

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
January 6, 2021

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Study Session in the Superintendent's office at 5320 Adams Avenue Parkway, Washington Terrace, Utah. The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Jon Ritchie	Board President
Doug Hurst	Board Member
Jan Burrell	Board Member
Paul Widdison	Board Member
Jeff Stephens	Superintendent
Art Hansen	Assistant Superintendent
Lori Rasmussen	Assistant Superintendent
Robert Petersen	Business Administrator

Board Vice President, Dean Oborn, Board Members, Bruce Jardine, and Janis Christensen joined via Google Meet. Also attending virtually, Barbera Whitman, Uniserve Executive Director, Brandon Baca, and teacher Jennifer Graviet.

Superintendent Stephens began updating the Board on statewide quarantine protocol changes as of January 4, 2021. Previously, the process was if a class or group had three or more positive cases, they would close for two weeks. This protocol will now only pertain to elementary schools. Health officials made this change due to elementary students being in the same classroom all day.

Quarantine requirements have been reduced from fourteen to ten days, but health officials continue to warn individuals the incubation period remains at fourteen days. It was explained their rationale dealt with trying to have people stay in quarantine. Two week quarantines were not being followed across the state, so the hope is people will see ten days of quarantine as do-able and will adhere to it. In our contact letter regarding tracing, we state it as ten days but if showing symptoms up to fourteen days to isolate and test. Quarantine is not required for school exposure when masks are worn. This is evident of the increasing science behind the effectiveness of masks. Schools with more than 1,500 students will no longer close with fifteen positive cases but when 1% of the student population test positive. Schools with new closure thresholds include Roy High, with 18, Fremont, and Weber High schools with 20 positive cases.

Superintendent Stephens noted we are still waiting for more information on the vaccination process. On December 17th, Governor Herbert moved teachers into the higher priority category to receive vaccinations. It was noted that healthcare workers are currently receiving vaccines with school districts to follow. Our nurses have already been vaccinated, and we are trying to have more employees moved into this category such as our physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists and

those involved in high school testing. It was noted we are advocating for this but it is not our decision. Teachers should begin vaccinations on January 25th. Board Vice President Dean Oborn asked if substitute teachers will also be vaccinated and expressed how important they are. Superintendent Stephens explained we were initially told to include them on the list but later asked not to include them. We are continuing to advocate to have them included with the other employees of the school district.

Weber-Morgan health department serves Ogden, Weber and Morgan school districts with approximately 8,000 employees. Weber district has about 4,800 employees. We were informed the health department would receive 1,080 vaccines per week, but has now increased to 1,300. This will continue throughout January and possibly increase. Assistant Superintendent Art Hansen is currently collecting data throughout our district on who would like to be vaccinated. This combined with the other districts could be up to 7,000 vaccines needed. The challenges our local health department has had include contact tracing, testing and now vaccinations. CNS, a community nursing service will provide the vaccines to Weber district. The schedule is still unknown.

Business Administrator, Robert Petersen asked if Weber district will require vaccinations. Superintendent Stephens noted it is recommended we allow it to be a personal choice. We are seeing a majority of individuals would like the vaccine. Board President Jon Ritchie noted as we continue, hopefully people will eventually take advantage of it. Superintendent Stephens also clarified if someone chooses not to be vaccinated then later changes their mind, there will not be a makeup vaccine. They will be included in the general public. Board member Doug Hurst asked if we have a district policy requiring vaccines for students to begin school. It was noted there are policies, but there are procedures to receive exemptions.

Superintendent Stephens shared some unique things occurred in December with our legislature. It is a result of a lot of work and collaboration between public education and legislators, especially related to the passage of Amendment G. We had a revenue guarantee with the constitutional amendment but not a funding assurance. The Executive Appropriations Committee met and put into place the public education budget which was done before the legislative session began. The base budget was funded, enrollment growth was funded and an inflationary adjustment of 1.82%. In addition, they put 4% on the WPU tied to House Bill 5011 which came about in the 5th special session by Representative Mike Schultz and Senator Ann Milner. This was a WPU value increase guarantee completed in year one. They also set aside \$125 million for bonuses. A bonus of \$1,500 for teachers and \$1,000 for classified employees. Last year, an ongoing stabilization fund was set aside and the purpose was if there is a year that funding would not be available we could pull from it. A 5.82% increase to the WPU will also be put into place. Our economy has overall performed at a level able to allow this. It was noted this is a unique year working with legislators; it is usually not until mid- February when education budgets are discussed. Uniserve Executive Director Barbera Whitman noted our UEA president worked hard last year to get a 6% increase, which was later pulled back, but noted it was promised to be brought back if Amendment G passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm