

INTERLOCAL COMMITTEE MEETING
July 7, 2008
SANDY CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

Attendance:

Mayor Cullimore, Mayor Dolan, Mayor Smith, Board Member Kim Horiuchi, Board Member Paul McCarty, Susan Edwards, John Bennion, Rickie McCandless, Sandra Petersen, Pat Casaday, John Hiskey, Korban Lee, Jerry Christensen, Linda Bullough, Marie Mischell (Valley Journal)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3:23 p.m. Mayor Cullimore called the meeting to order.

1. Mayor Cullimore briefly discussed the election of the new school board members, welcomed Paul McCarty as a new school board member, and noted the desire of all of the mayors to have the entire new school board present at the next Interlocal Committee Meeting if possible.
2. Mayor Cullimore turned the time over to the Education Transition Team. Dr. Bennion reviewed briefly the meeting the Education Transition Team had with the newly elected school board members on Monday morning, and then the afternoon and evening meeting held with all of the new school board members to review superintendent applications. The new school board selected five applicants to interview for the superintendent position. Since that time, one of the applicants has taken a job elsewhere. The superintendent interviews will take place on July 21, 2008. Dr. Bennion explained that the new school board will most likely make public the names of the top superintendent candidates once the two or three finalists are selected.

*Monte Millerberg, newly elected school board member, arrived at 3:30 p.m.
Mayor Seghini arrived at 3:34 p.m.*

3. Dr. Bennion noted some of the items the new school board will be discussing at the school board retreat on Friday and Saturday, including board operating principles, interaction with stakeholders, shared services, and so on.

4. Dr. Bennion noted that the new school board will contact the JEA, JCPA, School Administrators, and other stakeholders to offer comments on what type of skills and attributes the new superintendent ought to have. Dr. Bennion also solicited the Interlocal Committee directly, on behalf of the new school board, for ideas on these attributes. Each of the Mayors offered their input on some of the qualities and skills they would hope a new superintendent would bring with them as they start this new school district.

Nichole Dunn arrived at 3:46 p.m.

Liane Stillman arrived at 3:52 p.m.

5. John Hiskey offered some background for the Education Transition Team and school board members on the legislation wherein cities may appoint a liaison to work with the school board in their city. Mayor Cullimore explained that this legislation came largely out of the efforts in Granite School District where some of the cities wanted to have more coordination with the school district.

6. Mayor Cullimore and Mayor Seghini reiterated the desire of the cities to collaborate cooperatively with the school district.

7. Korban Lee asked the school board members if they would like to have their phone numbers listed on the Jordan transition website, in addition to their addresses and email addresses. The board members present responded positively. Rickie McCandless offered to gather that information.

Devon Sanderson arrived at 4:04 p.m.

8. Korban mentioned to the Interlocal Committee that the Jordan Transition website has had a lot of updates since the election. Dr. Bennion noted that we are anticipating the new school district creating its own website soon.

9. Mayor Cullimore asked about the swearing-in ceremony for the new school board. Dr. Bennion explained that the swearing-in ceremony for the new school board will be on July 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the school board room for the Jordan School District. Kim Horiuchi explained that it is the intent of the school board to have an open house following the swearing in ceremony.

10. Paul McCarty commented about how impressed he is with the work of the Education Transition Team. Mayor Cullimore noted that Senator Walker has also been impressed with the work of the Education Transition Team and wants to codify this type of organization in the school district transition statute.

Josh Ewing arrived at 4:10 p.m.

11. Mayor Cullimore turned the time over to the Asset Transition Team. Devon Sanderson explained that things have not changed a whole lot for the Asset Transition Team since last week. The team is working with legal counsel to determine how a budget will be set for the arbitration process and that legal counsel is also involved in getting engagement contracts ready and signed. Devon also noted that one of the committee members is in the process of finalizing a formal response regarding the counter proposal which was received by the west side transition team on May 17. They are also aware that they need to give a document to the Interlocal Committee by August 1, 2008. Mayor Cullimore asked that the next agenda for the Interlocal Committee include an item to discuss with the new school board which body is responsible for arbitration and arbitration costs. The issue is not clear in the legislation. Mayor Dolan agreed to ask Pat Casaday examine this issue and be prepared to discuss this issue with the Interlocal Committee and new school board at the next meeting. Kim Horiuchi and Paul McCarty expressed their sentiments that they feel the Asset Transition Team should keep reporting to the mayors.

12. Dr. Bennion asked about who bears the costs of arbitration. The statute states that the existing school district is to pay for the costs of arbitration, however there may be some disagreement on the interpretation of the definition of "arbitration costs." Kim Horiuchi discussed a potential idea of dividing the unrestricted fund balance between the new and remaining school districts to help further with the transition and arbitration costs.

13. Mayor Cullimore discussed the efforts to hold a special session of the legislature to delay the process to create a new school district. He explained that the Governor's position has not changed on the issue of a special session. He also mentioned some of the conversations he has had with those who are trying to delay the process to create a new school district and how, in his opinion, things would be difficult to return to normal if the school district creation process was undone.

14. Pat Casaday returned to the meeting and explained that the statute is silent on who the asset transition team reports to after the creation of a new school board. He noted that if the new school board delegated the supervision of the Asset Transition Team to the mayors, then some city council resolutions may be needed for that authority to be fully recognized. The board members and mayors discussed briefly the different options for overseeing the asset transition process and the benefits and drawbacks of the different options. It was determined that this issue would be further discussed at the next meeting when the entire new school board would be present.

15. Mayor Cullimore reported that the east side mayors have had a couple of meetings with the mayors on the west side of the Jordan School District. He noted that there are still some emotions involved and that they, as mayors, are trying to find some common ground on the asset transition issue.

16. Mayor Seghini seconded Mayor Cullimore's motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2008 Interlocal Committee Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

17. Mayor Cullimore raised the issue of public communication efforts. He explained that the west side has done a good job of pleading their case through the media about the creation of a new school district. Mayor Dolan commented that he received positive feedback about the meeting with the editorial board at KSL. Josh Ewing said he heard back from Vern Anderson of the Salt Lake Tribune today and that Mr. Anderson would like to hear back from someone representing the Interlocal Committee. Mayor Cullimore mentioned he would email Mr. Anderson again and that the Interlocal Committee may need to meet with the Salt Lake Tribune Editorial Board.

18. Kim Horiuchi asked if the Salt Lake Tribune has published the letter the new school board submitted to their public forum section. Korban responded that the Tribune has not yet included that letter. However, he would follow up with the Tribune and see if they have any intent of publishing that letter.

19. Josh Ewing emphasized that there needs to be a continued, constant voice about the process to create a new school district. Mayor Cullimore

mentioned that this is an area the new school board should start to take over. Josh suggested that there needed to be regular updates given to the media, including information about the superintendent search process, and information about the workings of the new school board. Kim Horiuchi expressed her opinion that those involved in the new school district needed to show that they are united and that they share similar goals. Monte Millerberg noted that in November, during the election, there was a fairly even split among voters as to whether or not a new school district should be created. However, he mentioned that he spoke with many people who opposed the split during the vote, but are now excited and supportive of the creation of a new school district.

20. Korban Lee was asked to find a larger room to meet in next week.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.