

MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION - September 26, 2017

The Board of Education of the Alpine School District met in a closed session on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 2:36 P.M. in the conference room at Orem Junior High School.

Board members present: President John C. Burton, Vice President JoDee C. Sundberg, S. Scott Carlson, Mark J. Clement, Sara M. Hacken, Wendy K. Hart and Paula H. Hill.

Also present: Superintendent Samuel Y. Jarman, Business Administrator Robert W. Smith, Assistant Superintendent Dr. John Patten, Administrator of District Operations Jess Christen, K-6 Supervisor Barry Beckstrand, Assistant to the Superintendent Kimberly Bird, Administrator of Public Relations David Stephenson and Assistant Director of Accounting Jason Sundberg .

The purpose of the closed session was to discuss personnel, property, litigation and collective bargaining issues.

On motion by JoDee Sundberg and seconded by Wendy Hart the meeting moved into study session at 3:58 P.M.

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION – September 26, 2017

Alpine School District's Board of Education met in a study session on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 4:00 P.M. in the media center at Orem Junior High School.

Board members present: President John C. Burton, Vice President JoDee C. Sundberg, S. Scott Carlson, Mark J. Clement, Sara M. Hacken, Wendy K. Hart, and Paula H. Hill.

Also present: Superintendent Samuel Y. Jarman, Business Administrator Robert W. Smith, and members of the administrative staff. There were approximately 22 others in attendance.

A Qualtrics representative presented the results from those who participated in the survey about the proposed Orem Consolidation & New Construction Plan. Of the 500 who responded, 38% were in favor of the plan, 35 % against, 17% undecided and 10% neutral. The input from the Geneva community reflected their priority to keep their students together. For the Geneva, Hillcrest and Scera Park patrons, their concerns focused on the zoning and traveling of their students, and the fear of larger class sizes.

The board thanked the staff for meeting with Orem patrons, making information available and answering questions about the proposed plan.

Dr. John Patten shared a demographic summary, and data about potential class sizes for the Orem schools.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – September 26, 2017

Alpine School District’s Board of Education met in a regularly scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. in the auditorium at Orem Junior High School.

Board members present: President John C. Burton, Vice President JoDee C. Sundberg, S. Scott Carlson, Mark J. Clement, Sara M. Hacken, Wendy K. Hart, and Paula H. Hill.

Also present: Superintendent Samuel Y. Jarman, Business Administrator Robert W. Smith and members of the administrative staff. There were approximately 260 others in attendance.

Board Vice President JoDee Sundberg conducted the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 428 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVERENCE

Derek Rentz offered the reverence.

ALPINE FOUNDATION RECOGNITIONS

Heather Collard, Foundation Board Member, presented the “You Make A Difference” awards to the following individuals from Orem Junior High School:

Teachers

- Curtis Winters
- Kyle Bilbao

Support Staff

- Gwenna Terry
- Nalani Lobendahn

Volunteers

- Jennifer Jensen
- Klea Harris

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

The following Orem Junior High School students were recognized for their excellence:

- Brooke Hendrickson
- Aysa Malloy
- Elijah Baca
- Marco Castaneda
- Jose Montano
- Kaitlyn Fitzgerald
- Salvador Sanchez

PRINCIPAL, PTA, AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Andrea Wilson shared the School Community Council (SCC) Report. They meet once a month to discuss the best use of the Trust Lands money and to watch presentations by the teachers on how the funds have benefitted them and their students. Andrea said they are always looking for more parents to serve on the SCC.

Principal Brian Jolley reported that the focus at Orem Junior High is on learning and content. The school has transformed itself into a true community, helping each child to reach their potential. The building was built in 1963 and is in great condition because of the wonderful staff who care for it. Orem Junior High's English, science, and math scores are the highest among the three other schools in the state with similar demographics. They have a strong fine arts program and the Latinos in Action and student council groups have completed some great service projects.

Kim VanDyke serves as the PTA President and her husband reported in her place. They are struggling to get PTA volunteers to allow for the programs to operate. It needs to be communicated to families that service is an important part of Alpine School District. OJHS has an active PTA President who works hard with the principal to make connections for the good of the school and to build programs.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Cissy Rasmussen represented a group of parents from Hillcrest and Scera Park Elementary Schools who are in favor of the consolidation plan. She read a prepared letter of support signed by the parents she represented.

Josh Hawks commented that he felt left out of the process when he learned about the proposal for Geneva Elementary. He appreciates the school board's willingness to have open dialogue and to respond to the parents' concerns. He has been a part of the Geneva community for ten years and feels there are many reasons they should not close the school and combine with Suncrest.

Alex Dunn is the father of six children, two of which attend Hillcrest. He appreciates that in leadership, hard decisions have to be made. However, he isn't sure about how this process has unfolded and felt the survey was a push poll. He is open that this may be the right proposal, but has not seen any data that would allow him to make an educated decision. He has offered to have an independent study done to see if Orem is being well served by the district.

Karen Richardson read the definition of bullying and suggested that the school board is bullying Hillcrest, Scera Park and Geneva.

Chet Davis commented that he was representing the citizens that live south of University Parkway. He said this is a community that will die if Hillcrest is sold. He suggested bussing students from other schools that have more students than Hillcrest. He is concerned that if the school and property are sold, business will take away the houses.

Sam Clark has four children who attend Hillcrest and said the information the board has shared is not complete. The infographic does not give full information about costs. He asked that there be due diligence and for the vote to be postponed.

Devan Westover commented about the seismic concerns at Hillcrest. His daughter is in sixth grade and he always thought she was safe. There were some improvements made in 2003 and 2010, and feels we should keep the school and make the necessary repairs for the seismic issues.

Julie King appreciates that the board has to meet the needs of 80,000 students. She has an eighth-grade student at Vista Heights Middle School with 45 students in his math class. In the west part of the district they are struggling for teachers, supplies and bus drivers. She thanked the board for considering the balance of all of the students in our district.

Maria Boren said the location of Geneva is important because other schools do not have the infrastructure to house them. If the school is closed, it would be the end of our identity and family. She said we want to keep our Geneva Elementary together and in our building. Geneva Elementary is part of Orem history.

Heath Westfall has two children who attend Hillcrest. He is supportive of the consolidation plan because it is best for students and fiscally responsible. If Hillcrest and Scera Park were combined, the savings would be \$700,000 per year.

Melinda McDaniel is a Scera Park teacher and she spoke on behalf of administration and teachers at the school. She said they took a silent vote and they support the plan 100%. The number one concern is safety and second is resources. She read the names of the teachers who were supportive.

Emily Bachmann grew up in Orem and attended Hillcrest and has worked various jobs at the school. She is not supportive of the proposed plan because Hillcrest is a beautiful and functioning school. She has high hopes that Hillcrest will be around for generations to come.

P.J. Eagar is the school community council chair for Geneva and spoke about the school's needs. She said that whatever is done in the future, they want the students to stay together. Geneva's class sizes are the lowest in the district without any subsidies and the school grade has gone from a D to a B. She asked the board to visit the school, walk the halls and experience the school culture. 90% of the students are low income and the desire is for them to get the best education possible and be safe.

Kathy Minster moved to the Hillcrest area 45 years ago and said all members of the community should have a say in what happens to the school. Orem City needs to be its own district because Hillcrest Elementary is a diamond.

Edwin Gualoti thanked the board for the time they give to the community. He asked the board to please take the comments seriously and come together with a plan.

Hailey Hamblin teaches at Scera Park. She commented that the idea of merging the two schools is hard, but thinking about working with Hillcrest teachers in one school is exciting. The schools have already been collaborating together with the Apollo Project. Having more teachers per grade level makes it easier to work as a team.

Becky Buckley is a computer teacher at Scera Park, lives in the community and has children who attend the school. If the two schools came together, we could keep the community feel and it would be a good opportunity for students. The older buildings have limitations for technology and building a new school could resolve this situation.

Mark Miner raised four children who attended Scera Park. He thanked the board for doing a difficult job. He said he is provisionally supportive of the plan to combine the schools, but would like the decision to be made on sound data. He also encouraged the board to be transparent about the Orem finances.

Tom Meservy said the vast majority of the community was blind-sided by the decision. He feels that the process has been horrible and the timeline is not sufficient. Everyone wants what is best for the school and students and he asked the board to postpone the vote to allow time for good feedback to be gathered.

Chelsea Olenik is a parent at Hillcrest and strongly supports the consolidation of Hillcrest and Scera Park. She said that Hillcrest cannot offer programs that require additional funding and half of her neighborhood is choosing to attend out of area schools. The public schools should not be historical monuments, but a place for 21st Century Learning.

Robert Gent spoke in support of the substitute school teachers in ASD. There are many who are qualified and would like to substitute teach, but will not because of the low wage. He asked the board to evaluate and give them an equitable wage.

Julie Olsen is a Hillcrest alumnus and now a Scera Park parent. She is not opposed to the proposed consolidation plan, but cannot support it due to lack of information. She requested more time for more details and feedback.

Natalie Clawson said 82% of students at Geneva are on free lunches. Geneva received higher school ratings over previous years and she questions whether it was in the best interest of Geneva students to be moved to Suncrest. She feels that different information is being shared at the community meetings. She requested more time for additional conversations.

Melody Jenson is a Hillcrest parent and read a prepared statement in favor of the consolidation. Hillcrest doesn't have a strong parent base and losing Title I funding is staggering. She said Hillcrest needs the life line that is being offered and that the proposed plan is fiscally responsible.

Joleen Liston is a parent concerned about tearing down Hillcrest. She would like clear information about class sizes. She works at Cherry Hill where there are 700 students, and doesn't like what she sees in a larger school.

Shannon Sutorus realizes that Hillcrest is depleting funds from ASD, but she is willing to pay more taxes if we are able to keep our school. She contributes the success of her special needs student to the small school and class size.

Sunday Meservy thanked the board for getting the requested information to her. It is not clear why the consolidation plan is best for children. Hillcrest has had some repairs, but needs about \$1 million in seismic updates. Eleven of thirteen low income ASD schools are in Orem. She is concerned about class sizes for these students.

Michelle Woodbury has two students that attend Hillcrest and she spoke in favor of the positive impact the consolidation would have on parent involvement. Classroom volunteers have declined due to the loss of Title I funding. There is also a lack of parent volunteers and PTA involvement is limited.

Sara Bateman is a Geneva parent and represented the PTA. She attended the study session, and the survey graph showed that 62% of the families want to keep Geneva the same. Geneva gets nothing in the proposal but will be split up. She encouraged the board to collaborate with the administrators and teachers at the school.

Rebekah Westover read a letter written to the Utah State Board of Education by her and other parents about their concerns. They asked the USBE to petition ASD to postpone the decision and to communicate better with parents.

Kammi Johansen thanked the board for the attention they have given each speaker. She has three students at Geneva and asked for nothing to change. She understands the need for adjustments, but the greatest concern is the lack of information so that the parents could possibly be supportive. Parents are concerned for the English language learners and that there has been no feedback from the Suncrest community.

ACTION ITEM

1. Reappointment of Business Administrator Robert W. Smith
John Burton recommended the approval of the reappointment of Rob Smith as the Business Administrator for Alpine School District for the period of two years.
Wendy Hart made the motion and Scott Carlson seconded it. Board members and Superintendent Jarman thanked Rob for his work on behalf of Alpine School District. **The board voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
2. Bond Resolution #2017-022 – Consider Adoption of a Resolution Providing for the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds
Superintendent Jarman recommended the approval of Resolution #2017-022 and explained that this would implement the funding for phase two of the bond.
Sara Hacken made the motion, John Burton seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Student Trip Request – Lehi High School
Superintendent Jarman recommended the approval of the student trip request for Lehi High School. This is an exception request to allow the students to miss an additional day of school, over what is allowed in policy.
Paula Hill made the motion, Scott Carlson seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.
4. 2018 Board Meeting Schedule
Superintendent Jarman recommended the approval of the 2018 Board Meeting Schedule.
Wendy Hart made the motion, Scott Carlson seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Proposed Orem Consolidation & New Construction Plan
Board members thanked the patrons for their diverse and passionate comments sent by email and through the survey. They discussed the feedback received regarding the proposed

plan and said the main focus is the safety and success of students. The board moved to postpone the vote on the proposed Orem plan to the November 14 board meeting. This will allow more time for the board to work with staff, and the stakeholders in our schools, to adjust the plan.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wendy Hart reported on her attendance at the State Data Privacy Meeting. Discipline records for students are not to be retained past graduation. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows for a limited directory option where parents can specify what information is shared about their student and who it is shared with. A guide book is going to be created that will outline this information.

Sara Hacken reported on the new Special Education Policy that was discussed in the Policy Review Committee Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Sara Hacken, and seconded by Wendy Hart, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Approved