

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2024

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in an open board meeting and closed executive session, beginning at 5:05 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 465 South 400 East, Suite 300, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Nate Salazar, Vice President Bryce Williams, Ashley Anderson, Mohamed Baayd (left at 6:52 p.m.), Bryan Jensen, Kristi Swett, and Student Board Member Hilina Teklemedhin

Members Excused: Jenny Sika

Also Present: Elizabeth Grant, Superintendent; Alan Kearsley, Business Administrator; Isaac Astill, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services; Yándary Chatwin, Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations; Sandra Buendia, Executive Director of Educational Equity and Student Services; Logan Hall, Executive Director of Human Resource Services; Leeson Taylor, Executive Director of School Leadership and Performance; Tiffany Hall, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning; Kristina Kindl, General Counsel; Sam Quantz, Chief Information Officer; Christy Hart, Director of Finance; April Johnson, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; and others.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the board meeting on August 6, 2024, five motions were made. Items are reported as listed on the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

1. BOARD MEETING OPENS FOR CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was called to order by President Salazar, who presided.

At 5:05 p.m. the motion was made:

*(1) That the board meet in closed session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**(Williams and Swett)

Present for the closed session were President Salazar, Vice President Williams, Ashley Anderson, Mohamed Baayd, Bryan Jensen, Kristi Swett, Superintendent Grant, Business Administrator Kearsley, and Kristina Kindl.

2. PUBLIC MEETING CONVENES:

A. OPENING ITEMS

1. Welcome

President Salazar welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recognized Student Board Member Hilina Teklemedhin to her first meeting.

He recognized Adrienne Lobato representing the Salt Lake Association of School Administrators (“SLASA”), Mike Harmon and Chelsie Acosta representing the Salt Lake Education Association (“SLEA”), Chris Krogh representing the Salt Lake Transportation Association, Elia Ocampo representing the Buildings and Grounds Association, and Tonya Slaughter representing Child Nutrition.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	ABSTAIN	NAY	ABSENT
WILLIAMS	1,2,3,4,5			
SIKA				X
ANDERSON	1,2,3,4,5			
SALAZAR	1,2,3,4,5			
BAAYD	1,2			3,4,5
JENSEN	1,2,3,4,5			
SWETT	1,2,3,4,5			
A Absent	Ab Abstain	F Failed		
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled		
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval			
**Members Making Motion				

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Director of School Leadership and Performance Dr. Leeson Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

B. CONSENT AGENDA:

*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the 23 items on the Consent Agenda as listed below. The motion was approved unanimously.
 **(Swett and Baayd)

1. Purchases/Accounting Reports
 - a. Increase-Harris Mtn West
 - b. Arm Construction-Fire Lane
 - c. Asian Association-Translating Services
 - d. Carahsoft-Newslea
 - e. Davis School District-Food Processing
 - f. Hyko-Custodial Supplies
 - g. Joe Granato-Fresh Produce
 - h. Lexia-Lexia English Software
 - i. Linqualinx-Translating
 - j. Raptor Tech-Emergency Management Renewal
 - k. Rush Truck-Cab & Chassis Truck
 - l. TeachFX-Software Licenses
 - m. VLCM-Services

- n. Wasatch Electric-CO Detector Upgrades
 - o. Purchase Under 50K Change Orders and POs-FY24 (Excel)
 - p. Budget Report
 - q. Payment Voucher Report
 - r. School Financial Reports
 - s. Administrative Stipend Report
2. Board Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2024
 3. Human Resource Services Report
 4. Early Learning Plan 2024-25
 5. Approval of Foreign Exchange Agency

C. REQUEST TO SPEAK:

Russ Askren opposed both bond options, citing the transparency costs of the high school rebuilds and increasing taxes amidst rising financial pressures on residents.

D. REPORTS AGENDA:

1. 2023-24 Title IX Report Student Participation in Interscholastic Sports

Athletic Director Emily Sutherland and Compliance Officer Tina Hatch presented the annual Title IX Interscholastic Athletics report. In accordance with state law, the written report included all the required data and expenditures on interscholastic sports in our comprehensive high schools and middle schools. They also presented a PowerPoint highlighting important achievements in the past year and noting their focus for the upcoming year. In discussing ongoing challenges, they cited scheduling and staffing issues for middle school sports, along with ongoing efforts to secure grants and improve logistical support for teams and players.

E. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Consideration of a Resolution Providing for the Holding of a Local Special Bond Election Relating to the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Providing for Related Matters.

Business Administrator Kearsley, along with Ryan Bjerke from Chapman & Cutler and Alex Buxton from Zions Bank, reviewed the bond process and financial planning, emphasizing the importance of minimizing taxpayer impact and ensuring efficient fund utilization. Business Administrator Kearsley introduced a resolution to authorize a local special bond election, required for placing the proposal on the November ballot. The board thoroughly discussed two options, and ultimately supported Option A, a \$730 million bond for rebuilding Highland and West High Schools, building an athletic field house at East High, and funding \$80 million for district-wide sustainability projects. Option A aligns with the board's Resolution to Establish Goals for Sustainability, Clean Energy, And Carbon Neutrality, which was adopted on June 2, 2020. With the board's approval of the bond resolution, a public hearing will be held on September 17, 2024.

*(3) A motion was made to move Option A, a \$730 million bond for rebuilding Highland and West High Schools, building an athletic field house at East High, and funding \$80 million for district-wide sustainability projects to the Action Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

** (Swett and Anderson)

2. Board Goals and Metrics

Superintendent Grant outlined ongoing discussions about finalizing district goals, focusing on literacy, attendance, and career pathways. The proposed career and college pathway program aims to provide students with flexible, structured paths from secondary education to careers or further education, including new pathways in health sciences and manufacturing, with enhanced industry partnerships and equitable access. Executive Director of Teaching & Learning Dr. Tiffany Hall and Director of Language Arts Dr. Chelsea Malouf presented the literacy program's focus on phonological awareness, phonics, and comprehension, targeting a 70% proficiency rate by 2029. Executive Director of Educational Equity and Student Support Dr. Sandra Buendia and Director of Educational Equity and Access Dr. Robert Guido reported on rising chronic absenteeism rates and outlined strategies to reduce these rates by 2 percentage points annually, aiming for an 18% rate by 2029. The board will continue to discuss goal development in future meetings.

3. Superintendent and Business Administrator Evaluation Tool

President Salazar and Vice President Williams presented a proposed timeline for finalizing evaluation criteria for the Superintendent and Business Administrator. The timeline begins in August, with a contract renewal decision for the Superintendent to be finalized by December 19, 2024. The proposed timeline aims to streamline evaluations while accommodating board responsibilities and ensuring thorough review.

F. ACTION AGENDA:

1. Consideration of a Resolution Providing for the Holding of a Local Special Bond Election Relating to the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Providing for Related Matters.

*(4) A motion was made to approve bond election resolution Option A. The motion was approved unanimously.

** (Swett and Jensen)

G. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Grant proposed approving two late travel requests from East High School: one for the girls' tennis team to attend a tournament in St. George from August 15-17, and another for the cheer team to accompany the football team to Anaheim from August 21-24. She indicated that, barring any objection, she would place them on the board's September 3, 2024, consent agenda for approval. Dr. Grant also highlighted recent events, including a successful Committed to Excellence celebration held by the Salt Lake Education Foundation (SLEF) with notable performances, recognitions, and speeches. She also provided updates on the start of the school year and the professional development opportunities for administrators and teachers. Finally, she introduced the BoardBook system pilot for

managing agendas and documents and announced an upcoming year-long study on middle school improvements, led by Dr. Hall and Brian Conley.

H. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Business Administrator Kearsley provided an update from the Utah Association of School Business Officials' summer meeting held on July 15th. Key points included information from URS representatives about changes to the retirement system, notably that employees in the Tier 2 hybrid plan will need to contribute 0.7% of their salary to their retirement plan starting September 1. He also included a finance update from the state school board, focusing on issues and timelines.

I. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS (if needed):

Board Member Jensen informed the board that he, along with Board Members Anderson and Swett, will be attending the Utah School Board Association (USBA) Board of Directors meeting on Friday, August 9, 2024.

Board Member Anderson reported that there have been no significant updates from the finance committee or RDA subcommittee meetings since the last business meeting. However, she celebrated the success of Wasatch Elementary's food waste recycling program, which diverted 1,888 pounds of food waste last school year.

Student Board Member Teklemedhin expressed excitement about returning to school.

President Salazar reported on attending the SLEF board retreat with Superintendent Grant, Vice President Williams, and other SLEF board and community members. He also highlighted by an insightful discussion with Ken Hopkins founder of the "Speak Out Summit". He commended the Committed to Excellence celebration for honoring district educators and recognized James Yapias and his team's efforts in organizing these events. Additionally, he attended the Show Your Colors event hosted by the Central 9th Youth Coalition alongside new East High School Principal Ryan Oaks and applauded the valuable opportunities it gave them both to connect with students and community members.

At 8:50 p.m. the motion was made:

*(5) That the board meet in closed session to discuss the deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems and that the board adjourns immediately following the closed session. The motion was approved unanimously.

** (Williams and Anderson)

Present for the closed session were President Salazar, Vice President Williams, Ashley Anderson, Bryan Jensen, Kristi Swett, Superintendent Grant, Business Administrator Kearsley, and Kristina Kindl.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by President Salazar at 9:34 p.m.

AJ

Alan Kearsley
Business Administrator

DRAFT

**Salt Lake City School District
Addition to the Minutes of the Board Meeting 8/6/2024**

*The Official Minutes of the board meeting held on August 6, 2024, will be posted upon approval by the Board of Education.

OFFICIAL EXHIBITS OF BOARD MEETING

Official exhibits provided to the board and made available to the public as part of the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

ADDITION TO THE MINUTES

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District acts by a vote of a majority of the board members in an open and public meeting. Statements by individual board members, in or out of board meetings, written, oral, or in social media, do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the board or any other board member. Nevertheless, out of respect to the elected office that each board member holds and consistent with state law and board policy, the board allows its members to attach to board meeting minutes any other information that any member requests. When the board votes to approve minutes, that vote signifies that the minutes are a correct record of what occurred and what was asked to be included in the minutes. It does not signify any individual board member's agreement with the substance of the content.

The following information was distributed in the public meeting of the board and has been included in the minutes at the request of the board member(s): None.

Additions to the minutes: None