

CITY OF OREM
SPECIAL JOINT OREM /ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD) CITY COUNCIL MEETING
56 North State Street Orem, Utah
April 30, 2024

3:00 P.M. WORK SESSION - CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

CONDUCTING

Mayor David A. Young

ELECTED OFFICIALS

OREM - David Young, David Spencer, LaNae Millett, Jeff Lambson, Tom Macdonald, Chris Killpack and Jenn Gale
ASD - Joylin Lincoln, Sara Hacken, Sarah Beeson, Stacy Bateman, Julie King, Ada Wilson and Mark Clement

APPOINTED STAFF

Brenn Bybee, City Manager; Ryan Clark, Assistant City Manager/Development Services Director; Steve Earl, City Attorney; Brandon Nelson, Finance Director; Josh Adams, Police Chief; Marc Sanderson, Fire Chief; Chris Tschirki, Public Works Director; Keri Rugg, Management Services Division Manager; Carlo Okolowitz, IT Division Manager; Peter Wolfley, Communications Manager, PIO; Teresa McKitrick, City Recorder
ASD - Shane Farnworth, Superintendent; Jason Sundberg, Business Administrator;

NOTE: The referenced report and presentation documents for each discussion may be viewed at orem.org/meetings under “City Council Presentations”

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mayor Young welcomed those present. He asked those at the table to introduce themselves. Those in attendance are members of the ASD administration, ASD School Board, Orem City Council, and the Orem City Manager. The City Council and ASD representatives chose to have public comment after the discussion and only if time permits.

SAFETY ISSUES

Ms. Wilson started this discussion by thanking the City of Orem for their coordination with Orem Elementary during construction of the water tank. She spoke about concerns that were shared with her at the intersection of 400 South and 600 West. During construction, that intersection became a four way stop. There have been requests to keep that intersection a four way stop.

Ms. Hacken asked for an update on plans for how to slow down traffic on 1600 N near the Northridge Elementary school, as well as Windsor Elementary. Mr. John Dorny, Traffic Engineer, spoke about Northridge and Cascade Elementary Schools. He reported that at Cascade safety ballards have been added, there will be adjustments made to the timing of the hawk signal, unused bus parking will be removed to help with parent pick up, and next year two crossing guards will be added. The moving of the hawk signal will be phase 2, The hawk signal will be removed if a signal is put in. In Mr. Dorney's discussion with the school there have been many ideas generated, including color coded pick up times, For the Northridge Elementary, Mr. Dorny met with them and gave them a variety of options, including narrower striping lanes, removal of parking in key locations, and use of a possible undeveloped land. Mr. Taylor Forbush, Traffic Operations Section Manager, addressed the possible 4 way stop near Orem Elementary. The plan is to conduct a traffic study once the construction is complete.

Ms. Millett asked Mr. Dorny to speak about the area near Bonneville Elementary. He reported that at 1200 West and 1360 North, west of Bonneville Elementary, that the sidewalk ends southbound on 1200 West. The City is designing a high visibility crosswalk with added bike lanes. Mayor Young spoke about the creation of the 'tiger' traffic team in Orem to address traffic issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPLIT OPTIONS

Superintendent Farnsworth reported that recommendations from the board are option 3, a two way split of the district and option 4, a three way split. These two options will be further studied prior to presenting to Utah County. The public hearing meetings are scheduled for June 11 and June 25. Then the board has scheduled a July 12 meeting to determine what, if any, propositions to put on the ballot. He reported that there are other cities who have entered into interlocal agreements to start that same process ASD is doing. Orem, Lindon, Pleasant Grove, and Vineyard are the only four cities that do not have an interlocal agreement.

Ms. Wilson was hoping that interlocal agreements would not be signed and that the district, as a whole, would vote on the two proposed options by ASD. ASD plans to put forth their recommended district splits. The interlocal agreements only allow citizens in the cities that signed the agreement to vote on that type of split. Mr. Farnsworth explained that there are statutory guidelines/laws with respect to competing initiatives. He expects the county to clarify if they allow competing initiatives, and if so, what happens if they both pass. Mayor has heard that if there is a conflict, then the legislature would likely create a priority at that point. Mr. Earl, City Attorney, explained how voting works when cities have an interlocal agreement versus a district initiated split. Ms. Millett is in favor of an interlocal agreement that allows cities in those areas to vote on the split, instead of the district as a whole determining the split.

Ms. Hacken pointed out that ASD employed MGT to do a feasibility study. As part of that study, public input was requested and obtained. In every cluster, the majority of the people that responded wanted option 1. Option 1 was not to split the district. Those same people wanted to see the school district split on the ballot for voters. There is support to stay together and

support for taking a look at the options of a split. Mr. Macdonald is concerned that the ballot could become confusing for the voters. Ms. Hacken clarified that the 45 days to study is more for citizens to study the information and give input, ASD has already run the study. Ms. Bateman said the study included maintenance and operations numbers. The further study brings in the capital planning, property owned, new builds needed, seismic concerns, and renovations. Mr. Sundberg explained this is an internal study concerning capital plans. Mr. Farnsworth said this will likely be the capital plan that is annually updated divided into the different areas. Ms. Millett and Mayor Young would like to see more information given to the public including conditions of current schools and more than a snapshot of maintenance and operations costs.

Mr. Lambson asked ASD what the public engagement process looks like going forward. Mr. Farnsworth assured the group that they will fulfill the statutory requirements, they will have the disclosure of the boundaries, the capital maintenance and operation numbers and all of the variables that are required. They will provide additional information for the public so they can look at what those options would mean for them. Then there will be opportunities for feedback with two public hearings. The plan is to articulate the complete feedback process on May 14.

Mayor Young echoed Mr. Macdonald's concern that the ballot may be confusing to voters. Mr. Farnsworth believes that the county should give some clarification on this. Others have the same concern.

Mr. Spencer asked the board members that represent cities that signed interlocal agreements, the reason they chose to sign. Ms. King expressed that the cities were concerned about representation, the need to build schools faster, the need to have bonds pass, and a level of disconnect. Ms. Bateman similarly reported that representation was important for her cities. Other concerns include a two way split, the failure of the bonds in a larger district, differing priorities for differing geographic areas, and the inability to come to a consensus in a large district. Ms. King brought up that interlocals require more public hearings that allows for more public engagement. Ms. Beeson explained that the American Fork area bleeds into the Lehi boundaries and that joining that interlocal made sense for their community. She says the mayors and council members in her area take comfort that they are taking part in the process together. Ms. Lincoln spoke of the difficulty of living in an area that is growing so fast that needs can not be met. The failure of the bond was difficult for her area.

Mayor Young asked the board members to speak to why the City of Orem should or should not do an interlocal agreement. Ms. Wilson believes a three way split is the most disruptive, the most expensive and the most disadvantageous to the students. Ms. Bateman thinks the biggest reason for an interlocal is that each area would have a say on their area, the reason not to do an interlocal is to allow citizens to vote on the options put forth by the school district. Ms. King said that an interlocal will only work if it is collaborative. Mr. Clement reiterated that interlocal will allow only your community to vote and no interlocal allows for a district wide vote. City council members discussed pros and cons of an interlocal agreement. Ms. Hacken explained that a split is a 3 year process.

WINDSOR ELEMENTARY

Mayor Young spoke about the three schools that have been shut down. He is concerned about the possibility of Windsor being closed. He would like to see that school stay open during this process. Ms. Wilson confirmed that there is a pause on closing schools or creating magnet schools until the 2025-26 school year. This will allow for the school district reconfiguration to play out.

DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION (DLI) MAGNET SCHOOL AT ORCHARD ELEMENTARY

Mr. Spencer is concerned that kids that live in the area of Orchard Elementary will not be able to attend the local school if they are not in the DLI program. They will need to be sent to a school further away. Ms. Millett is concerned that the DLI magnet school could force the closure of Windsor by removing their DLI program. Ms. Wilson spoke with the principal at Orchard Elementary and she is in support of the DLI program. Ms. Hacken brought up the challenge of DLI classes becoming smaller with the older classes. She spoke about reduced student enrollment in some schools and the problems that come from low enrollment. The Windsor Elementary area would like to see Windsor rebuilt and then Northridge students could come to the new school. The Northridge community is not sure that is what they want. She explained that many discussions need to happen, but first the reconfiguration needs to be solved.

ADJOURN

Mr. Macdonald moved to adjourn this meeting, **seconded** by Ms. Millett. Those voting yes: David Young, LaNae Millett, David Spencer, Jeff Lambson, Tom Macdonald, Chris Killpack, and Jenn Gale. The motion **passed**.

PASSED and APPROVED this 14th day of May 2024.


David A. Young, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa McKittrick, City Recorder



COUNCIL MEMBER**AYE NAY ABSTAIN****Mayor David A. Young**☒ ☐ ☐**Chris Killpack**☒ ☐ ☐**David Spencer**☒ ☐ ☐**Jeff Lambson**☒ ☐ ☐**Jenn Gale**☒ ☐ ☐**LaNae Millett**☒ ☐ ☐**Tom Macdonald**☐ ☐ ☐