a Weber High graduate. He worked at Hillcrest High School, and taught 6 years at Green Acres Elementary before moving to Weber High. In his free time, he is a stage actor at Hale Theater and Terrace Playhouse. Mark is talented both in the classroom and on stage. When the "prize patrol" visited his classroom, Dr. Stephens asked students how Mr. Daniels has influenced you in your life. It was powerful the comments received from his students as it was recorded live on Facebook. Within two hours the Facebook post had been viewed 6,000 times and as of Board meeting this post has over 26,000 views.

Student tributes were then shared, stating how passionate he is, works for hours just for us, is a friend to us, dedicated, selfless by giving up his own personal time, and how it's an honor to work with him. Others commented he is not training us for Broadway but is teaching us to be good hard workers, and accepting of others by learning to love and respect. Mr. Daniel's training helped another student trust herself and gain self-confidence, and stated you never leave his classroom uninspired. He goes above and beyond for all his students. His job is his passion, his love and life. We are his kids. Mr. Daniels knows when something is wrong with students, he includes others, helps students find what they are doing in their life and is a mentor. A few highlights from principal Chris Earnest's nomination letter included:

- Support and service – always the first to volunteer
- Cares about every student- takes on large classes

- Advocate- alerts counselors, administrators and parents when student is struggling or achieving.
- Motivator- greets students at door and sends them off with a positive message every day.

B. Rebekah Jamison, Municipal Elementary – *WSD First Year Teacher Award*  
 Elementary Education Executive Director Cami Alexander shared Rebekah teaches at Municipal Elementary and she is a super hero! When observing her classroom, her kids are always busy and she can be found kneeling down teaching them. They love their teacher because she knows how to love them. She is large in character, competence and care. Mr. Chase, principal at Municipal Elementary has never written a nomination letter for anyone but had to this year. Comments from Mr. Chase’s letter included:

- First year of teaching during COVID
- Handles difficult situations like she is a 35-year veteran
- She is always happy
- Brings joy to her students and all who enter her classroom
- Finds out what students are interested in and incorporates those things into the classroom
- Her classroom is a safe place for kids
- Positive reinforcement at a 12.1 ratio!
- Engagement 97% of the time
- Very concerned about individual student’s needs

C. Derrick Gainsforth, Two Rivers High School – *WSD First Year Teacher Award*  
 Secondary Education Executive Director Gina Butters began honoring Derrick Gainsforth noting if you take a hike on the Appalachian trail there are people along the way called trail angels. Trail angels are stewards of travelers on the trail, they go out of their way to make life a little easier for hikers, are often seasoned hikers, know the terrain, and the mental and physical drain hikers may encounter. Derrick is one of those trail angels in the New Pathways program at Two Rivers High School. New pathways is a program for students severely off target for graduation. When Derrick was asked what is your job and what are you all about? He responded, “I want to help kids liberate themselves from their circumstances. I teach them to recognize barriers, label them and inspire them to overcome. My kids are not misfits they are misunderstood. I get them.”

Principal Nicole Meibos, shared how she needed someone to work with the most vulnerable students. Derrick gives kids hope, relates and connects with them, is judgment free, unconventional, creative, individualizes each student and meets kids where they are at. He has gone above and beyond. One of his students wrote how she went from hopeless to knowing she had a chance. Derrick believes education is freedom. Ms. Butters concluded with a quote from Dr. Jeff Stephens, “Helping people at their most vulnerable time is a privilege.”

D. Caitlyn Singley, H. Guy Child Elementary – *WSD First Year Teacher Award*  
 Special Education Director Quinn Karlinsey began sharing how impactful she is with kids, and is a dynamic teacher! Several of her characteristics were shared by co-workers: problem solver, team player, organized, passionate, innovative, advocate, energetic, creative, loving, fun, willing, patient, positive, and efficient. Upon visiting her classroom, it was observed how she has a calming classroom by covering lights to dim for kids sensitive to certain things, kids are in stations throughout the classroom, and

kids are engaged with a purpose, a plan and a schedule. Caitlyn understands communication is key. An entire corner of her room is dedicating to communication. She puts academic demands on her students most people are afraid to do; these demands also apply to her online students. She knows her students, advocates for them, and honors their feelings. A co-worker noted, “She steps with opposition when throwing overhand.” Caitlyn concluded saying, “I have no patience for general education – it’s special education or nothing.”

- E. Diane Farley, West Haven Elementary – *Classified Employee of the Year 2021*  
Assistant Superintendent Lori Rasmussen shared Diane has been with West Haven Elementary for five years. Although staff at West Haven shared many great things about her there was some hesitation because they don’t want anyone to steal her from them! Diana helps a student every day in the office with diabetes. It was noted there are secret ingredients that set her apart: Kindness, goodness, patience, and a secret skill to decode what people need. She has a secret calming force as a testing aid. An example was shared with end of year testing and how she helped a struggling student. She has secret out of this world tech skills and came up with a way to track online students during COVID and was willing to share the idea. Two words that stuck out describing Diana was catalyst; a person whose talk, enthusiasm or energy causes others to be more friendly, enthusiastic or energetic, without themselves being consumed by the task. Another was inspiration. An example of her creativity includes a student check in and out system with less contact using QR codes. Principal Kristi Hancock shared there is an amazing team at West Haven and noted Diana deserves this recognition!

#### **AGENDUM ITEM #6 – Discussion/Action Items**

- A. Approval of Revised Policy 4120 – *Student Discrimination and Harassment Policy* – 2nd Reading.  
Weber School District Legal Counsel Heidi Alder noted this revision is not in response to a law that changed, but recently with policy 4121 we were required as an LEA to create a sexual harassment policy that went into effect August 2020. All districts had to implement a policy effectuating procedure. Policy 4120 included up until now the elements that are now in policy 4121. It covers sexual harassment under Title IX. Discrimination includes sexual harassment. With new regulations we had to pull out the Title IX from policy 4120 and create a new separate policy 4121 in order to comply with new regulations. These include steps of allegations and investigation. Policy 4120 was noted to be helpful to develop this policy to help administrators know what is prohibited by federal law and include specific procedures. When complaints are received they fall into two camps; against a school or the district. Examples were shared on how the process has been separated. All fall under federal law prohibiting discrimination. It is recommended the Board approve Revised Policy 4120 -*Student Discrimination and Harassment Policy* on a second reading.

Motion: Jan Burrell

Seconded: Paul Widdison

That the Approval of Revised Policy 4120 – *Student Discrimination and Harassment Policy* on a second reading be approved. Voting was 6 to 0 in favor of the motion with one abstention.

- B. Approval of Revised Policy 4370 – *Graduation Requirements* – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Jennifer Warren, Special Education Supervisor explained the request for the amendment on Policy 4370 *Graduation Requirements*. This addition is proposed to be in compliance with amendments from the Utah State Board of Education Administrative Rule R277-705, the secondary school completion and diplomas policy. This allows districts to award career credentials certificates for those with an IEP or a 504. Superintendent Stephens asked for a general example on the value of this credential. It was explained students with disabilities relate to transition beyond high school. Transition goals beyond high school, employment or post high school education. This is a credential layered onto their diploma by completing a CTE pathway, work base learning, or seek application for rehabilitation services. This helps them to gain competitive employment or further post-secondary education. It is recommended the Board approve Revised Policy 4370 – *Graduation Requirements* on a first reading.

Board member Jan Burrell noted it is phenomenal what this can do for students with a 504 or an IEP.

Motion: Jan Burrell

Seconded: Bruce Jardine

That the Approval of Revised Policy 4370 – *Graduation Requirements* on a first reading be approved. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **AGENDUM ITEM #7 – Closed Session**

Closed meeting according to provisions of Utah Code 52-4-204,205. (This meeting is a strategy session to discuss collective bargaining.)

After determining no further business need be conducted, President Ritchie asked Dr. Robert Petersen, Business Administrator, to conduct a roll call vote to move into a Closed Session. Results of the vote were:

Board Member Jan Burrell	aye
Board Member Bruce Jardine	aye
Board Member Paul Widdison	aye
Board Member Janis Christensen	aye
Board Member Doug Hurst	aye
Board Vice President Dean Oborn	aye
Board President Jon Ritchie	aye

Board adjourned the general session of Board Meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Board reconvened in general session at 8:20 p.m.

After determining no further business need be conducted, President Ritchie called for a motion to adjourn the general session of Board Meeting.

Motion: Dean Oborn

Seconded: Paul Widdison

That the general session of Board Meeting be adjourned. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

General Board Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.