

March 21, 2019 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meeting (Thursday, March 21, 2019)

Generated by Stacey Moore

Members present at Study Session

Cory Holmes, Mark Davis, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

A. Study Session

Discussion, Information: 1. 2020-21 Calendar - James Judd

Welcome by Supt Sweat. Excuse President Baird, Board Member Hansen and Davis will join us later.

Calendar discussion by James Judd - proposed for 2020-2021. The changes being proposed are purely based on academics.

- Early vs Later Start Dates
- Early vs Later End Dates
- Shorter vs Longer Vacations
- Frequency of Breaks

Highest priority's

- Student academics and fulfilling state requirements (180 days, 990 hours)
- Testing Dates (ACT, RISE, ASPIRE, WIDA, AP, etc.)
- Natural Quarter Breaks

Historic Barriers

- Air Conditioning not in all schools, August was too hot
- Status Quo
- Calendar Flexibility with some holidays falling on different days each year
- Vacation and other breaks

Start Aug 17th

1st PD at 1st term break

PD Jan 4th 2nd term

PD March 12 3rd term (align with UVU)

Easter Vacation Break during 4th term

May 27th Last Day

Comments:

Mr. Brown, Principal of JR Smith Elementary - I am excited for all the reasons Mr. Judd talked about. There is a lot of support from my staff. I think it makes a lot of sense.

Mr. Johnson, Principal of Wasatch High - I really like that we have periods of learning and periods of break. Aligning those breaks and academic focus time will help with student achievement. Currently we break at Christmas during 2nd term.

Justin Kelly, Principal of Rocky Mountain Middle School - I like that the proposed calendar focuses on academics and the natural breaks.

Supt. Sweat - A calendar change is something that I think we are going to like a lot. It would be nice to line up our breaks with the semester breaks.

Tonight we will put it out for 30 day review.

Lana Wright and Cody Clyde, teacher association members, both support the calendar. Cody suggests that teachers are made aware of the proposal.

Superintendent Sweat recommends at this time that we stick with the already approved calendar for 2019-20, then in 2020-21 we proceed with the calendar presented this evening.

Discussion, Information: 2. Apple Devices - Dustin Miller

Superintendent Sweat explains to the board about the devices we provide to our teachers and students to accomplish instructional strategies and instructional methods we couldn't really do without them. Wasatch is known for the great work we are doing with technology and instruction. It is time for us to refresh our devices. This proposal is not coming without a lot of thought, we have been piloting in schools testing the iPads. We are proposing a comprehensive change.

Presentation by Dustin Miller discussing the leasing options.

It is time to discuss a device refresh given lease agreement terms or devices becoming out dated.

Elem K-4 devices (purchased July 2015)- teachers and students using purchased Lenovo devices. 5-8th (Leased in July

2016)- teachers and students at TMS and RMMS are all on leased Windows devices. This lease is ending. WHS is using MacBooks (2018). We are running into issues for replacement parts or refurbished parts. We are also having problems with reliability - audio, screens... etc. We reviewed 3 options with 1) renewing leases, 2) K-5 iPads and MacBooks for teachers, 3) iPads for all K-8 students and Macbooks for teachers - this option is cheaper than renewing the leases.

K87 would be switching from a Lenovo to an iPad with a case and a keyboard. We are excited about this proposal and the opportunities that an Apple product will provide for our students.

Director James Judd, the idea in a digital classroom is asking ourselves what do we want our kids doing and how are we asking them to learn? A digital tool in the hands of every kid allows them to have a learning experience that we weren't able to give them before. Apps allowing student innovation and creation are incredible. We get a better product of what we want students to experience in a classroom. Kids are very intuitive with these devices. Tonight we will share a few demonstrations from teachers on how the devices are being used in a classroom. We keep the keyboard option. The accessibility for kids to listen to text, translate, etc.

Keith Johansen - One advantage of this is the summer maintenance scaling down. That is a big deal for our tech staff to prepare for the school year.

James Judd - The iPads provide a richer experience for the student with less maintenance. We are now at a point that K-5 are at end of life. Tonight we are recommending to the board that we provide K-8th grade iPads - so that our students are learning the same system the entire time.

Paulo Brangelo (APPLE REP) - High School students who go to a touch screen vs not having touch screen is something that we hear about as far as the transition. It isn't a game changer.

Supt. Sweat - We are trying to evolve with the product. Right now at the HS we have a model in mind that they leave Wasatch High with their MacBook then on to college with it. My daughter still has her Mac from high school and uses it. We know the kids at the HS have enjoyed having a higher quality product experience.

James Judd - The apple classroom in an iPad is much easier for a teacher to manage in a classroom. Parent will have the ability to manage screen time with a school device as well.

Recommendation to go K-8th iPads and learn the same system.

Conclude Meeting:

Motion by T Hansen to adjourn and move to executive session, second by C Holmes

B. Board Meeting

C. Call To Order

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance by Tom Hansen

Procedural: 2. Roll Call of Members

Excuse President Blaik Baird

D. Celebrations

Principal Johnson -

Future Business Leaders of America, 10th state championship in a row. Students introduce themselves and report their wins. Sterling Scholars

E. Consent Items

Action (Consent): 1. Consideration and Approval of Consent Items 2-10

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. Minutes - 2.28.19

Action (Consent): 3. Amendment to RMMS LAND Trust Plan

Action (Consent): 4. New Hires

Action (Consent): 5. Status Changes

Action (Consent): 6. Separations

Action (Consent): 7. Travel

Action (Consent): 8. Financials

Action (Consent): 9. Home School Affidavits

Action (Consent): 10. School Choice

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Mark Davis, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

F. Information

Apple Device Demonstration by Curriculum - Brett Zabel

Pilot Team (3 classrooms at DCE, 2 at MES)

Ali Nichole - 5th DCE

Teresa Pugmire 1st MES

Haley Dejong 3rd MES

Maggie King - DCE

Pillar C- MES

Demonstrations and presentations by the pilot teachers.

Comments by SPED Director Ben Springer and the benefits of using an Apple product for his SPED students.

Comments by Paulo Brangalo, Apple Representative, appreciation for the work and partnership being done at Wasatch.

Comments by Supt. Sweat - Becoming an Apple district with K-8 iPads and MacBooks at the HS will help school be exciting for students. No longer do students sit in rows of desks and listen to the teacher regurgitate information. This will make a difference for our students. WCSD provides and innovative and exciting curriculum that is right in line with state standards.

Board Member Hansen extends appreciation to the teachers in the room.

School Fees Update

Working on getting in compliance with the new legislative rules. Our fees are categorized in three areas 1) Curricular Class, 2) Travel (more complicated) 3) Extracurricular and After School clubs.

We understand that extracurricular clubs are what makes kids feel like they are WASPS. We want to spend more time considering what direction this should go. We know that getting rid of clubs isn't best for kids. When kids feel like they are part of something then they do better all around. We want to take time and be careful not to put things in that will take away life long learning memories for our students.

We feel like we can have the academic fees done next month. We want to be slow is with clubs. We have to have it done by January 2020 to be compliant.

G. Action Items

Action: 1. 2020-2021 Calendar - James Judd

This is a proposal for the 20-21 school year. Shift from our traditional calendar. The key difference is the ending of quarters with natural breaks (holiday's) this draft will end before Memorial Day weekend begins. It has a start earlier. There is a break in April to break the length of 4th quarter for Easter weekend. Spring break will align with UVU.

Experiences I have had in a school as a principal tracking when D and F's were generated most- it is 3rd quarter. It is rough on kids to not have a break. Teachers are absent most in the month of March. It makes sense to have a learning period and a break period for teachers and students.

Principal Johnson - I love this proposal because it ties with the academic goals of the schools. It is strategic. It gives more focus on instruction and for assessments. I also really like that there are focused periods of learning and then focused breaks. Every single quarter has a bit of time off. I like that we end before Memorial Day. I think Memorial Day at the end of the school year just progresses the time that students and family feel that they are done. It is easy to extend the holiday because a holiday is in the middle of a term.

Thorne - I like that the second semester has a few extra days. We need time for assessments in the 2nd term. The number of days that we are testing are not days in the classroom.

Mrs. Riddle - The hiring calendar, 1st week in April is when many are staring spring break. WE will be able to be excited to find the best teachers right after spring break.

Judd - The teachers association feels positive.

Recommendation to post the calendar as presented for public comment till the April board meeting.

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Mark Davis, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Action: 2. Apple Device Agreement - Dustin Miller

Approve as discussed in the study session and tonight.

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Mark Davis, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Action: 3. Wireless Access Points - Dustin Miller

This will replace all access points at Rocky Mountain, Heber Valley, JR Smith, Midway, West Campus, and the District Office. Several of these buildings have access points that are at least four or five years old and are no longer keeping up with the demand. We will be reimbursed for approximately 60% of the total price through E-Rate.

Approve bid from Summit Partners in the amount of \$137,182.50

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Tom Hansen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Mark Davis, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Action: 4. Wellness Policy Revisions - Darren Wilkins

Darren Wilkins - We need to update our Wellness Policy to meet the criteria of the state. Update item 9 discourages using food as a reward.

Board Member Mark Davis comments "We are approving large items tonight, many items that we are not talking about does not mean that it hasn't been discussed. However, this is not the first time that we have heard these items."

Recommendation to post the revised Wellness Policy for public comment till the next school board meeting.

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Mark Davis, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

Action: 5. Xerox Lease Contract for WHS - Shawn Kelly

Recommendations to approve the Wasatch High School Xerox 48 month lease for \$200.06/month proposal for a Xerox copy lease that is over \$10,000 the contract

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Mark Davis, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth

H. Superintendent Report

I. Board Report

Discussion, Information: 1. Information or Updates

J. Adjournment

Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn board meeting and to continue executive session

Motion by Tom Hansen, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Mark Davis, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth