

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
November 1, 2023

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 Widdison welcomed everyone. Board Member Janis Christensen shared information from USBA on Master Board Certification. It was noted the deadline to complete is December 1st, but she encouraged all to complete it the day before Thanksgiving, November 22, 2023.

Secondary Education Supervisor Matt Williams shared information about junior high football and wanted to dispel some rumors. He noted that Rocky Mountain Jr. High won the football championship against Wahlquist Jr. High yesterday. The question has been asked if Weber School District is considering to have “no helmeted” sports. It was noted Weber is not. NAL(National Academic League) is extracurricular in junior highs but will be dismantled after this year. We have been asked to look into junior high football as a whole. Four of the last six years we had nine junior highs and a six-game season. Because of low participation, Snowcrest Jr. High joins teams with Orion Jr. High or North Ogden Jr. High. South Ogden Jr. High and T.H. Bell Jr. High combined this year. Mr. Williams asked for permission to create a committee with coaches, administrators, and parents to see if it is worth continuing football in junior high. Board Member Doug Hurst asked how many other school districts have junior high football. It was noted Weber is the only district in the state with junior high football. Board Vice President Jon Ritchie and Board Member Bruce Jardine noted they would support the discussion and are also concerned about student safety. Startup costs for the new junior high football program would be \$65,000-\$70,000 so we would like to decide prior to opening the new junior high. Board Member Kelly Larson asked if they will consider bringing in a new sport. It was noted they will look into a sport with equal opportunity.

Matt noted with the creation of the new cone, we need to adopt an athletic eligibility transfer process for athletes affected by the boundary change. After meeting with Executive Director of UHSAA, Rob Cuff, he gave three examples on what new schools have done in the past. One possibility is an option to switch to any school, which was decided against. Second, you go to the school in the boundary you live in, and if currently a Fremont student but live in the new boundary of West Field, can choose Fremont or the new school. The “Choice” proposal says anyone who lives in the boundary of the new school becomes athletic eligible, but have a choice for students in an adjacent high school to move. Board Vice President Jon Ritchie asked how are they going to handle it so one school team is not completely depleted of players. It was noted a balance of athleticism would possibly occur like what has happened in other districts. This applies to athletic eligibility only for the 2024-2025 school year and students must declare by May 1, 2024. We will have all 27 sports available at the new high school next year, with seniors and varsity sports. Matt concluded no head coaches have been hired or promised positions. This Friday, we will open positions for football coaches.

Student Services Director Jennifer Warren noted with our boundary realignment, we will present open enrollment schools for next school year to the Board in January and will change our open enrollment deadline. It will be open January 3rd through February 23, 2024.

Director of Technology Jennifer Boyer-Thurgood and Online Digital Learning Director Nick Harris updated the Board on Chromebook monitoring solutions and a report of proposal findings.

1. Background- From Superintendent’s listening sessions, we heard from teachers and how they don’t have much control with what students are accessing. We currently use iBoss, and Bark for monitoring. NetSupport is used to monitor computer labs. Currently we have no solution to allow teachers real-time insights to student activity on Chromebooks.
2. Solutions – Using GoGuardian, Blocks, LANSchool, or having no solution was input received from other districts. A Blocks beta test was performed with South Ogden Jr. High and Lomond View Elementary to gauge user friendliness with an overwhelming positive result. We went out to RFP (request for proposal), and researched six vendors. GoGuardian, Blocks and LANSchool rose above. The final two, GoGuardian and Blocks were researched, piloted, and reviewed by Weber School District. Based on feedback, price and reviews they are asking for Board approval to move forward with the purchase of Blocks.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder noted the first policy is 4145 *School Entrance Requirements, Birth Certificate and Immunizations* on a second reading. A section was added to the policy explaining what registrars do when a parent/student doesn’t provide a birth certificate. Training and steps have been added to the policy. One step is to notify the administrator who convenes a review committee based on state law.

Policy 6900 *Interpretation and Translation Services* had no changes or additions made from last month. This policy is required by state law on how we access these services.

Policy 8800 *Learning Materials Selection and Reconsideration*. This policy is required by new state law for districts to have guidelines in place for teachers when they are using supplemental learning materials. Legislation requires a guide for teachers to know when and what they can use in their classroom. This is a combined policy for selecting curriculum and supplemental material.

Policy 4540 *Student Organizations* has been amended but no substance has been changed regarding curricular clubs and groups. A section was added about fees and accounts for these groups.

Elementary Education Director Mary Jo Williams and Bates Elementary Principal Brent Hogan addressed the Board regarding school mascots. It was noted Bates Elementary mascot is currently the Braves, but has not been used for many years. Principal Hogan noted he wanted to build a culture with the school and community, so he reached out to Shoshone leaders, met and discussed it with them. Mr. Hogan is proposing to move forward and change the mascot at Bates Elementary. It was noted Policy 6600 *Naming of Schools/Facilities* gives us direction how to proceed.

Superintendent Butters reminded the Board of the Special Board Study Session to be held on November 17, 2023. USBA will be training on Best Practices and work on the district's Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm