

May 15th, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. - Special Meeting with all district faculty and staff at Wasatch High School, 930 S 500 E, Heber City, UT 84032

Board Attendance:

Paul Sweat
Tom Hansen
Blaik Baird
Mark Davis
Cory Holmes
Tyler Bluth
Keith Johansen
Jim Judd
Jason Watt
Eric Campbell
Ben Springer
Shawn Kelly

Intro and Welcome by Superintendent Paul Sweat

This meeting comes with the desire from the school board to seek input, have you ask questions and make clarifications. We welcome feed back and your thoughts. We want to do this with our trusted employees before moving forward with the proposal for two new schools.

Announcement Video (Draft Form) -

Second Informational Video (Draft Form) -
Mostly Text with FAQ's

Supt. Sweat -- Keep in mind we are soliciting feedback on the finished product, what information do you think people want to know?

President Baird -

Thank you for coming and for your time tonight. As the board discussed this proposal we felt it very important for the staff to see the videos and give you all the opportunity to provide us with feedback.

Thank you to John Moss from the board.

Supt Sweat. - This special meeting is to discuss with you the consideration for a proposal to build two new schools. Between now and August the school board is taking the public's temperature, trying to understand, and seeking input to determine if the public is ready to move forward with the 2 new schools. We have hired a company to advise the board on how to move forward. We are trying to determine, with your help, to move forward in a smart way. If we know the wishes of our staff and as we move forward with an official proposal it will help us with the commuity as well.

Cevin Carr - Full support of WHS. MES school is 800+ students what is the average population of the other elementary schools. If we are using 800 number but we aren't adding another school in MES that might reflect the problem of a large elementary school.

Mike Siggard - Something does need to be done. Maybe we haven't thought of all the possibilities. What if we just have a 10th - 12th HS and move 9th back. Or consider a charter high school instead of two full high schools. Competition between Schools would be alleviated by a charter option.

Sheila Johnston - MES growth is significant, is one larger elementary school going to be enough to handle the growth. How will the middle schools be impacted? We are all really full and there is talk of portables and already.

Becca Whilhite - My heart breaks thinking of a 2nd high school. 2nd video there was a comment about "the most important" reason is for handicap students - you can't say that. I will help you with editing.

Denise Harris - ROTC -- I believe we need a solution. Will the high school be an exact replication? STEM, Vocation School? Will you be providing transportation? School choice? Potentially you could tip your populations. High school may not be able to be staffed for 3 years. Will the new high school have full sports teams? Competition? JROTC, we can only have it at one school.

Board Member Davis -

Community is going to be impacted a lot. We feel like the more we grow students don't have the opportunity at the current size. We would try to make opportunities equal at each high school. Aquatic Center will not build another pool.

Board Member Hansen -

MES was built to hold 400 it is almost at 700. We intend to build an elementary that will accommodate Charleston, Wallsburg and Midway. A new larger school would take in three growth that is projected for the next 7 years. We aren't done building high schools. We will build another high school in the next 3 years without a doubt. The board wants to keep a rural community feel with small schools.

Supt. Sweat - It is our belief that when you get into a larger school district it makes more sense to have a STEM school. We don't want to create a situation where you are skimming off the best academic students out of one school and into another. We want our kids to model for one another. We want equal opportunities at both locations. When people ask me when I started in Wasatch, I sat I started in Kindergarten. I am the last person on this planet that wants to divide this High School. I love this high school. But we have to react, and we have to do something soon. If we didn't have TIS we would be in a real mess. With two high schools we will give more students opportunities. We will give 200 students an opportunity to play football. In the long run it will provide more opportunities for all students. It is more and more difficult right now because the current setting is so large. A healthy rivalry will make us all better.

Board President Baird- I moved from SLC in HS. Brighton HS was the largest high school. When I moved to WHS I had an opportunity to be a part of more than one thing. Students are more successful when they are involved. It was life changing for me to be able to participate as a student.

Brian Thorne - Thank you board. We are experiencing the growth everyday. We have 4 classrooms in portables. The lockdown last week was really nervous with the portables. I appreciate the idea of all of our kids being in one building. Our school was not built for 680 students to use the bathroom or lunch rooms. These are the realities that we are living with right now. Our faculty is amazing and we make it work.
As a parent, I want to thank you for or what you are doing.

Faith Woodard - I grew up in a town and we had a fun rivalry. I am concerned about the ability to staff 2 high schools. New teachers can't afford to live here. When the teachers can't afford to live and be in the community they may feel less vested. I would like to see compensation and staffing be considered by the board.

Janet Christensen - I believe our enrollment today is 855. What is the plan for OME boundaries or a school on the East side.

Duane Wheatley - I am in full support of a second HS and Midway school. I remember most about school is teachers and my friends. It will give more opportunities for our students to participate. We need the smaller schools because that is what is best for the schools. We know that there will be different programs with struggles but you will have more kids doing things. I love WHS. But I have always been an advocate for smaller schools. We are going to know students better in smaller schools. Two schools in the valley that will expect to excel. I am in full support.

Blak - Discussion of staffing. We know the pain of the higher cost of living in this valley. We don't really have control over this. I wish we could build some homes for teachers. We are committed to do all that we can to help you with your wages and benefits.

Davis - As a board we haven't been afraid to go to truth and taxation for raises and benefits. I think everyone one of us is committed to doing that.

Shawn - 1 high school English teachers in 1986, now we have 14. We have to continue to add as we continue to grow. Even though we will have two schools we will divide the staffs as equal as possibility. We may have to duplicate some teachers. We understand that staffing is a problem. Part of the HS will be transferred to the other school. We have done that many times. Based on numbers is how we will staff.

Jason - The current enrollment at TMS and RMMS. The schools are under capacity. We believe the middle schools can handle the growth.

Eric - Elementary boundaries - OME boundaries will likely have to change soon. Mrs. Discher has been great about communicating the needs of those changes as it relates to new schools and MES. We have to have an open meeting for parents to give feedback and for them to receive notification. The board will then make choices and may be immediate.

Paul Sweat - If this consideration for a proposal is to become an official proposal. We need your help. We need your voice - you work here and you live here. It is important if this consideration is to move forward that you help our community understand what the current predicament is that we are in. Please help educate. We are asking for your help. Let us talk through questions that you have. You are our public relations army.

Jennie Mecham - Rivalry between Middle Schools. The leaders and the teachers help with that. I would encourage administration to be in charge of the culture. Also, I took pride in being able to call students by names. I can't say all the students names at my school anymore. For me making two high school makes sense. More students means more can slip through the cracks. We have to do what is best for our students.

Mellisa Bullock - There isn't a place for kids to go for kids who don't do athletics. If we can bring more opportunities for kids who aren't AP or athletes we can provide a better experience for them.

Jason Watt - We are bringing 3 MTECH classes in west campus to accommodate those kids. We know it is a good program

too.

Ryan Bishop - I agree with Duane Wheatly. Thank you for your work. You are doing and going about everything the right way. This is a much-needed time and situation.

Candyce Barrot - The problem with getting old is that I remember when they built MES. They were coming from place where there was only one class for each grade. Then we added in 1997 for growth. It is hard to build new schools. We need to continue to educate the community on the growth and what is happening in the classroom level.

Justin Kelly - We built the gym for the students not for me. It is up to the leadership to build the culture of healthy competition. I have more community involvement now than when I had a larger school. I have parents who are more involved in parent teacher conference, consultation and volunteering. Parents are the key to student success - we have to get their by in so that teachers can do their jobs.

Timeline?

Resolution in Mid-August for November ballot, if that passes then we would start the bidding process by Feb 2020. Then once a contractor is hired we begin. It was 26 months for WHS. But giving contractors more time will help price. Labor is very hard for contractors.

Shelia Johnston - Are you going to allow school choicing for the new high school?

Paul Sweat - With the two high schools would we continue to have school choice. In Utah anyone can choice however we can control by closing a school (OME and MES).

Jason Watt - Currently at the Middle school the choice keeps the schools about the same, evening itself out.

Tom Hansen - The school district is in a situation to be reactive. We could build another Middle School, but we have to be reactive not proactive. The city and the county council are in control of the zoning and density. I wish people didn't want to come here.

Paul - I want to mention that you see this meeting as a show of respect from the school board. In recent memory I don't remember a time that the board invites input directly from the teachers. Also, they want to do all we can to help teachers live here. The board has helped with raises the board is still committed to doing that.

Tyler Bluth - As the new guy. There have been a lot of late nights discussing this. I had no idea. We want students to have the best experience leaving Wasatch county. It is very aparent that the kids are the focus.

Dennise JROTC - Can the county levee an impact fee?

Mark Davis - Developers can be asked to make a donation of land.

Denis Marshal - Before you finish the WHS we will have to build another elementary school. I don't know how we can shift boundaries to handle the growth.

Tom - The growth study indicated that there will be 7000 elementary student in the next 7 years. Our 5 elementary schools can handle that county.

Chelse Harring - a colleague of mine has 38 students in her classroom. What is the immediate plan? In a classroom of 30+ it is nearly impossible. We make it work. Is there a more immediate plan at the elementary?

Rob Fredricks - I really appreciate living in Heber. there were 660 kids in the high school. The friends that I then are the same people in this room. I have a fear that the athetic fees are considered so that our community feels like we aren't aksing ththem ot donate twice for two high schools.

End Meeting att 5:40pm.