

November 19, 2020 Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meeting (Thursday, November 19, 2020)

Generated by Stacey Moore on Friday, November 20, 2020

A. Call To Order

Procedural: 1. Roll Call of Members

Present:

Board President Blaik Baird, Tom Hansen- Board Member, Cory Holmes- Board Member, Tyler Bluth- Board Member

Excuse Mark Davis- Board Member

Superintendent, Paul Sweat

Business Administrator, Keith Johansen

Procedural: 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance by Tyler Bluth

B. Community Comment

Information: 1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

Hillary Dummar, 933 e 200 S, Heber -

Against the mandate to require testing for student athletes. Some PCR testing is resulting in false positive results. The district cannot force the student to take a test or prevent a student from participating. Testing should be implemented as a voluntary option. I am asking you not to mandate this testing for our athletes.

Rob Dummar, 933 E 200 S, Heber -

Thank you for hearing what I have to say. I am concerned about the implementation of the mask mandate, I am a natural health physician. My son was walking on campus without a mask and a teacher approached him where the situation escalated to the school resource officer seeing him to the admin office. The way the child was treated is a form of abuse. While the mask mandates have been issued the spread still continues. The current enforcement is not effective. The most effective is long term isolation. I'd like to see a strategy for more activity without masks.

Kristin Taylor, Heber Ut - I am concerned about children in the community because of the closing of schools. In person learning is important and effective. Lengthy time away from schools often result in social isolation and increase abuse, substance use, depression and suicidal ideation. The Governors recent announcement about forced testing in high schools is similar to crimes during WWII and the Nazis conduction experiments on prisoners of war, including children. I strongly urge the school board, school officials, school medical representative and government officials to consider the facts that I have shared. (Audio was difficult to transcribe comments by Ms. Taylor). I will be sending a letter to the school board or any others who request it.

Stephanie Smith - 2667 Weathervain Wy, Heber - My intention is to speak to the decision makers on the call. I believe that you care about our kids. I am compassionate to the sleepless nights you may be having at this time. We are dealing with dark energy. We are being force fed a political agenda. Childrens needs are not being met. You have compliance at schools why are the numbers still going up? Why are we focusing on sickness instead of immunity. Our children should not be made responsible for the elderly. Our kids are being used as a pawn. We have a responsibility to teach and move away from the dark force. Our lights are powerful together. Our children have rights. We are at a crossroads. The government does not have a right to dictate our lives the way that they are doing. Say no to the bullying.

David Mcnaughtan - 2770 S Daniels Rd, Heber - As a principal we spend a lot of time trying to keep schools safe. I want to personally thank her and the nursing staff for all that they are doing right now! Thank you for your hard work and know that it is appreciated.
Sutp.

Tom Hansen - I would like to apologize to the Dummars for the way your student was treated.

C. Consent Items**Action (Consent): 1. Consideration and Approval of Consent Items**

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. Minutes -10.22.20 Board Meeting

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action (Consent): 3. Separations

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action (Consent): 4. New Hires

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action (Consent): 5. Employee Status Changes

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action (Consent): 6. Travel

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action (Consent): 7. Financials

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action (Consent): 8. Home School

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action (Consent): 9. School Choice

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

D. Action Items

Action: 1. Revise Current COVID Mitigation Plan - Garrick Peterson

Presented by Superintendent Sweat rather than Garrick Peterson
Table item to a work session. Further discussion to be had prior to decisions being finalized due to Wasatch High School school closure to accomplish a threshold reset.

Many in the district have a strong belief that the best thing to do for our kids is to keep them in schools. The spread of the virus is not happening in the controlled setting at school, but rather at homes or in social gatherings. The numbers per school are a threshold to begin a discussion with the health department.

I would ask that Randal Probst, Wasatch Health Department Director and our Academic Director Garrick Peterson to speak next on keeping students in school.

Garrick Peterson - As we move forward we have learned that mitigation efforts are working. There are not many cases spreading at school. Education is the best in a face-to-face. With Covid there are so many absences between quarantines, symptoms or just absences as we know them, that has been the real battle for teachers. We are considering different ways to keep students in schools during this time. Absences create difficulties for our teachers. Before the last shutdown we had 33% students absent. Teachers prefer to have students in school. We are considering a 4 day week for teachers, giving one day for teachers to dedicate to online planning and instruction.

We think the percentage route might be a more accurate way to decide a threshold. Rather than the number 15, we would instead consider a percentage of absenteeism and cases.

Randall Probst - I appreciate the comments from the public and their concerns. It is my intent to keep students in school when possible. Kids are safer in school than almost anywhere else. They are following the rules for the most part. There has been less school spread and more community spread, due to efforts in the schools. We are now looking at the data to adjust the process that we are currently following. We acknowledge the impact having students out of school is having on families in the community. We will work within the guidelines of the state to work with you to find a solution. Since we have seen the surge the community numbers are increasing. Looking at the data, clustering, scenarios in the schools then we have discussions about percentages for school closures. It would not be prudent to allow a greater spread in the schools than anywhere else, we don't want to put anyone at risk.

Supt. Sweat - What we are hearing is that as this increases we are working together to find a way to raise the number by possibly switching to a percentage as a threshold for discussion.

Tom Hansen - As a parent, I am extremely frustrated. I don't feel like we have control over decisions. I appreciate the work that is being done. We won't have natural breaks to fall on in the next few months. I want to look at our options and see what authority we have to keep our students in classrooms. My freshman was quarantined for the 2nd time this year. He is struggling and we are struggling.

Tyler Bluth - Kids are safer in school.

Blaik Baird - The percent of the community we are seeing test positive is 20% or more, our schools are 1 or 2%. We are doing a good job of control this and would like some latitude on the rules. The other side is that some teachers and community members feel like we aren't doing enough. We want to be sensitive to those at risk, but still keep kids in schools.

Randal Probst - I will acknowledge from a neutral perspective that there is nothing political as a health department. Wasatch is caring about kids and keeping them in school, as much as anyone in the state. Your nurse staff is as good as anywhere and better.

President Baird - I suggest tabling the item until a work session with the health department and the resources we need to make a plan for our December meeting. We can include legal council in that meeting as well to discuss local control. We will have a work session or two prior to that.

Motion to table item till next board meeting in December.

Motion to approve by Cory Holmes, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action: 2. Retire Policy 535 - Prohibiting Sexual Harassment - Jason Watt

The updated Title IX regulation require us to update the policy. My recommendation is to retire policy 535. The regulations are more descriptive and provide detailed steps on how to handle a Title IX incident.

Motion to retire policy 535

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action: 3. Approve Sexual Harassment Under the Jurisdiction of Title IX Protections Policy- Jason Watt

This policy has been put out for 30 day review. There were no comments.

Motion to approve the new policy.

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Tom Hansen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action: 4. WHS Trap and Skeet Team - Jason Watt

Doug Kinsman to present the organization for the WHS Trap and Skeet Team. Heber Valley Gun Club has formed a Scholastic Clay Targets Program for WHS. The program would offer opportunities for students. Gun safety classes are required and stressed in the program. We have had a good response from students. We would like to proceed tonight with approval from the board to be able to be competitive and another avenue for student participation.

Motion to approve by Tom Hansen, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action: 5. Approve COVID-19 Response Policy - Shawn Kelly and Aubreigh Parks

This policy has been out since last board meeting for review. There have been no comments. Recommendation to approve the policy with no changes. This policy is regarding screening tools, symptoms, testing and practices that we have been following.

Motion to put policy out for another 30 day review.

Motion to table policy till next board meeting by Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Presentation on WCSD Staff and Student COVID-19 testing facility and processes.

Action: 6. English Language Learners (ELL) Online Curriculum - Eric Campbell

1 in 10 of our students is ELL. The population with a specific need. The state has procured software for ELL Students. This year the product was canceled and the reinstated if districts have an interest in using it.

Recommendation to make a motion to approve the purchase of Imagine Learning licenses for ELL students in the amount of \$15,000. This money is a grant from the state.

Motion to approve by Cory Holmes, second by Tom Hansen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action: 7. English Language Learners (ELL) Online Teacher Support - Eric Campbell

This ELL product will provide a resource to teachers for core subjects, as well as, identify and organize students to best help them to be successful.

Recommendation to make a motion to approve the purchase from Elevation Software in the amount of \$28,251.75

Motion to approve by Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries
 Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
 Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

Action, Information: 8. Approve Amendments to 2020-2021 Calendar - James Judd

To best manage the needs of students and teachers, last board meeting we proposed an amended calendar. The state is allowing some flexibility for teacher work days. Teachers will use the days for planning.

November 30
 January 25th
 February 12
 March 23rd

This was out for public review from last board meeting. We received no negative comments, just appreciation from teachers.

Motion to approve amended calendar by Cory Holmes, second by Tom Hansen.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries
 Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
 Not Present at Vote: Blaik Baird

Action, Information: 9. Approve 2021-2022 Calendar - Kirsta Albert

2 calendars were put out for review from the last school board meeting in November. No comments have been received.

August 16th start day, full week for fall break, natural breaks in the calendar with holidays, last day May 27th.

Motion to approve by Tom Hansen, second by Cory Holmes.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries
 Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth
 Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

E. Board Report

Discussion, Information: 1. Information/Updates

No Board Reports

F. Superintendent Report

Discussion, Information: 1. Information/Updates

Our new elected board members are on the meeting, Kim Dickerson and Marianne Allen. We are excited to have them join us.

Ryan Bishop - UHSAA realignment process every 2 years. Primarily its based on Sr and Jr class. Ryan's presentation will include the first draft of the realignment. October 1st counts make Wasatch the 21st largest school in the state. That puts us in 6A and at a bubble school status. We are the biggest of the 5 bubble schools. Today they looked for natural breaks to decide the classifications. Because we are a bubble school we can petition to move back down to 5A. We have submitted the paperwork to move into 5A. On December 9th they consider the petitions, that is when they place schools into regions. Between then and the 16th they receive public comment, which is when I can advocate and make the case that we should be in 5A.

UHSAA is the governing board for Utah Sports. As we consider Mrs. Dummar's comments, the school board has not passed a policy on testing. The policy for COVID testing is from the UHSAA. There are advocates for extracurricular sports and those that disagree with it. Many states are not doing any. I expect that there will be more pushback in our community and statewide over testing. We are in a wait-and-see position with testing and see where this ends up with Fall sports starting next week.

Tom Hansen - If there is a way to get a version of the teacher voices that is negative that would be helpful in a study session.

Shawn - I get about half calls from parents and teachers on each side, that we are doing to little or to much. OUR teachers are supportive and also nervous and tired.

We will host a work session for additional discussion before the next board meeting.

G. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Not Present at Vote: Mark Davis

H. Executive Session

No Executive Session Called