

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

**Study Session**  
**March 6, 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 Widdison welcome everyone. Board Member Janis Christensen discussed the “Dignity Index” and noted what she experienced at recent JLC meetings. SJR10 removal of the earmark for constitutional amendment will be on the ballot this fall and noted the need we have to educate the public.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board on the recent legislative session. She highlighted a few of the bills. Data was shared noting 519 total bills passed, 109 public education, JLC support 26 passed, JLC opposed 23 passed.

HB84 School Safety Amendments- Community Relations Specialist Lane Findlay shared last year the foundation was laid with the hiring a state security chief. This position will act similar as a fire marshal with standards and codes. Provisions we need to be aware of include creating a new position at the sheriff’s office to coordinate with school districts. Guardian program is a provision requiring an armed individual at every school. First option is a volunteer employee not working directly with children in the classroom and must be trained by the sheriff’s office. Option #2, have an armed security guard. Option #3, have a school resource officer in each school. Currently we have SRO’s in each secondary school. If no volunteers, we will still have to meet the requirement to have an armed individual in our elementary schools. There is a grant opportunity available for \$100 million and hopefully, we can access and use this one-time money. Requires to have school security directors to work with county director. Provisions require every classroom to have a panic device that can be triggered in an emergency. Audio Enhancement would meet this requirement as we complete nine more schools with the

system. The bill gives the security chief the authority over school buildings and if non-compliant, can recommend to revoke occupancy. Board Member Kelly Larson asked what the fiscal note is on the bill. It was noted the guardian program can receive a onetime stipend of \$500 from the state. HB119 School Employee Firearm Possession allows guardians and educators to have a safe in their classroom or office for their firearms.

Superintendent Butters explained the expansion of the Utah Fits All Scholarship was increased by \$50 million without having a year to measure it is very concerning.

HB161 School Based Amendments and HB173 Local School Board Amendments allows a school board decision to go through the referendum process. These did not pass.

SB86 Local Government Bond Amendments was explained by Business Administrator Robert Petersen. With the Roosevelt rebuild, we were ready to issue \$52 million in revenue bonds. Fortunately, the amount was increased from \$30 million to \$200 million over three years. Prison and correctional institutes are exempt from the bill. With the passing of this bill, when we issue a revenue bond, we must have a hearing to receive public input. Must advertise fourteen days in advance and twice in the local paper. We anticipate to issue bonds after July 1, 2024. The information item listed on the Board agenda was explained and how the Local Building Authority Meeting has been postponed until April 10, 2024. We will continue to work with Chapman & Cutler and Stifel on this process.

HB415 School Fees Amendment bill will not impact us until the 2025-2026 school year. Our fee schedule is aligned were it needs to be. It was noted there will be a few fees we will not be able to charge and will need to change some definitions.

SB173 Market Informed Compensation for Teachers passed requiring districts to put a framework together for teacher compensation. Every LEA is required to create their own pay structure and criteria. It was noted we will work with our WEA group.

Superintendent Butters shared some exciting events happening throughout the district. VEX Robotics competition was recently held with Orion Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Rocky Mountain Jr. High qualifying for world competition. Rocky Mountain Jr. High set a new record scoring 111 points.

STEM Fair was recently held at Weber County Fairgrounds with elementary and secondary students. There were 125 elementary and 176 secondary students competing with 80 judges from different industry and education partners.

Curriculum Director Heather Neilson, Elementary Education Director Mary Jo Williams and Elementary Math Teacher Leader Melissa Hadley updated the Board on Acadience results for Full Day Kindergarten this year. Kindergarten enrollment is at 1,786 full day students, 32 half day students with 98% of students attending full day. Acadience measures early literacy skills in the classrooms. It is important students are reading above benchmark leaving kindergarten. It was explained K-3 students learn to read and then they read to learn. 3rd grade reading is tied to success. Melissa Hadley shared percent of kindergarten students at or above

benchmark on the Acadience assessment. Reading and math numbers were also shared. Mary Jo Williams concluded noting HB517 Half-Day Kindergarten Amendments:

K Options - full day/half day

Provide a half-day session if enrollment exceeds 18 half day students

Half day options within a full day class

Transparency w/programming options

Full day learning in all content areas

Half day minimum standards

Students attending half day are allowed to come back and participate in activities.

We are already in compliance with these updates.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder noted we have one new Policy 7145 *District Personnel and Electronic Device* to present on a first reading tonight. The policy governs the use of employee devices provided by the district. Prohibits accessing inappropriate materials reminding anything sent on phones regarding business is subject to GRAMA (Government Records Access Management Act).

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.