

**CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
March 15, 2016**

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a study session and business meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 beginning at 5 pm at the Canyons Support Services Building, 9351 S. 300 East, Sandy, UT 84070

Those present were:

Clareen Arnold, Board Member  
Robert Green, Board Member  
Chad Iverson, Board Member  
Sherril Taylor, Board President  
Nancy Tingey, Board Second Vice President  
Steve Wrigley, Board Vice President  
James Briscoe, Superintendent  
Leon Wilcox, Chief Financial Officer  
Dan Harper, General Counsel  
Charles Evans, Director External Affairs

Excused:

Amber Shill, Board Member

**1. Closed Session--5:21 pm**

- A. For the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.
- B. For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange or lease of real property.

**MOTION:** Chad Iverson moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange or lease of real property. Steve Wrigley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Chad Iverson, yes; Clareen Arnold, yes; Steve Wrigley, yes; Sherril Taylor, yes; Nancy Tingey, yes; and Robert Green, yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Study Session--6:10 pm**

- A. Legislative Update--Susan Edwards and Charlie Evans
  - Charlie Evans first presented the highlights of the session. Growth was fully funded. The WPU was 3%. There was some funding outside of the WPU. Mrs. Tingey added that they full funded growth at a cost of about \$94 million. She asked Mr. Wilcox how fully-funded growth affects Canyons School District. Mr. Wilcox explained that we get the full WPU for every new student. We had 200 new students this year and we are expecting about the same number next year. The growth helps Alpine and Davis the most because they are the fastest growing districts. It's not a huge benefit for us.
  - We have always wanted to get charter schools their own state-wide levy that shows on the tax notice so people can see where their tax money is going. SB38 does that and puts charters on the same average-daily-membership as public schools. This change cost them money so there is \$20 million in the bill to offset their loss. This is a more transparent system. Nancy Tingey feels SB38 and HB193 are a result of much compromise between people in education. Charters, districts and taxpayers will all benefit because of this bill. Districts will not be able to use this charter levy as a reason to raise taxes.
  - The compulsory education bills failed. Mr. Evans pointed out that in the last ten years public education has changed. We now live in a competitive environment. It is easier now than ever for parents to take their children out of public schools to attend charter schools or be homeschooled. We need to try and accommodate parents within the guidelines and policies set by the Board.

- Fees for supplemental hours failed. The legislative attorney's opinion is that we don't need this bill. Mr. Evans suggested that if the Board is interested in doing this, they should get a legal opinion and do it.
- There were a number of retirement bills considered this year. We are going to see more of these in the future. SB19 passed which dealt with phased retirement. This would allow the Board to let someone retire half-time and work half-time. None of the bills this year helped with the teacher shortage.
- The Point of the Mountain Development Commission Act establishes a commission to study the future of the prison site and surrounding properties. There will be a position appointed by the Speaker of the House and Senate President who will represent the interests of Alpine, Jordan and Canyons districts. They will all be affected by the relocation. This will be the first of many bills related to the prison relocation. People will look at this whenever they want to get something funded.
- SB165 failed in committee. This bill would have required principals to approval all hires and transfers. The principal association opposed it.
- Susan Edwards explained that our HR directors found something in legislation that was passed last year that they can't legally comply with. HB175 was meant to be an easy fix. There was a huge group of educational entities that had to come together to agree on this to not weaken the child protection legislation from last year. Everett will work with us on implementation.
- Marie Poulson sponsored several bills related to student assessment modifications. HB200 allows LEAS to count the ACT or the SAGE in 11th grade. They don't have to do both. She is trying to reduce the amount of testing but it doesn't indicate what you can count for grading. HB201 alters what testing can be used for evaluations of administrators. SAGE will be counted at the school level but not for teacher evaluation.
- The Charitable Solicitation Act (HB267) changes the certification for a parent organization. The district would now have to do the money management for any parent group that does not have a central organization.
- Several bills clean up the language regarding SCC and LAND Trust. It clarifies that if spring elections are held, incoming parents (K, 6 or 9) must be allowed to vote. SB109 will allow the TRUST Lands to do their distribution in a manner that would give more money to today's school children. This will require a constitutional change and would be a good thing for schools. Funding for schools could double or triple.
- Most of the health bills failed. Mr. Evans said the school nurses organization needs to be more effective in working with the legislature. The language in SB232S01 says if there is a trained school employee who volunteers to provide rescue medications in schools, he/she can do it.
- HB333 failed. This bill considered raising the tax for electronic cigarette products.
- This year there were 162 education bills and 193 overall bills that were tracked and worked on.
- Susan Edwards reviewed some of the highlights of the session. The Board was recognized by Speaker Hughes. He feels the partnership with Canyons has changed the dynamics of education statewide. There was a Youth Counsel Day on the Hill. Students from various schools attended the session. The External Affairs Office can give students a better experience when they know they are coming. Principal Bailey received recognition for being the High School Principal of the Year. PTA Day on the Hill was a very good experience.
- Both of the bills that deal with funding for the Road Home passed. We don't know details yet.
- Mr. Evans thanked Scott Edwards who served as their intern this year. He did a great job. President Taylor thanked Susan, Charlie, Scott and Nancy as well as anyone who went up to testify or help. Things move really quickly.

B. Current Bond Projects--Leon Wilcox and Rick Conger

- Leon Wilcox said there were 13 bond projects that we promised our taxpayers we would complete. We have completed nine of those projects. We were slightly over budget on Corner Canyon but all of the other projects were under budget. Air conditioning was also added at Crescent View Middle School and Indian Hills Middle.
- As of January 31, 51% of the construction contract on Butler Elementary has been completed. The old school will be demolished in July/August and new fields will be in place by October/November. The millwork is currently going in.
- Midvale Middle has 20% of the construction contract completed. The building will be enclosed by this fall and the interior will be completed next winter. Completion is scheduled for August 2017.
- A neighborhood open house was held in October for Alta View Elementary. The new school design has been completed. Groundbreaking is scheduled for April 19 and the new school will be completed in

August 2017. The old school has a lot of asbestos. Some of the tile will be removed during the summer to alleviate that.

- The final project is the Indian Hills Middle Remodel. The remodel will be similar to Albion. However, additional classrooms will be added to the existing building. This work is scheduled to be completed in the August 2018. Students will be housed at the Crescent View building while construction is taking place.
- The total expense for all 13 projects is estimated at \$337.2 million--\$250 million was from Bond proceeds. \$15 million from a Bond premium and \$72.2 million from our Capital Outlay Tax Levy. When the projects are completed, repair liability costs for the District will be almost cut in half. We have kept our promise to the taxpayers that we would not exceed the promised tax rate. Due to increases in assessed valuation, starting in 2015-16 the district may no longer need to transfer funds from Capital to pay the debt.
- Canyons District has an AAA bond rating from Moody's and Fitch and is one of only 70 school districts nationwide with this distinction. This rating saves us millions.
- Mr. Wilcox reviewed recent bond elections in the state. Davis, Tooele, Wasatch and Duchesne all passed bonds in November 2015. Park City's bond did not pass. Mr. Wilcox felt the reason it probably failed was because they started the process too late. Jordan and Alpine are planning bond elections this November.
- Mr. Wrigley would like the Board to discuss the potential of another bond election. Mr. Wilcox said he will talk to our financial advisors.
- President Taylor thanked Leon, Rick Conger and Gary Hansen for their work. He asked them to thank everyone on their teams.

### **3. Business Meeting Opening 7:30 pm.**

#### **4. Opening Items**

A. President Taylor welcomed everyone to the Business Meeting.

B. Approve Agenda for March 15, 2016

**MOTION: Steve Wrigley moved to approve the agenda for March 15, 2016. Robert Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- C. Pledge of Allegiance-- Reece Murdock, Karston MacFarlane, Berkley Davis, Elias Barbee and Calvin Hawkins, Troop 331 from Butler Elementary
- D. Reverence and School Highlights--Christine Waddell, Principal, Butler Elementary
- Principal Waddell shared a poem about America.
  - Ms. Waddell has been at Butler for six years. They are a Dual-Immersion French school. They do a lot of things to make sure the community is united so they do not have two separate schools within a school.
  - They are excited to get a new building. She opens the school every other Saturday for teachers to pack. It has been a great experience to be able to plan the new school. Tomorrow at 3:30 pm the teachers will have a walkthrough of the building. The parents have been very supportive and patient throughout construction. The students are very excited. The Board was invited to visit the school with the teachers.

#### **5. Recognitions--Jeff Haney**

- Jeff Haney explained the procedures that would be followed during the recognitions.
- Simi Fehoko was recognized for being named the Gatorade Football Player of the Year. A video showing Simi's finest moments was shown. The video also included photographs of our student athletes that appeared in the local newspapers this year. Simi has committed to attend Stanford and is widely considered the top recruit from Utah for the Class of 2016. The audience received Gatorade in his honor.
- Brighton High swimmers Brock Harries, Jack Binder, Parker Wiest and Brian O'Neal were honored for winning the state title in the 200-yard medley relay. Brock Harries was also honored for being the 5A state champion in the 100-yard freestyle.
- Another Brighton swimmer, Rachel Butler, is the state champion in the 200-yard individual medley and the 500-yard freestyle. She is only a freshman. Her team came in second at the state championships.
- Anthony Cheng, Hillcrest, was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship as a National Coca-Cola Scholar. He was also selected as mathematics category winner and the overall General Sterling Scholar of Utah.
- Eleven Canyons students were chosen by the Utah High School Activities Association to receive Academic All-State Awards for excelling in athletics and the classroom.

- Boys Basketball--Thomas Dickey, Jordan
- Girls Basketball--Abigail Anderson, Jessica Anderson and Avery Hoopes from Alta
- Girls Swimming--Rachel Madsen, Corner Canyon, and Caroline Young, Hillcrest
- Boy's Swimming--Luke Brockbank, Jordan, and Jacob DeBry, Alta
- Drill Team--Riley Hanson, Brighton
- Wrestling--Rhet Bonner and Chandler Pond from Jordan
- Brittani Bailey, Canyon's Partnerships and Volunteer Coordinator was recognized for her valuable impact on Canyons District and the surrounding community. She was selected as the 2016 Sandy Chamber Peak Volunteer of the Year for her exceptional efforts to facilitate hundreds of hours of volunteer service and donations that benefit Canyons students.

## 6. Patron Comments

- A. President Taylor stated that no one signed up for Patron Comments tonight.

## 7. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2016 Board Meeting
- B. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- C. Approval of Student Overnight Travel
- D. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- E. Approval of February Financial Reports
- F. Approval of Administrative Appointments
  - Misty Suarez replaces Robin Collett as Director of Special Education
  - Darrell Jensen replaces Mary Bailey (who is retiring) as principal of Corner Canyon High School
  - Kelli Miller replaces Cindy Hansen as assistant principal at Brighton High School
  - Mark Mitchell reassigned as an assistant principal at Hillcrest High School
  - Justin Matagi rehired as an assistant principal at Hillcrest High School
  - Heidi Long replaces Rachel Hill at Hillcrest High School
  - Bruce Eschler promoted to assistant principal at Corner Canyon High School
  - Molly Hart replaces Darrell Jensen as principal at Albion Middle School
  - Cindy Hansen replaces Molly Hart as principal of Mount Jordan Middle School
  - Edy McGee transferred to a temporary one-year position as Administrator on Special Assignment
  - Roger Moody replaces Edy McGee as assistant principal at Indian Hills Middle School
  - Doug Hallenback replaces Roger Moody as assistant principal at Butler Middle School
  - Taylor Hansen hired as assistant principal at Union Middle School
  - Chanci Loran reassigned as principal of Bell View Elementary School
  - Christine Webb reassigned as principal at Copperview Elementary School
  - Laurie Steed replaces Diana Wallace (who is retiring) as assistant principal at Sandy Elementary School
  - Angela Wilkinson hired to replace Laurie Steed as assistant principal at East Midvale Elementary School
- G. Approval of Contract for Eastmont Utility Upgrade

**MOTION: Robert Green moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items A-G. Nancy Tingey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## 8. New Business

- A. Student Advisory Board Report--Dr. Robert Dowdle
  - Dr. Dowdle said they were hoping to have the Student Advisory Council here tonight but most of the students had conflicts tonight. We're hoping they will be at the next meeting to be recognized and share their comments.
  - Dr. Dowdle reported that there are eleven students on the council--two from each high school and an additional student from Hillcrest representing the IB program. Meetings have been scheduled at each school and senior staff has been invited to present to the group and hold discussions. Superintendent Briscoe, Leon Wilcox our Business Administrator, Dan Harper our General Counsel, Nancy Tingey from the Board of Education and Dr. Dowdle have met with the students.
  - Topics for discussion have included what is going right with Canyons School District and how the District can improve. On March 23 at 11:15 am at Jordan High School, they will discuss standards-based grading.

- We've averaged having ten students at each of the meetings. These students are highly involved in their schools and communities. They have great ideas and are delightful to work with.
- Nancy Tingey thanked Dr. Dowdle for being the advisor for these students and helping them understand how a public school district operates. President Taylor asked Dr. Dowdle to give the students the Board's appreciation. The Board looks forward to hearing their report.

B. Preschool Update--Terri Mitchell

- Terri Mitchell introduced her staff members who were in attendance. President Taylor thanked them for their attendance.
- The purpose of the presentation is to give the Board a general idea of what is happening in Early Childhood. We have 16 classrooms--12 are Special Education settings and one classroom is in each of the four Title 1 schools.
- The staff serves students with disabilities, Title 1 students and tuition students. The tuition students are part of the Special Education Program where they serve as role models for students with disabilities. We often have a long waiting list for tuition students. The Special Education Program services students age 3-5. Title 1 students are ages 4-5. Jordan School District currently serves 350-400 students younger than 3. We have had significant growth in our preschool program. Today we are serving 629 students and 96 students have pending evaluations for Special Education eligibility.
- In the 1960's, Dr. David Weikart studied dropouts due to poor achievement in high school. Instead of shifting money to high school, he decided to develop a high quality early childhood program to see if it made a difference. They have done benchmark studies of the test group to age 40. Our evidence based curriculum, High Scope, is based on this study.
- The focus this year is on improving math outcomes. Outcomes will be measured according to DOT. This assessment tool has been designed with input from four school districts and can be used with all students regardless of their ability. They use this to make instructional decisions in the classroom and to determine whether or not students are making progress.
- Preschool Instructional Teams (PIT Crews) include teachers, speech therapists and classroom paraeducators. They have one hour per week to talk about the individual needs of students. They analyze the data, identify instructional gaps, devise a plan for improvement, implement the plan and evaluate.
- They have just started a website that allows families to access information easier. It also gives patrons the option to pay tuition online.
- Steve Wrigley thanked the teachers for coming tonight. He works with students with disabilities and this makes a real impact on their lives. This gives parents hope. He asked if the psychologist is ABA trained to work with students with autism. Ms. Mitchell said one of our classes is for students with autism. There are lots of supports there. We collaborate with service providers who are working in the home. One of the speech therapists does YouTube videos for families so they can see how to interact with their kids. Mr. Wrigley thanked them for all of their work. This is a difficult job.
- Clareen Arnold asked if it would benefit students if they became part of our program at an earlier age. Ms. Mitchell said Jordan District currently holds a grant from the Health Department to service students from birth to age 3. We have a great relationship with our early-intervention partners in Jordan School District. The Health Department doesn't have funding for an administration in both districts. If the funding increases, we could pursue that.
- Nancy Tingey thanked Ms. Mitchell for the wonderful work they are doing for these children. She asked if we are participating in any of the partnerships for high quality preschools being run by USOE. We do have a grant that is only for the Title 1 programs. It is a three-year grant. That is currently funding the achievement coach and PIT Crew time.
- Mrs. Tingey asked what challenges we are facing because of the substantial growth and if there are any plans to enhance and extend these early childhood education opportunities.
- Ms. Mitchell said one of the challenges is large classrooms. Instructional quality goes down when there are more students in a classroom. There is an inclusion piece for the program for students with disabilities to make sure they have opportunities to be included with their typical peers in a setting where more than 50% of the students are not disabled. That is only happening in our Title 1 programs. Twelve of the settings are closer to 80% students with disabilities to 20% who pay tuition. We would like to expand but we need to have the right funding in place.
- Clareen Arnold asked the ratio of teachers to instructional assistants. In the SPED programs there are three assistants in each classroom. Title 1 classrooms have two. These are half-day programs with

approximately 18 students in the morning and the afternoon. The south end of the valley is exploding with students. There they have 20-22 students in each session. Mrs. Arnold suggested that we look at this and come up with a plan.

C. Policy Review: Graduation Requirements and Open Enrollment and School Moratoriums (Third Reading-- Action Requested)--Jeff Christensen and Policy Committee

- Jeff Christensen offered to answer any questions the Board may have before they consider voting on these policies. There have been no changes since the second reading. President Taylor said the Board appreciates all of the work Jeff and the Policy Committee have done on these policies.
- Chad Iverson said he appreciates that the policy states that the Board will vote in an open meeting to not renew permits. He will never vote not to renew permits but we don't know what future boards will do so it is important that this is in the policy. Mr. Iverson is a strong proponent of challenging students and giving them differentiated diplomas and difficult diploma options. He also is a strong proponent for the basic diploma and allowing anyone to choose that diploma. The language in that policy outlines steps that must be followed but anyone is allowed to apply for that diploma.

**MOTION:** Nancy Tingey moved that we approve the policies: Graduation Requirements and Open Enrollment and School Moratoriums. Clareen Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Nancy Tingey thanked the Policy Committee and the Board for their input on these policies. They are very important and will provide some guidance for the future. She clarified that the Board would only step in to make a decision to non-renew permits for a school situation that is over the open enrollment threshold. There are other situations where individual permits could be revoked. The Board would only take action when it is an overcrowding situation in a school. She encourages the Board to approve these policies.

Sherril Taylor thanked the Board for the time they have put into studying these policies.

**9. Staff Comments**

A. Superintendent Report

- Superintendent Briscoe anticipates the administration will use these policies for guidance in the future. Having these policies in place is very significant and he appreciates all the time and effort that has gone into creating them. We will be meeting with the PTO and PTA to review another original policy that the Board approved dealing with parent organizations to see if any modifications need to be made. Dr. Briscoe congratulated Leon Wilcox and his staff for earning an elite award in excellence in school finance. Superintendent Briscoe attended Draper Elementary's 40 Year Anniversary. They had a great turnout and he thought they did an outstanding job. There is a great sense of pride in our community schools. The state robotics competition will be this Friday. He will engage with those teams at that event.

B. Chief Financial Officer Report

- Leon Wilcox explained that Canyons School District has an AAA bond rating by Fitch Investors Corporation and Moody's Investors. Our financial advisors have indicated we are one of approximately 70 school districts nationwide with that rating. There are about 1500-1600 school districts nationwide. We are in very elite company and we are proud of that. There are only a couple other districts in the State of Utah with that rating. President Taylor said the Board realizes that Mr. Wilcox is a key part in obtaining that rating. Mr. Wilcox thanked President Niederhauser in the Senate, Speaker Hughes in the House, and all of the other legislators who represent the citizens of Canyons School District. We're grateful for the 3% WPU increase. That will go a long way to improve the programs and finances of our District. He thanked Principal Christie Waddell for her comments about Butler Elementary. She has been great to work with in planning the new school. The parents and patrons have been patient with the parking issues. He is predicting the teachers will be very happy and surprised at how much is done in the new building.
- President Taylor also recognized Rick Conger and his staff as miracle workers.

**10. Board Comments**

A. Chad Iverson had no comments.

- B. Clareen Arnold is excited that our new policy hits both ends of the spectrum. We're assisting students with a basic 24 credit graduation who may not be college bound to move on to careers. We're also helping students who want the more challenging courses and are headed to college-bound careers. She thanked the Policy Committee and administration for making that happen. It was collective thinking. We are looking at students across the spectrum to determine where they are, what they need and what we need to do for them. Mrs. Arnold is thankful for all the people who put in the hours to make this a successful district.
- C. Steve Wrigley said he missed seeing male preschool teachers tonight. If we don't have any, we need to get some. Last week he was invited to Edgemont to serve a pancake breakfast to the teachers. He enjoyed participating in that activity. On April 19, we will have the groundbreaking for Alta View. That will be exciting for that neighborhood. It was great to see the presentation today and see that we have accomplished everything we planned to do with the bond.
- D. Nancy Tingey expressed her appreciation to the legislators who represent our community. We have a shared constituency and they recognize that and want to work with us. It was a good session and we had good collaboration with the legislators and other education organizations. She attended Park Lane's production of Jack and the Beanstalk which was adorable. It was a fun evening. She has also been able to attend several SCC meetings. She applauds the good work that those school community councils are doing. Currently they are finalizing their Trust Lands and School Improvement Plans. Those are very important guiding documents for each school. Having parents, teachers and administrators working together on those plans is very valuable in having successful schools. Last week Mrs. Tingey met with the Cottonwood Heights City Council. She thanked them for inviting us to their table to share updates on what our District is doing. She appreciates their support. She publically expressed condolences to the family of Barbara Beckstrom. She is a school board member working in Washington County. She has also been serving as the USBA President-Elect. She passed away last week. Her leadership and work for education will be missed and is much appreciated.
- E. Robert Green had no comments.
- G. Sherril Taylor thanked the administration and teachers for all they do. He appreciates all those who work in the buildings to help make things nice for our students--bus drivers, custodians, nutritional services. Wherever someone serves in this District they are appreciated. In study session tonight, they announced that they are developing plans for the rebuild of Indian Hills. He has been anxiously awaiting this. His patrons are very excited that a lot of wonderful schools have been provided for other parts of the District and they have patiently waited. They will be excited that we are now in the planning stage for Indian Hills Middle School. It will be a great thing for our community. It is wonderful that we have been able to complete every project that was voted on in the initial bond. We are going to keep our word to the patrons of this District. That is very important. He, again, thanked Leon, Rick and the administration for keeping us on track to get this done. He thanked the Boards both past and present for making this happen.

## 11. Closing Items

- A. Adjourned at 8:42 pm

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ATTEST

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Sherril Taylor

President

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James Briscoe

Superintendent