

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
June 12, 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
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 Vice President Jon Ritchie and Board Member Bruce Jardine.

Board Member Janis Christensen updated the Board on recent JLC (Joint Legislative Committee) meetings and their priorities. Biggest focus was the removal of the earmark. They listed Utah as an educational leader wanting to have a working group that meets regularly with legislators, so they know where education stands and can be responsible. The primary effort is to support every student, and establish how to implement the economic stabilization account. Board Member Kelly Larson noted there was also discussion on USBA (Utah School Board Association) supporting the removal of vouchers, but wasn't listed in priorities. The delegate assembly was divided on *SJR10 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution-Income Tax* and had districts request to have a discussion on this. Currently USBA and JLC conditionally supported this in 2023 if certain criteria were met. During the 2024 session, most of these conditions have not been met. JLC is conditionally supporting it currently. Voting was held and results were 50/50. In conclusion Board Member Larson noted we need to reach out to our legislators this year and ask what are their goals supporting public education.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board regarding Assessment Director Sheri Heiter officially announcing her retirement from Weber School District. An open house will be held in her honor on June 18, 2024 from 2 – 4 p.m.

Superintendent Butters gave a shout out to DT&L Director Nick Harris and explained they recently had an amazing Learn Conference. Over 400 teachers attended the two-day conference with a focus on AI.

Roosevelt elementary has been demolished and we are excited about the new building under construction.

Graduation ceremonies were great and acknowledged the principals and all those involved.

Superintendent Butters noted we have had a reorganization of department positions. When we had the legislative audit in 2021, it was recommended to look at our operational effectiveness. To create consistency among departments, the following positions have been defined and established: director, assistant director, supervisor, facilitators, coordinators and teacher specialists. Compensation packages have been updated also. We want to have more support to school leaders, teachers and students.

Student Services Director Jennifer Warren updated the Board on HB182 *Student Survey Amendments* and the requirements that need to be implemented for registration this upcoming school year. Changes now include the need to have prior consent for each of the surveys we administer; Sharp, Panorama and School Climate surveys. In addition, there will be access to questions for each of these surveys. Surveys will still be administered the same time of year. It was also noted surveys are used for grant funding etc. HB84 *School Safety Amendments* requires schools to have early warning identification systems and these surveys are some of the tools used to utilize these.

Dr. Robert Petersen explained to the Board tonight is our annual budget hearing, and noted by law, we must finalize the current budget by June 30th and approve the working budget. A hearing must accompany the presentation. Also, tonight we will meet as the Local Building Authority. The issuance and process we must follow during the meeting are required by SB86 *Local Government Bonds Amendment* for lease revenue bonds and the potential economic impact. Dr. Petersen will present to the Board what we plan to do with these bonds.

DT&L (Digital Teaching and Learning) Director Nick Harris updated the Board and noted that at the CTE Expo in May, AI (Artificial Intelligence) was introduced. He explained generative AI and how it can help in schools. The direction we want, is to use it as a teacher's assistant and help with administrative tasks. The Learn conference helps teachers to move forward with technology. The theme this year was *Envision*. Eric Curts was the keynote speaker and he shared the following quotes: AI will not replace teachers, AI will not take your job, people who know how to use AI will. The best teacher is a human that uses AI. Mr. Harris asked what can AI do to help with PLC's, lesson plans, and feedback. An example of a prompt was shared and how it can help generate a rubric. Chat GBT and Claude was demonstrated and how it can create a lesson plan. A Text Leveling example was also shared and how to adjust for various student ages. School AI is made for students and educators with safeguards in place. Mr. Harris concluded noting a pilot was run using two tools, and training was held with administrators and teachers. Other districts have adopted AI and we need to be safe and positively persistent.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder updated the Board on first reading policies:

New Policy 1135 *Board Policy Process* allows us to place policies on the consent calendar that do not have any substantive changes.

Revised Policy 4430 *Student Testing Prohibition Without Written Prior Consent* is in conjunction with student surveys and HB182 *Student Survey Amendments* requirements.

Second Readings:

Policy 4650 *Home School* was created in order to implement requirements from legislation and process how to transfer students from homeschool back into the district. There have been no changes since last meeting.

Policy 8350 *Student Electronic Device* had a lot of feedback from parents, teachers and students. Changes were made to include smartwatches and how to regulate them. Students may wear watches, but applications on the watch cannot be used during instructional time. Teachers asked what to do if students don't comply. It was noted students may be written up for subordination. Concerns were also addressed about rules on using devices in class, but noted they may be done on a limited basis. WIC (Weber Innovation Center) is singled out since they do not have the same classroom instructional time as other school do. Emergency situation exceptions were also explained.

Policy 6450 *Memorial* has been tabled for further review.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.