

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Washington County School District
May 11, 2021
4:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, participation in this meeting at the location listed above will require those present to wear a mask and adhere to the physical distancing guidelines.

Present: Board President Kelly Blake, Board Vice President Becky Dunn, Board Member David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Laura Hesson, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Steve Gregoire, and Jeremy Cox. Board Member LaRene Cox was excused but participated via phone.

Present from St. George City: Mayor Michele Randall, Councilman Vardell Curtis, Economic Development and Housing Director Shirlayne Quayle, Supportive Services Director Marc Mortensen, City Manager Adam Lenhard, Councilwoman Dannielle Larkin, Councilman Jimmie Hughes, Councilman Bryan Smethurst, Councilman Gregg McArthur, Public Works Director Cameron Cutler

Minutes: Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer

Reverence offered by Board Member Seegmiller.

WORK SESSION

St. George City

Adam Lenhard mentioned growth in the area and said to watch the Divario Development. It is a community approved in the past that is now going in west of Sunbrook. Brent Bills asked about the School Trust Land property in the area. Adam said it is adjacent to the development. Desert Canyon and Desert Color are also growing. He would encourage the District to take a proactive effort with water use to be good stewards of the resource. The city is planning for changes to some of the golf courses and parks in the area. Even the secondary water will have more sources pulling from it. Adam Lenhard said the city has had a good partnership with the District and would like to get back to sharing facility use. As both entities share, it benefits the taxpayers. He mentioned that some school are locking up the tennis courts and are not making them available for public use. One of the biggest challenges for the city is the labor pool. They are having issues hiring, especially for part time positions. Those positions start at about \$8-9 an hour. The area is also really hurting with housing. Those who accept positions cannot afford to live in Washington County. It is affecting public safety. They are looking at options and are considering employee housing for employees to rent. It would be a public service and they are looking at some downtown property. They would like to partner with the District and other city entities if the District would like to explore that option. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the District would be interested in those discussions as we loss many teachers each year with the high cost of living here.

Adam Lenhard mentioned the gazebo property owned by the District. Many residents would like to donate statues, so the city would like to create a sculpture or statue garden. The city would maintain that area in exchange for the property use. The city is also looking at locations for a new City Hall. One option being looked at is at the end of the Town Square Park. They would need to build a multi-level parking garage for downtown parking. Another site is on the other side of Town Square Park. Brent Bills said about 16 years ago the city proposed to build a multi-level parking structure. The Board was asked to extend the RDA. The agreement included the city paying the first 1.2 million. The District would not want to lose valuable building space.

Mayor Michele Randall agreed we are all experiencing the same growing pains. Rex Wilkey mentioned meeting with the city on road work. Cameron Cutler said near Riverside, the church is looking to develop property in that area. He mentioned that the city has been looking to build-out on Merrill Road and may make it hard for students to cross the road. Rex Wilkey said we need to be aware of these type of projects to look at safety and bussing of students. The group talked about growth in that area. Cameron said most of it is residential but may include some commercial. Adam Lenhard said the city would like to know anytime the District has plans for a school and they will work on the infrastructure. Craig Seegmiller said there has always been a phenomenal relationship with St. George City and suggested the need to continue that relationship. Kelly Blake said the water issue is a big concern for the District and has been discussed planning meetings. Mayor Michele Randall mentioned that the Parks Department has identified 10 acres of city property that will lose water and won't even be noticeable by the public. Craig Hammer said relative to locking facilities, there have been some vandalism problems. He reported the CT High opening is being postponed a year. The school will help eliminate the need for another regular high school as soon. Craig Hammer said the District will focus on water. Some of the schools do have secondary water. He suggested that we may need to look at reducing some of the landscaping. We have a couple of schools that do have wells available on the property. Brent Bills said that the fence was put around the children statue due to vandalism. The statues are valuable, and the District does not want them to be ruined. The city suggest that the Parks Department could put them on pedestals.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to go into a closed session at 1:14 p.m. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Present: Board President Kelly Blake, Board Vice President Becky Dunn, Board Member David Stirland, Board Member Craig Seegmiller, Board Member Terry Hutchinson, Board Member Laura Hesson, Superintendent Larry Bergeson, Business Administrator Brent Bills, Assistant Superintendent Richard Holmes, Assistant Superintendent Rex Wilkey, Human Resources Executive Director Lyle Cox, Executive Director Nate Esplin, Executive Director Amy Mitchell, Executive Director Craig Hammer, Executive Director Cheri Stevenson, Communications Director Steven Dunham, Steve Gregoire, Jeremy Cox and Executive Secretary Kajsia Boyer. Board Member LaRene Cox participated via phone.

CLOSED SESSION

Property and Personnel Items

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to go out of the closed session at 2:42 p.m. Board Member Stirland seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Board Handbook Discussion – Kelly Blake

Kelly Blake would like to have members take turns reviewing sections of the Board Handbook. He mentioned that when the Board votes, even if all are not in favor and a majority rules, the Board needs to leave united.

School Safety Discussion – Craig Hammer

Craig Hammer mentioned concerns with the swim programs. Two schools are using Sand Hollow. The Washington City Community Center is only making them available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will be charging per school. The cost will be about \$12,000. They will also only allow 8 days for invitational meets. The schools have been looking at a release period for students to go, but another issue is transportation. Terry Hutchinson said swimming and the time involved is more of a club sport for the elite swimmer. Students may need to get to and from the pool on their own. If it of offered during a release time it may put more responsibility on the school. Craig Hammer said there are several layers of issues to resolve. Brent Bills said the pools in the area are being rented by the clubs at a higher cost. They are not allowing all the lanes to be used during that time. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said The Summit would allow the schools to use them, but the pool is outdoors. It is also a premium time for their members.

Brent Bills said they have a thermal blanket that allows the pool to be used all year long. A District pool would be a high cost with maintenance. Brent Bills mentioned that other districts are going in with their city to build a pool which allows public time when not being used for lap time. Brent Bills said the District helped pay for the Sand Hollow cover and in exchange allows the District to use the center for free. He suggested that maybe the city would be willing to build another pool with the District contributing. Craig Hammer said money, transportation and time of day are all issues for next year.

He shared the Washington City Community Center proposal. It was suggested to check with Hurricane City. Kelly Blake asked that the administration should come up with a solution. The Board does not like the idea of a release period. They also feel that students who participate should arrange for their own transportation. LaRene Cox suggested getting bids from other businesses on the use of the pool.

Craig Hammer said the security doors in the schools have worked great. There have also been some cameras installed in a couple of schools.

COVID Update – Larry Bergeson.

Larry Bergeson said schools are in the testing window. The test data is so critical. It goes through May 21st and should have as little disruption as possible. We have been in-person five days a week all year and he feels we will get some good data. Where we are in the state has allowed the removal of masks. We are getting some push back from the other side but are doing the best we can. The county is projected to go back to a low level again. He reported that graduations will be held outside, and attendance would not be limited. Summer school will not require masks. There are no plans from the Governor's Office or the Health department for masks and test to play next year. He said the District is confident that we won't have problems with test to stay. We will continue to clean and sanitize. We have heard nothing to require vaccinations for students. There are 9 students in quarantine, 3 students in isolation, and 4 employees in isolation.

2021-2022 Calendar Update – Richard Holmes and Nate Esplin

Richard Holmes said there is not a lot of change. We are in compliance with the state. The administration has settled on four teacher prep days. Nate Esplin reported on plans for the early-out time of elementary schools to change to 9 -12 on Fridays. The walking schools will have two schedules that meet their individual school needs. Non-busing schools have more flexibility. Early-out Friday will give elementary teachers more prep time. OEK schools will have kindergarten all day. Schools are trying to find ways to have more instructional time in kindergarten classes. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the instructional time is about the same between secondary and elementary with the early-out Friday. Schools will be able to get the information out to their parents.

CT High Update – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes shared information with the strands being focusing on. Each strand includes multiple certifications; however we won't be able to offer all of them. Laura Hesson said currently the programs have a low number of students participating and some of the areas will still require an associate degree. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said the CT high will help get them entrenched in the program and will still save students some time. Terry Hutchinson said the low numbers in some programs are the same at Dixie Technical College. Richard Holmes said some of the strands will track into programs at Dixie Technical College. Richard Holmes said there is one stand that is still open and will be left open for the principal of the school to determine. We want to make sure there is a need for the program, and it meets the needs of the students. Richard Holmes shared the pathway for the programs to help students further their education. Laura Hesson said Dixie State University is going to start offering a bachelor's degree for \$9,000. Richard Holmes said the approval from the Board will be recommended for January to be ready to open in 2022. The principal and counselor for the school would be hired about that same time.

Graduation Ceremony Discussion – Richard Holmes and Craig Hammer

Richard Holmes reported on graduation plans. He said we should be about the same graduation rate.

Richard Holmes said the District is not moving to weighted GPA yet. He said that there will be multiple labs and Utah Online available for summer school with no cost. They are hoping students needing credit will sign up to participate. Instrument rentals for summer programs will also be offered for free. Superintendent Larry Bergeson said we are not seeing students fall through the cracks as other districts have with our in-person school and the credit recovery which takes place immediately. Graduation rates have increased as students are being watched for missing credit. There are about 400 students in summer music program.

Assistance League of Southern Utah – Larry Bergeson and Laura Arnold

Kay Miner presented a National Assistance League Award for serving the children in Southern Utah. She recognized Mike Carr, Amy Mitchell, and counselors in the schools. They all helped support the shopping trip needs. Operation School Bell helps clothe students and helps with literacy. This year they helped 900 students with clothing and books. Money comes from fundraising, grants, and gifts. The program volunteers are generally retired individuals who have put in 8388 hours. Approximately \$94,000 was spent in shopping trips. She shared a message from a mother who expressed her gratitude. Students received shoes, dental kits, hats, and clothing. It has helped students with attendance problems, positive behavior, build more self-confidence, and be more willing to participate. Schools received 528 books for read-a-thon events. The program has also donated art supplies to schools out of the area and to Switchpoint. She also shared some of the generous donors who have helped with donations. The Assistance League of Southern Utah presented the District with an award plaque. Individuals who are interested in more information or in participating with the Assistance League can visit their website and join online.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

1. Healthy Dixie Update – Craig Seegmiller
2. USBA Update – Becky Dunn
3. MBA Update – Laura Hesson
4. Dixie Tech Update – Terry Hutchinson
5. Foundation Update – David Stirland
6. FCAOG Update – LaRene Cox
7. Audit Committee Update – Kelly Blake

Craig Seegmiller said he had nothing to report at this point.

Becky Dunn said the USBA is talking about a vaping lawsuit. Districts can decide whether or not they would like to participate. They would like information on incidents in our schools. She also said that the Leadership Academy would like topic or presentation ideas. Terry Hutchinson said the last one was very effective. The conference will be held in-person during June. The pre-delegate assembly is scheduled for August. Craig Seegmiller said he appreciated some of the universal trainings being mixed in with how to be a good Board Member.

Laura Hesson said the assignment were via email. There are three online trainings to take.

Terry Hutchinson said the Dixie Technical College graduation was held last week at Tuacahn. He said there was a phenomenal presentation by a student from the reservation. They have had joint meetings with the university and are trying to repair damage between the two entities because of the name change. There is concerned about Dixie State changing to Polytech.

Dave Stirland reported that the Foundation awarded \$353,000 in classroom grants with the help of some amazing sponsors. The Kite Festival was held mid-April. Dixie Power is the major sponsor. The Kite Festival was amazing, and many people are part of that event. There were 4700 books were sold for \$1 each which is 50% more than sold in highest year previously.

Numbers are still coming, but participation at the event was good. The Foundation is now gearing up for the Golf Tournament.

LaRene Cox had nothing to report from FCAOG.

Kelly Blake said they are waiting for commissioned audits to return and expect them back in June.

Brent Bills said TSSA framework is specific on what schools can spend on. Some schools would like to purchase vape detectors. They want to look at data on students vaping vs. not vaping as it is felt it affects student achievement. Brent will prepare information to bring back.

Brent Bills said there is being negative feedback on the legislative-cards. The District is supplementing the program and is receiving additional fees. There is pushback on fees and secretaries have to come in during the summer to load cards. The finance department is looking into it and may return to the previous way of reimbursements. Cards are set up with name, birthday, and social security. It is being difficult to get that information. Brent Bills said with the cards there are some checks and balances and the cards are individually assigned. Teachers are using more of their supply money than they were before.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

1. Enrollment
2. Safe Schools
3. GRAMA Requests
4. Department Reports

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Washington County School District was held after due, legal, and timely notice being given to all members and interested parties. Board President Kelly Blake called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Board members present were Craig Seegmiller, Laura Hesson, Becky Dunn, David Stirland, and Terry Hutchinson. Board Member LaRene Cox was excused. Staff members present were Superintendent Larry Bergeson and Business Administrator Brent Bills.

OPEN MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

Board President Welcome – President Blake

Reverence offered by President Blake.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Member Dunn.

Marybeth Fuller announced that Paradise Canyon Elementary was selected by the Embassy of Spain as the Best Spanish Dual Immersion School in the nation. Susan Harrah introduced that teachers that prepared the presentation for the nomination. Paradise Canyon Elementary had 100% of their student passed the AAPPL test.

Jacob Moody, Snow Canyon High Student Council, thanked the Board for keeping a relatively normal school year. He shared quotes from other students. One said it had been their favorite year and they loved cheering for sports, another loved learning in person, one was glad to be in school and stay in school, one felt made a difference and appreciated them standing up for students to stay in school, and one thanked the leadership for make the school year as normal as possible. Jacob said that students in St. George experienced more than students in other areas and have been able to participate in sports.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes

- a. April 6, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Education
- b. April 26, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Education

1. Financial Report

2. Personnel and LEA Specific License Items

Brent Bills said that the COVID funding shows up under Other Federal Sources.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

WHAT'S RIGHT IN WCSD SCHOOLS

Dixie Middle School – Principal Paul Hurt

Paul Hurt said our District is at the forefront in the nation. He is grateful for the efforts given throughout the year. He had a stretch where a couple of students lost parents, parents hometown in California burnt down, and a teacher lost a spouse. The resiliency of the community helped to support those trying things. Shared a video from his student council showing how students worked together, showed respect for others by wearing masks, participated in activities and sports, participated in service projects to help others, and helped translate for limited English speakers.

Horizon Elementary School – Principal Mona Haslem

Mona Haslem said it has been a great year. Students, teachers and parents have all worked together. In looking at scores, 88% were proficient with 60% being highly proficient. She thanked the Board and administration for keeping students in school. This year they were the "masked hero's" and are ready to finish the year successfully. The students have learned to wear masks in many ways. They have not run out of masks, hand sanitizer, or toilet paper. They have had less problems spacing out at lunch. COVID did not have control and there has been a lot of good learning. They have kept students fed and have had lots of activities, science fair, a fun run, specials, professional development, PTA events, and eleven teachers received the Foundation grant. The theme for next year will be, "Have we ever told you how lucky we are."

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD ACTION ITEMS

No public comments were given.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Policy 1451 Policy Prohibiting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said Policy 1451 is required by state auditors. The policy prohibits fraud, abuse and waste.

No comments have been received.

Board Member Hutchinson presented a motion to approve Policy 1451 Policy Prohibiting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse. Board Member Stirland seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

2021-2022 School LAND Trust Plans

Board Member Hesson presented a motion to approve the 2021-2022 School LAND Trust Plans with the corrections given. Board Member Dunn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

TSSA Budgets – Brent Bills

The TSSA Budget approval was postponed allowing time for the Board to review.

Contributory Retirement Plan Approval – Brent Bills

Brent Bills said there are still two employees on the old contributory plan. Each year the Board has to approve both sides of the contributory plan.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the Contributory Retirement Plan. Board Member Hutchinson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Comprehensive Guidance Program Approval – Jon Butler

Jon Butler said each year we have a requirement to review and approve the counseling program. Each of the secondary schools will be putting together evidence this next year.

Board Member Stirland presented a motion to accept the Comprehensive Guidance Program. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

2021-2022 Reallocation of Instructional Days for Teacher Prep Days

Richard Holmes said four days were added for teacher prep. The state has allowed the reallocation of instructional days and the teachers really appreciated the days last year.

Board Member Seegmiller presented a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Reallocation of Instructional Days for Teacher Prep Days. Board Member Stirland seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Bid for Enterprise Elementary Addition – Craig Hammer

Brent Bills reported on the bid for Enterprise Elementary. The low bid was 1.9 million. The timeline for steel will need to be pushed out 120 days. The school should be ready for the 2022 school year. There is a change in a subcontractor will at a \$2500 addition, and \$4000 deduction for using same roofing. The committee recommendation is to select Bud Mahas Construction. Two RFPs were received. This will include 4 classroom additions, HVAC, front parking, and lighting. The bid is \$300,000 under budget.

Board Member Dunn presented a motion to approve the selection of Bud Mahas Construction for the Enterprise Elementary remodel. Board Member Hesson seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 1200 Pay and Compensation – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said the changes are housekeeping items to keep us compliant. Employees on J1-J2 visas must include benefits and have an evacuation policy. The second part states we have to keep current with licensing changes. We need to allow for step credits. With associate licensing they can be a teacher of credit and receive licensing. He explained that automatic enrollment to 401K of 5% for employees on August 1st to have 90 day enrollment. The change came from URS due to changes in IRS rules.

Policy 1910 Field Placement & University Partnership – Lyle Cox

Lyle Cox said Policy 1910 will retire the old policy and include changes in code on licensing, specific hour requirements, old administrative rules, referencing student teachers. The step program for student teachers has changed. The changes get us back on track with Administrative Rules and definitions. The confidentiality agreement will be numbered later on. The form does not allow the teacher to use confidential information outside of program.

Policy 2116 Sexual Harassment – Karen Bess

Karen Bess said the policy is a new policy and is very specific. It addresses the District programs and extracurricular events and activities. There are roles that cannot be overlapped. It is a step by step procedural policy. The policy is for the most serious offences. It takes in the Violence Against

Women Act. All employees are required to report sexual harassment. Supportive measures would be implemented. There is an opportunity for informal resolution. It requires specifically trained individuals. Investigations will be looked at each level. Two (male and female) administrators for elementary and intermediate investigations. A decision maker determines final outcome and then goes to the superintendent. Employees have received mandatory training and have an obligation to report. Lyle Cox said some instances could also be abuse and have criminal results. Terry Hutchinson said he does not see any timelines for reporting and responding. Karen said it is under 3.1.2. Actual knowledge is the trigger for reporting. Lyle Cox said there are three days to report, the investigation being timely – but each may take varying times to complete, then 10 days to respond in writing to the allegations. It protects both parties in an equal way. We have been able to look at a number of other district's policies and have had our legal counsel review the policy.

Proposed Final Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year and Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year

Brent Bills shared the proposed budgets. The budgets are a work in progress and won't have final numbers until June. Next year the District has a budget of \$420,000. There are many projects over the next year. The federal government will fund all student lunches again next year. No local revenue will be received. Student activity fees will be going up this year with camps coming back next year. M&O expenses are higher this year. The proposed budgets will be updated for approval in June.

Water Canyon High School Spend Plan Change – Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes said Water Canyon High has not charged fees until this point. In adding sporting events, they will be charging some extracurricular fees and do fit within the fee schedule. There are about 280 students at each of the schools in Hildale. They anticipate more students again next year.

INFORMATION

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Larry Bergeson reported that Rex Wilkey was recognized as the UAESP Contributor of the Year. He was also the brain-child between the Coral Cliffs Elementary and Paradise Canyon Elementary changes.

Superintendent Larry Bergeson said that Mona Haslem, Horizon Elementary, was nominated as one of the National Distinguished principals with UAESP.

Board

Association

Amy Barton said there are 11 days left. Parents and teachers and students are counting. There have been unique challenges but being in-person was best. The Association has worked to maintain standards for teachers and students served. Employees who have had concerns and have worked with Lyle Cox and Tammara Robinson who have help them continue working with accommodations. They are thrilled with the additional four teacher prep days again this year. Having the days this past year was tremendous. It is the best way the Board can show teachers they are valued. They have given a lot of input on the Friday elementary early-out days. It is planning and prep time for elementary and they were concerned about time being used for PD. They are grateful for the opportunity to try it. The legislative supply card have not been a good idea. It was frustrating to have fees or to have to spend the money quickly in the year. Teachers do not want to turn cards in during the summer. She supports the change. She mentioned that 10 members participated in the House of Delegates virtually. There are 4-5 members who will participate in the Summer Leadership Academy. There were four delegates in the NEA Delegate Assembly. She also mentioned that four member's students received scholarships to continue education. It is a positive way to give back to the future.

PTA/PTO/Community Council

No reports were given.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – 3 minutes each

Jesus Mendoza shared information about his disability that makes him violently ill from being exposed to radiation. He is concerned that students are being exposed to microwave radiation and shared some of the symptoms that come from the condition. He asked for the Board to give consideration and respond to radiation concerns.

Harmony Vanderhorst, Hurricane resident, became a voice of parents in Southern Utah. She thanked the Board for hearing their voices and listening to the concerns. Washington County School District has become an example. She appreciated hearing parents and allowing parents to choose and looks forward to making next year better. She asked the Board to listen to parents to make prudent and informed decisions.

Erika Hodges thanked the Board for starting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. This year she has recognized how important liberties are. She felt there was disregard as to her family needs. Honoring parental rights is required by the law. Parents have a right to make medical decisions for their children. She asked the Board to listen to parent concerns and honor parental rights next year. She suggested that when the Board isn't the authority, they find the person who can help solve the problem. She asked what we could do to help students understand rights and freedoms. Honor parental rights and celebrate with them.

Dana McCabe thanked the Board for lifting the mask mandate. Other counties gave parents the right to lift mandate, Washington County School District did not. She quoted from an email received from the District explaining why the District kept masks. As a parent, she felt it was not working without consequences. She felt it was not a true statement that the District was balancing the needs of both sides and teachers did not walk out. She said that parents will not stand for their constitutional rights and parental rights to be trampled on again.

Kimberly Casperson shared words from a superintendent who did not force students to wear masks and allowed parent exemption for their student. She said parents are the experts of their own children. Some medical doctors were opposed to students wearing masks and said they are breeding grounds for bacteria. She is concerned about sending students to school next year with masks. She has gathered experiences from teachers and students who have worn masks all year including headaches, and fainting. Bodies are different and react differently. She asked that kids continue without masks next year regardless of governor or political mandates.

Thomas Williams said that he can find anywhere that says the Board had the right to lift the mask mandate. Everything he reads says we are to follow the mask mandate until the end of school. SB294 was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. As an employee, he feels gutted by the change. He is concerned about the safety of his family and the students. He can't understand why we could not last 11 more days.

Terry Hutchinson said the Board did not lift the mandate. It is no longer being enforced.

Laura Bean agreed that the Board does not have authority above the law. They should be going back to giving parents the right to choose. She feels the Board was not putting the parents first. They need to do right for the people. No medical device can be decided by anyone but a child's parents. No one should be able to force student to "test to play." Parents have expressed authority over all aspects of their children's education. The District says they focus on mental health and did not do that this year.

Kyle Carter shared that he served this county and have seen men die for freedom. Kids don't want to go to school with mask. Give parents the freedom to choose for their children. With CRT, we are all brothers.

Amanda Borden thank the Board for allowing children to attend school unmasked. She asked the Board to consider what has been said tonight in the future. There have been physical and emotional side effects from wearing a mask. She said one child said it was so fun to go to school and see everyone's faces. Another couldn't attend to needs of facial expressions as facial recognition is gone. God is on the right side of freedom. She asked the Board to consider that from here on.

Holly Vensel said she has a strong love for the principal at Dixie Middle who allowed students to attend school without a mask with parental exemption. She is grateful the Board has allowed parents to have a choice. Kids need to know that parents are looking out for them and have their best interest at heart. You can see God in all children's faces. She asked that if CRT comes our way that the Board remember that they are all children of God.

Kelly Blake said CRT is not being discussed at the state level. Brent Bills said the State Charter School Board asked for a presentation to raise reading levels with minority groups that included definitions from CRT. The presentation was sent to state board members. That is all that has happened. The feds can't mandate it and the state is over education.

Jen Myers said scientist at DNA labs shared concern with "test to play." Her child does not want to test to play every two weeks. There are false positives. She is worried about the damage it can cause to the nostrils. Swabbing the kids and sending it to a lab is sharing their DNA information. She does not want that. Parent should have a choice. Temperature checks she could understand. These are healthy kids who are active. She is also concerned that the District does not mandate for things that the state receives money for.

The Board and administration said the tests are not sent to lab. They are discarded.

Jordon Clay said pioneers did not come and say safety first. He asked the Board to honor parent's choice for their children.

Rhanda Todd thanked the Board for keeping kids in school. She said the Board represents the voice of the people. She is concerned about CRT with an us vs. them mentality. It will divide rather than unify.

She is concerned about students being taught to be afraid of everything. Parents have rights for educating children. She said if the Board had done their research, they would know a mandate is not law. She does not want CRT, masks or test to play ever.

Mindy Spilsbury asked if health and safety are most important, are nutrition and personal health and wellness being addressed.

Chelsey Harward feels bad that teachers are afraid. Germs and bacteria are not going away. They will always be here. Next year she will be vetting teachers for those who are afraid. Children are dirty.

She said she was told by a teacher yesterday that her child is required to wear a mask as she is immune compromised. She said the teacher manipulated students by telling students her husband could die if she went home sick. She said we should recognize American privileges and roll with that.

Suzy Appel participated in Operation Keepsake to teach students about sexual education and keeping for themselves until they were married. The state gives guidelines and then the District can determine how to teach it to our children. She does not want CRT taught in schools. She has nephews of a different race who are not oppressed and love Jesus Christ. Decisions need to be made on local level. Decisions of educators and parents can be made together. She said it would be remembered how the Board votes on critical issues when elections come up.

Lyndsey Davis asked why "test to play" applies for healthy children. City leagues do not test to play.

She said that swab of the test is sterilized is ethylene oxide which she said causes cancer and sterilization in animals.

Board President Kelly Blake adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT