



SALT LAKE CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Your Best Choice

WEEKLY BOARD MEMORANDUM

August 30, 2013

1. **Board Business Meeting** - Our closed Executive Session will begin at 5:30 p.m.; dinner will be available at 4:45 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office.
 - Introduction: Jana Edward, Principal Jackson Elementary School.
 - Recognitions: Catherine Praggastis and Amy Gutting (see agenda).
 - Purchasing/Accounting Report Questions: Janet Roberts, 801-578-8334.
 - Human Resources Report Questions: Craig Ruesch, 801-578-8420.
 - Questions regarding the Minutes: Allison Sisam, 801-578-8332.
 - As of today, we do not have any requests to speak to the board.

2. **Newman Elementary Highlights** - Enclosed is a copy of the document used to frame the questions that the Newman group will address next Tuesday; [link](#) to eSIP page for Newman. Please call me, Patrick, Julie, or John with any questions.

3. **School Improvement Plan Goals** - Attached is a copy of the annual report we created last year (spring 2012 data applied to 2011-12 goals) to help the board and our SCCs track school improvement plan progress. As a part of the report to you next Tuesday, we will distribute the spring 2013 data applied to the 2012-13 goals.

4. **School Grades and Accountability Website** - Jason and JoEllen have collaborated on the creation of a new [School Accountability webpage](#). With the release of school grades on September 3rd, we will activate the link to this new webpage. Attached is a screen shot of the final draft of this webpage. We will email the board a reminder on Tuesday (9/3) morning with a direct link to this page.

5. **Miscellaneous Updates and Reports** - If you have any questions about the following, please contact me; for a hard copy of any link, please contact Elsie or Liz.
 - + [Repairing Urban Education](#), NUAEE commentary.
 - + [Busy Bees](#), The Economist article.
 - + [The Rich Get Richer and the Test Scores Prove It](#), chart from multiple sources.
 - + [The 2012 Gallup-HOPE Index](#), Gallup and Operation HOPE project summary.
 - + [Remarks by President Obama](#), Let Freedom Ring Ceremony 8/28/13.

6. **Calendar** -
 - September 2, 2013, Labor Day, all sites closed.
 - September 3, 2013, Board Business Meeting.
 - September 10, 2013, Glendale CLC Open House (1:00 p.m.).
 - September 17, Board Study Session.
 - October 1, 2013, Board Business Meeting.
 - October 8, 2013, District SCC Chair Meeting, rooms 112-113 (7:00 p.m.).
 - October 15, 2013, Board Study Session.
 - October 17-18, 2013, Fall Recess, all schools closed (offices closed 10/18).
 - November 5, 2013, Board Business Meeting.
 - November 19, 2013, Board Study session
 - November 28-29, 2013, Thanksgiving Recess, all sites closed.

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2013

Office of
J. Michael Clára

MCKELL WITHERS
Superintendent of Schools

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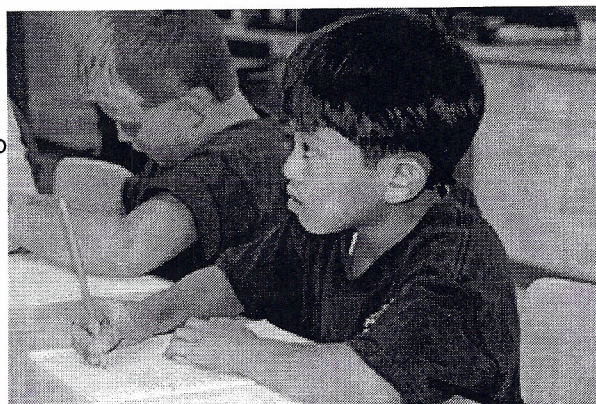
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School Accountability

The Utah State Legislature has mandated a new accountability system that requires letter grades for each school. Unfortunately, these simple letter grades can't and don't tell the full story. Our goal with this webpage is to publicly publish these grades as we are required to do, but to also show you where you can find comprehensive and complete data about your schools. All Salt Lake City schools have successes and challenges. A single letter grade can't accurately tell their stories.



Where can you find accurate, comprehensive information about your school?

The best and most comprehensive review of your school is found in its [School Improvement Plan](#). These plans feature charts and data showing student test scores and what steps your school is taking to improve. It shows how money is being used to address areas of weakness, and the plan will show how the school is succeeding. School Improvement Plans are developed and written by the school and the school community council. They are updated each year. Click on the School Improvement Plans links above or on the left side of this page and on the next page use the drop down menu to find your school's plan.

What other information is available?

If you would like a general overview of your school, try visiting the school's website. Each school in Salt Lake City has a website to help parents, students, and the community to find basic information. Go to our [School Websites](#) page and you will be taken to a list of all Salt Lake City School. Clicking on the school name will get you basic information about each school. You can then click on the school website link in the gray box on the right and be taken directly to the school's website.

What do I need to know about the new school grading system?

Utah had one of the most comprehensive school accountability systems in the nation. The Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCAS) included dozens of pages of data for each school in the state. It was reviewed and approved by the U.S. Department of Education. However, some in the Utah Legislature felt parents were not capable of handling so much information. They designed an additional system that assigns each school only a single grade.

- The UCAS reports and the School Grading reports measure academic performance of Utah schools in language arts and math (beginning in grade 3), and science (beginning in grade 4). For high schools, graduation rate is also included. No other aspects of school performance are considered in either the UCAS or School Grading report.
- Not all grades and subjects are included in UCAS or School Grading due to the fact that not all grades and courses have statewide tests. Some subjects without statewide tests are social studies, world languages, fine arts, health/PE, and advanced math such as calculus.
- Rigorous courses such as AP and IB are also not included in high school UCAS and School Grading calculations.
- Factors such as student engagement, school climate, progression toward graduation, concurrent enrollment, CTE coursework etc. are also not included in UCAS and School Grading calculations.

USOE webpage to look up school grades