



**CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
July 19, 2016**

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a study session and business meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 beginning at 5 pm at the Canyons Support Services Building, 9351 S. 300 East, Sandy, UT 84070

Those present were:

Sherril Taylor, Board President
Steve Wrigley, Board Vice President
Nancy Tingey, Board Second Vice President
Robert Green, Board Member
Amber Shill, Board Member
James Briscoe, Superintendent
Leon Wilcox, Chief Financial Officer
Charles Evans, Director External Affairs
Dan Harper, General Counsel
Chad Iverson, Board Member – via phone for Closed Session then Excused
Clareen Arnold, Board Member - Excused

1. Closed Session -- 5:15 pm

- A. For the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

MOTION: Steve Wrigley 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. Nancy Tingey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Chad Iverson, yes; Steve Wrigley, yes; Sherril Taylor, yes; Nancy Tingey, yes; Amber Shill, yes; and Robert Green, yes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Business Meeting – 6:04 pm

- A. Approve the Agenda for July 19, 2016.

MOTION: Steve Wrigley moved to approve the agenda for July 19, 2016. Robert Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Board Decision on Employee Termination Appeal.

MOTION: Robert Green moved that the originally proposed employment action regarding the employment termination of employee 417517 be taken and that the employee be notified according to District Policy. Amber Shill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes from June 14, 2016 and June 21, 2016 Board Meetings
B. Approval of Purchasing Bids
C. Approval of Student Overnight Travel
D. Approval of June Hire and Termination Reports
E. Approval of June Financial Reports
F. Approval of Inter-Local Agreement with Cottonwood Heights City regarding School Resource Officers
G. Approval of 2016-17 School Year Bell Schedule

MOTION: Nancy Tingey moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items A-G, Approval of Minutes from June 14, 2016 and June 21, 2016 Board Meetings, Approval of Purchasing Bids, Approval of Student Overnight Travel, Approval of June Hire and Termination Reports, Approval of June Financial Reports, Approval of Inter-Local Agreement with Cottonwood Heights City regarding School Resource Officers, and Approval of 2016-17 School Year Bell Schedule. Amber Shill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Steve Wrigley mentioned the bid to Playworks for \$275,480. He would like a report on the effectiveness of the program in the future. This will be added to a future Board Meeting agenda. President Taylor asked the administration to get the information and get back to the Board.

4. New Business

A. Approval of High School Earth Science Textbook Adoption (Second Reading, Possible Action) -- Dr. Robert Dowdle and Jesse Hennefer

- Jesse Hennefer: At the last Board Meeting we talked about the Earth Science textbook and why it was chosen and recommended. We were asked to get community input and we did that for two weeks and received nine comments. After reviewing the comments, this is still the book we are recommending. Amber Shill asked if the free textbook from USOE was considered. Jesse said that the committee did review this book. USOE offers an open resource textbook and we found that the free resource was not the best resource. There was not a Spanish translation for that textbook and there were no teacher resources, assessment items or lesson plans. The lack of the extra resources is why a separate textbook was selected.
- Amber Shill asked if the Board was approving a number of textbooks or just the textbook to use? The Board is approving the textbook for use in the District. Each school will order what they need.
- President Taylor and Nancy Tingey wanted to know how the textbook covered alternative theories other than the big bang theory and what are the standards for this course?

Jesse Hennefer stated that the book discussed the formation of the universe and the big bang theory is the current most updated theory on that. This aligns with Utah standards. Because the big bang is the current theory, and most widely accepted in the science community, it is the one we teach. There is a short paragraph I will read regarding the big bang theory. This will give you an idea of how the textbook approaches this topic. It prefaces the section with this statement.

"This section describes the most widely accepted views on the origin of our solar system. The theory summarized here presents the most consistent set of ideas and evidence available to explain what we know as our solar system today."

Jen Butters and Jesse Hennefer shared the Utah Core Standards. It is as follows:

Objective 1: Describe both the big bang theory of the universe formation and the nebular theory of solar system formation and evidence supporting that. This book covers these topics. Robert Green questioned why this is in an Earth Science textbook, it seems like it is out of place. Robert discussed various options and Jesse explained that the textbook actually goes into these items in some depth. To talk about the earth and its systems you need to talk about how the earth came to be. This is a small part of the course. The major focus of this course is Earth Systems. Robert brought up more concerns of other theories that could be presented. Jesse said that the textbook does cover some of these other theories. All of our courses follow the standard and a textbook is always a resource. What guides us is the standards and the scope and sequence.

- For the record, President Taylor requested the comments from patrons be read.
- Jesse read the memo from BoardDocs that summarized the comments as follows:

At the request of the Board, the committee's recommended textbook was made available for patron review from June 15th through June 30th. During the review period, nine comments were submitted. A summary of the comments is below:

- 4 patrons expressed explicit support of the textbook
- 1 patron did not review the textbook but expressed support of a textbook that focused on "mainstream scientific thinking"
- 1 patron did not review the textbook but expressed concern about only including the Big Bang Theory
- 1 patron expressed support for the quality of the textbook but was concerned about the price; however, the price mentioned is not accurate
- 2 patrons expressed a concern about the process and did not give an opinion about the textbook

- President Taylor requested that Jesse respond to the patrons and thank them for their comments.
- The price of the textbook is \$125 and this is a new textbook that we have not used before.
- President Taylor asked the Board if they wanted to have a motion to pass or have a third reading at the next board meeting. Steve Wrigley asked about a deadline to get the books ordered in time to begin this school year. Nancy Tingey responded that she is ready to move ahead. She believes we have gone above and beyond in getting the feedback and she is in favor of reinstating this course. It gives students another way to explore science.
- President Taylor asked the administration, for the adoption of textbooks in the future plan to bring it to the Board in time for three readings and in time for input from patrons. This will be for all curriculum adoptions.
- Robert Green asked if this was an easy way out of taking harder science classes and Jesse confirmed that the preferred pathway is still Biology, Physics or Chemistry. This is what prepares students to be college and career ready. We are counseling students to take the preferred path but Earth Science is another option. We are providing opportunities for students that may not have been successful in Biology to get the scientific skills so that they can be successful in those courses later. We are trying to help students that may struggle with lab sciences.

MOTION: Nancy Tingey moved to adopt the textbook Pearson’s Earth Science Fourteenth Edition. Amber Shill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Recommended Updates on Policy for Parent Groups (Second Reading) – Susan Edwards

- Recommended Updates on Policy for Parent Groups (Second Reading) – Susan Edwards · Clareen Arnold, as expressed earlier to Supt. Briscoe, thought that the five years might be a little long and Amber Shill wanted to know when the five years begins? Susan Edwards clarified that the first year is when someone would turn in an application and they start the process according to how we have written policy. That is year one. Then we would have three years of the selected parent group and the fifth year would possibly be the initial stages of another application process. This policy update would not be retroactive.
- Jim Briscoe emphasized a couple of key points. We listened to both PTA and PTO groups to get feedback before we made these changes. We took the input and brought it back to the Policy Committee and made recommendations based on both parties input. If anyone has any concerns, we have a public comment on August 2nd for the third reading of this policy.
- Steve Wrigley mentioned that the petition was the other issue. Can they just put in a request or do they need a petition? Some people want to get rid of the petition. Without a petition, two or three people could just enter a request and cause a whole big issue.
- Charlie Evans said that people need to make sure there is some support before we put the schools through this process. Amber Shill questioned if the petition made it more contentious? Jim Briscoe said that it was discussed at length and we decided it can’t be too easy of a process. Charlie Evans added that the petition makes it so there is some level of commitment and an indication of what type of support they have. It is beneficial for all parties. Nancy Tingey pointed out that by doing the petition it invites the entire school community to be involved and participate in the process.
- President Taylor: We will bring it back for a third reading on August 2nd.

C. Update to Policy JK – Student Conduct and Discipline (First Reading) – Jeff Christensen

- Jeff Christensen: The changes requested for the remainder of the agenda are required legal changes on policies. We need to update our policy for staff members dealing with emergency safety interventions. The State Board Rule addresses how to engage in emergency situations with students and they have specific rules governing seclusion, time-out, restraints and notification of a parent or guardian. We have now included a modified statement for our classrooms in emergency situations. In terms of changes in the policy, they are legally required. Steve Wrigley questioned if we added anything additional. Jeff mentioned that we just added what was required by the State Rule. Nancy said that the policy committee did not discuss this, it was presented as a need to reflect current state law. Steve Wrigley said that this is the baseline and maybe we should get feedback from our counselors and our principals for additional suggestions that we might want to add. We can’t go less than the State Rule but we can do more. It would be helpful to get suggestions from the people that have to implement this.

- Robert Green brought up another issue since this policy is open. This policy discusses dress and grooming at graduations. There was some public concern about the dress code. Do we want the policy committee to look at this further? It was on the news that a student wanted to wear a lei and was not allowed to do so. This is in Section 2, page 17 and 18 of this policy. Jeff Christensen noted that there are no changes other than the ones reflected in the redline document on BoardDocs to meet the legal requirements. The Policy Committee could take that section under review. Nancy Tingey also mentioned that right now we are only talking about the legal changes. We can take a more philosophical look at this with the Policy Committee and bring back a recommendation to the Board at another time. We need to get these changes approved so that we are in compliance with the law.
- Jeff Christensen said that we will take another look at this on August 2nd with a second reading and possible action at that time.

D. Update to Policy IHB – Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (First Reading) – Jeff Christensen

- This policy deals with equal access for all students if they have a qualifying disability. We received a letter from the Office of Civil Rights requesting that we make some changes to our policy. Primarily they were in practice but they wanted to see it emphasized more in terms of procedural safeguards, in terms of the process and adjusting our appeals process. We have brought the policy into compliance with the Federal law. We modified definitions and the eligibility process and qualifying guidelines that include a team. The team typically consists of the administrator, the teacher, counselor, school psychologist and, in some instances, a school nurse. When we receive guidance from the Office of Civil Rights we follow up and want the District to be protected.

E. Policy GCOC Evaluation of Administrative Staff (First Reading) – Jeff Christensen

F. Policy GCOA Evaluation of Instructional Licensed Staff (First Reading) – Jeff Christensen

- In accordance with State statute on our evaluation policies we were required to make some minor changes. The administrative staff now parallels the evaluation system of the licensed employees.
- Nancy Tingey would like a copy of the policy with just the changes. Jeff Christensen stated that in terms of the administrative policy it was more or less rewritten because we had to move definitions from where they were in the former policy. I can work with the HR Department to make a cleaner version of what changes were made. We did replacement text on the administrator version and the licensed version had very minor changes. The exhibits on BoardDocs outline how the process unfolds by setting up phases for both administrators and licensed employees to go through a phase system.
- Steve Wrigley asked for clarification on a District employee changing positions which makes them provisional for three years if the job is substantially different. Is that State law? Do we define what substantial is? Jeff Christensen confirmed that it is State law. If the promotion is from a teacher to a principal, that would be substantially different. Steve Dimond added, per State law, the change could be between grades. If a teacher went from first grade to sixth grade that would qualify as a substantial change in terms of evaluation. It would allow that teacher to have an emerging effective rating that would be appropriate rather than minimally effective. Those are the same ratings but one is for someone that is provisional with a new assignment. This takes us from a two-step process to a three-step process. It helps us remediate and have a plan of assistance. If this is approved then the employees that are currently on probation because of evaluation would have their probation rescinded and they would go into the track system.

Nancy Tingey noted that the Policy Committee did not meet because the changes are based on conforming to State law. All of those policies are for first reading and will be brought back to the Board.

5. Closing Items

- Jim Briscoe and Leon Wilcox thanked the Board for coming in for a July meeting.
- Leon Wilcox: Each Board Member has been given a budget book and the budget is posted on our website. Leon also thanked Gary Hansen and Rick Conger. They have been very busy with projects this summer.
- President Taylor: Thanked everyone for attending and thanked our police officer.
- Adjourned at 6:50 pm

/dh

ATTEST

----- Board President
Sherril Taylor

----- Superintendent
James Briscoe