

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Special Study Session
November 17, 2023

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Study Session in the superintendent's office at 5320 Adams Avenue, Ogden, Utah. The meeting convened at 12:00 p.m. The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Paul Widdison	Board President
Jon Ritchie	Board Vice President
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

Board Members Doug Hurst and Bruce Jardine were excused.

President Widdison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Announcements were made regarding the Christmas Tree Jubilee, Board Christmas Dinner, Legislative Breakfast, USBA Conference, Master Board Certification and Stifel's Christmas Open House.

Business Administrator Robert Petersen went over the Board five-year election summary and commented we have an exceptional Board. It was noted Paul Widdison, Doug Hurst and Jon Ritchie will be up for re-election in 2024. Filing for the next election is in January 2024.

President Widdison turned the time over to Richard Stowell, USBA Executive Director. Richard mentioned the filing date and to file before the USBA Conference. He introduced Brigit Gerrard, President of USBE and Teri Rhodes, President Elect. Brigit began thanking Board Member Janis Christensen for her service on the Board of Directors and noted it was requested by Janis to discuss Dignity Index. Handouts were shared referring to the website. It has been a focus for USBA Board all year, basically promotes treat everyone with dignity, kindness and respect even if you disagree. It provides a way to objectively look at the language being used. She touched on some of the skills index of being curious not furious, use language that invites dialogue, take a breath and pause before speaking, challenge ideas, don't attack people, acknowledge knowledge, and build up rather than tear down. USBA has partnered with Dignity Index.

Teri began discussing the roles of a Board member and how important it is to stay in "lanes". Communication and building trust are important. She discussed the Utah School Board Association's Foundational Principles of Effective Government. Board Member roles, responsibilities, behavior and relationships were highlighted and several videos were shown. Discussion on videos noted it is important to talk with each other outside of Board meeting but to not make any decisions or "side polling". Discussions from executive closed meetings should not be

shared. When approached by others it is important to be general and non-specific. Advised when communicating with special groups, to use dignity, and talk one on one. Acknowledge where they are coming from and that they have been heard. Richard noted Best Practices must be decided by the Board and Superintendent and make sure people know the processes.

Brigit shared *what successful Board members do* handout and reminded everyone to remember you are a team. Teri noted make sure you are doing Board work and the Superintendent is doing her work. Finally, be an ambassador in your schools.

Superintendent Butters turned time over to Secondary Education Director Brock Mitchell and Assistant Director Matt Williams and noted they have been part of setting up the model for the new West Field Cone. They have been asked to look at a block schedule in the junior highs and proposing a pilot program for the start of the 2024 school year for Rocky Mountain and Mountain View Jr. Highs. The following information was presented:

Current State of District:

High school teachers

- Teach 6 of 8 classes, with 2 preps over the course of 2 days
- Each class is 75-78 minutes
- Teach 265 minutes with 75 minutes prep each day and flex
- Over 10-day period, 750 minutes of prep (12.5 hrs.)

Jr. High teachers

- Teach 6 of 7 classes with .1 prep day
- Each class is 45-48 minutes long
- Teach 302 minutes with 47-minute prep each day and flex
- Over 10-day period, 470 min of prep (7.8 hrs.)

Around the State:

Davis & Ogden are both on a junior high block

Alpine, Tooele, Wasatch and Washington are also on JH block

Cache is not, but they have middle schools (6 periods) w/9th in HS

Box Elder is not but they have 8th and 9th in intermediate school

8 of 14 district have 9th graders in HS, so those 9th graders are on a block schedule.

Areas of Discussion

Educational opportunities (Pros)

- Increase class length - deeper curriculum dives
 - Double blocked core classes (Math & English)
 - Ability to complete labs and projects (Science, Foods, PE, CTE)
 - EL/Special Education Support opportunities
 - Build in intervention period
- Increased opportunities for student choice
 - Junior high students have limited flexibility with schedules-one more choice allows for increased exploration
- Increased opportunities for teacher improvement
 - Common preps for PLC's
 - Increased JH prep time to grade assignment, prepare lessons, etc.
 - More time for instructional patches to mentor teachers (A/B example)
 - JH vs HS buyout concerns.

- Additional Items for Considerations
- Few Transitions Pro
 - Majority of disciplinary incidents occurs during class transition time
- More time for homework/less missing work (Pro)
 - Able to be there for students as they begin their work
- All Secondary schools are on the same schedule (Pro)
 - Possibility to allow 9th graders access to HS courses
- Ability to share teachers/counselors (Pro)
 - A/B Day opportunities (currently \$142,000 per year for travel stipend)

Areas of concern:

- Increase class length
 - Teacher will need to have some PD on creating lessons that function in the longer class length.
 - Students coming from elementary are used to longer class lengths, but this will still be an adjustment
- Increased class size
 - With fewer prep periods, there are fewer teachers for classes
 - Increases the teachers needed or increase the class sizes (3-5 students)
- Not connecting to students every day
 - Especially with absences
 - Need training

Brock concluded his presentation discussing plans how to introduce it and possibly surveying teachers and parents on how they feel.

Superintendent Butters referred to the strategic timeline and showed examples from other districts. Portrait of a graduate handouts were also shared. In upcoming Board Study Sessions, Superintendent will update the Board on the progress.

Assessment Director Sheri Heiter shared her presentation on District Data Summary. (RISE – Restore Inspire Sustain Educate) (ELA – English Language Arts)

- Acadience Reading and Math 1st - 3rd Grades Combined – Students achieving typical or above typical progress at end of year – 63% in reading and 71% in math.
 - Elementary RISE English Language Arts – 39.30% for Weber District, with 45.80% State.
 - Elementary RISE Mathematics – Weber District 43.70%, 44.30% State.
 - Elementary RISE Science – Weber District 44.90%, 51.00% State.
 - Secondary RISE & Utah Aspire Plus Data – Weber District 36%, 42.90% State.
 - Secondary RISE Mathematics – Weber District 31.50%, 36.40% State.
 - Secondary RISE Science – Weber District 31.90%, 41% State.
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- Utah’s District Proficiency Rankings in ELA - Weber District ranking 37.3
 - Utah’s District Growth Rankings in ELA – Weber District ranking 51
 - Utah’s District Proficiency Ranking in Math – Weber District ranking 37.5
 - Utah’s District Growth Rankings in Math – Weber District ranking 51
 - Utah’s District Proficiency Rankings in Science – Weber District ranking 37.3
 - Utah’s District Growth Rankings in Science – Weber District ranking 47

Graphs on ACT, Concurrent Enrollment, AP Classes, and Panorama were shared:

- 59% of Students with Passing AP Scores
- Concurrent Enrollment Participation – 3,435 students
- ACT Scores Average Composite Score – 19.6
- Graduation Rates – Weber District 90%, 88% State
- Panorama Teacher-Student Relationships Grades 3-6 (77%), Grades 7-12 (54%)
- Panorama Sense of Belonging Grades 3-6 (69%), Grades 7-12 (43%)
- Panorama Self-Management Grades 3-6 (76%), Grades 7-12 (74%)
- Panorama Social Awareness Grades 3-6 (75%), Grades 7-12 (66%)
- Panorama Grit Grades 3-6 (63%), Grades 7-12 (53%)
- Panorama Emotion Regulation Grades 3-6 (54%), Grades 7-12 (54%)

Superintendent Butters concluded noting they would like to schedule site visits for Mt. View Jr. High and West Field High School for the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm