

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

**Study Session**  
**November 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
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 excused Board Member Bruce Jardine. It was mentioned we will have a new Board member this January and will review committee assignments at that time. Also, a reminder this Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Board will meet at 7:30 a.m. to tour the Davis District Catalyst Center. Board Member Kelly Larson attended earlier this week and noted it was amazing.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board on the Haven Bay Elementary ribbon cutting ceremony to be held on December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. An employee appreciation lunch was recently held on October 22nd at the maintenance building. Christmas Tree Jubilee Gala will be on November 26th. It was noted the “ask” again this year at the Jubilee Gala will be continued funding for teen centers.

Business Administrator Dr. Robert Petersen explained the Board Subcommittee that approves proposed CRA’s (Community Redevelopment Agency) recently met with Weber County and they presented a proposed project plan at Nordic Village. Stephanie Russell with Weber County was introduced to the Board.

Stephanie explained the Nordic Village Project has been in the works for almost three years. It will be part of Nordic Valley Ski Resort with more of a European style, due to the owners being from France. It would have approximately 512 acres of developed property and includes \$283 million new resident per capita spending of revenue, with hotels, condos, chalets and employee units. The infrastructure plan was shared noting recent changes have been made with the county to help with public infrastructure. This project will include public roadway improvements, onsite road and ski lift improvements, and sewer systems that will also service the new housing projects in the area. Culinary water and private improvements will take place on the property as well with a cost of \$85 million. For a thirty-year projected tax collection, they

are asking for fifteen years at 50% of the tax increment, approximately \$2 million in revenue per year for fifteen years and then \$4.2 million each year starting after that. This will be a great economic opportunity for the school district. Currently the district receives \$68,807 in property tax revenue. The county will present the interlocal agreement at the upcoming December Board Meeting. Board Member Doug Hurst asked if these will be second homes. It was noted they will be vacation homes and there would not be any school age children residing in these homes. Board Member Jan Burrell asked about the fire district and it was noted the project will be purchasing the Ogden Valley Fire District ladder truck, which they currently do not have. It was also noted the election results of the Ogden Valley becoming incorporated will not affect this project because it was in place prior to the elections. The new city will benefit from this project also. Board Vice President Jon Ritchie asked what the trigger date is on the project. It was noted the base year taxes will be 2024 with a trigger date between years 2026-2029. They would also like to partner with the school district on internships, possible employment and educational opportunities for students.

CTE Director Dr. Rod Belnap updated the Board on an IHC (Intermountain Health Care) grant that was recently awarded to Weber School District. It was explained in Weber County there are many jobs in demand in manufacturing and health care and how the district can help be a solution to that. One example of a facility that is providing these types of workers is the Davis Catalyst Center which provides CAPS (Center for Advanced Professional Studies) programs. Students connect to industry and have an authentic learning experience. The grant application was prepared by Superintendent Butters and Dr. Rod Belnap for \$5 million. The grant requires monies to be applied to capital investment and the focus should be related to health sciences, medical, dental, pharmaceutical, manufacturing etc. It will provide students with an opportunity to prepare, earn credentials and concurrent enrollment credit. Hours may also be applied to Ogden-Weber Technical College.

Technical Services Director Jennifer Boyer-Thurgood updated the Board on the new district website which launched last Friday. It features a new color scheme, adjusted logo, and updated font. Menus are more of a traditional structure that are cleaner and easier to follow. New school landing pages and the banner at the top is refreshed every couple of weeks. Most sought after content is now highlighted, news section has all the amazing stories that Communications & Community Administrator Ryan James is putting together. Events and calendars are now listed. The live feed section includes social media posting schedules and highlights students and staff. It will also click onto school sites, and socials of Instagram and Facebook. Next step is to have school sites transitioned over, with three schools currently up to date. It was noted Aptegy helps to transfer all content over easily.

Secondary Education Director Brock Mitchell updated the Board on the pilot Jr. High block schedule at Rocky Mountain Jr. High and Mountain View Jr. High. It was noted other districts around the state are using the block schedule which allow for more opportunity for students. The progress through the first quarter was explained and opportunities to improve performance within the Elevate28'with:

- ELA/Math Proficiency and Growth
- ACT Composite Improvement
- Increased AP/CE Opportunities
- Increased CTE Pathways

A survey was recently sent out to staff at both schools, students and all junior high parents. Questions on the survey addressed the following:

- Benefits
- Challenges
- Suggestions
- Would support

Support of block schedule - 42.6% strongly agree, 24.6% agree with over 100 surveyed  
Prep period results - 60.7% strongly agree, 19.7% agree

Educator feedback highlights:

- More in depth exploration
- More project-based learning
- Better ability to plan lessons and collaborate with colleagues
- Easier to share teachers among school for unique offerings
- Potential for student fatigue
- Modifying lessons to fit in longer class periods
- Impact of student attendance is evident because of longer periods
- Need to make a decision on what classes are block and how to facilitate that modification to student schedules

Overall, support is overwhelming with a 5:1 ratio to continue block schedule along with continued training and support.

The plan is to bring a recommendation to the Board in the upcoming December Board Meeting.

Assessment and School Improvement Director Dr. Bryan Becherini updated the Board on the employee engagement survey that was recently sent out. The following response rates were shared from categories of wellness, workload and leadership:

Responses

Classified 675

Certified 1,346

Elementary 951

Jr. High 473

High School 452

District 145

Human Resource Directors Nicole Meibos and Lauri Adams reviewed the following from the survey:

Areas of strength - classified  
Areas of opportunity - classified  
Areas of opportunity - certified  
Areas of strength - district  
Opportunity - elementary

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder noted there are two policies being presented tonight on a second reading. Policy 8200 *Library Materials* and Policy 8250 *Sensitive Materials* have both had no changes since last reading. Policies listed on the consent calendar include updates required from either legislation or combined policies.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.