



Education Collective SLC &lt;equity@edcollectiveslc.org&gt;

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## Follow Up on 2020 Community Request for Westside High School Process

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**Martin Bates** <Martin.Bates@slcschools.org>

Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 10:13 AM

To: Education Collective SLC &lt;equity@edcollectiveslc.org&gt;, Melissa Ford &lt;Melissa.Ford@slcschools.org&gt;, Nate Salazar &lt;Nate.Salazar@slcschools.org&gt;

Cc: Bryce Williams &lt;Bryce.Williams@slcschools.org&gt;, Jenny Sika &lt;Jenny.Sika@slcschools.org&gt;, Katherine Kennedy &lt;Katherine.Kennedy@slcschools.org&gt;, Mohamed Baayd &lt;Mohamed.Baayd@slcschools.org&gt;, Kristi Swett &lt;Kristi.Swett@slcschools.org&gt;, ashley anderson &lt;ashley.michelle.anderson@gmail.com&gt;, "trdavis.coach@gmail.com" &lt;trdavis.coach@gmail.com&gt;, "rbryanjensensr@gmail.com" &lt;rbryanjensensr@gmail.com&gt;, "studentofmathematics@gmail.com" &lt;studentofmathematics@gmail.com&gt;, Yándary Chatwin &lt;Yandary.Chatwin@slcschools.org&gt;, "j.mayer-glenn@partners.utah.edu" &lt;j.mayer-glenn@partners.utah.edu&gt;, Paul Joseph Kuttner &lt;paul.kuttner@partners.utah.edu&gt;, "richard@uclr.org" &lt;richard@uclr.org&gt;, "alejandro.puy@slcgov.com" &lt;alejandro.puy@slcgov.com&gt;, "victoria.petro-eschler@slcgov.com" &lt;victoria.petro-eschler@slcgov.com&gt;, "mayor@slcgov.com" &lt;mayor@slcgov.com&gt;, "weston.clark@slcgov.com" &lt;weston.clark@slcgov.com&gt;, "Newell, Jennifer" &lt;Jennifer.Newell@slcgov.com&gt;, "itzel7nava@gmail.com" &lt;itzel7nava@gmail.com&gt;, Alan Kearsley &lt;Alan.Kearsley@slcschools.org&gt;, Kristina Kindl &lt;Kristina.Kindl@slcschools.org&gt;

Dear Ms Mayer-Glenn, Mr. Kuttner and Mr. Jaramillo,

I am in receipt of your email of last night, including its attached letter. Receipt was timely as last night was a board meeting and I was able to chat with several board members who had seen it as well. Itzel Nava, an apparent signatory of the 2020 letter, addressed the Board during comment time and was articulate and persuasive. I have added her as a recipient of this email.

I have read your email, current letter, and the 2020 letter closely (I was able to find the 2020 letter on your website). I must confess I was not familiar with Education Collective SLC prior to last night, I know you more from your connection with the University of Utah in Campus-Community Partnerships and University Neighborhood Partners.

In your note you indicated your awareness of a letter sent to the Board by two City council members. I have attached our response to them. You will see in the response that the Board has a process for studying boundaries and populations – and the consequent effect on facilities. In this context, you may be familiar with the Utah State Supreme Court discussing school boards (specifically the Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District in fact), and stating: “it is inherent in the nature of the board’s function in managing school district business that it have a broad latitude of discretion in order to carry out its objective of providing the best possible school system in the most efficient and economical way.”

I trust you understand that the Board is mindful of their duty towards all 200,133 residents of Salt Lake City, whose tax dollars they spend. Taxing authority has been given the Board to provide an education for its 19,000 students. No individuals feel the tension between the public duty regarding taxation and spending those resources on behalf of children’s futures more than our school board members. In keeping with its policy therefore, as referred to in the letter to the City council members, the Board will have a study session in January where populations, boundaries and facilities are discussed. This will include discussion about, among other things, optimal school size – including optimal high school size – for educational purposes, not simply economy and efficiency. I am confident that the conversation

will include discussion related to the City council members' letter and your current letter as well.

Given the Board's function and responsibility, we respectfully decline the opportunity to follow the process you enumerate in your letter. The Board will follow its own process. That having been said, the Board's process continues beyond January, and includes most, and perhaps all, of the activities you suggested in your current letter, albeit likely in different order, by different names and on the Board's own timeline. For that matter, state law is quite proscriptive regarding steps a Board must take when boundaries are adjusted. I'm confident you recognize that a new high school would involve boundary changes. The Board is committed to, and its policy and process so reflect, adhering to state law.

We thank you again for your letters and assure you that the Board invites robust community participation in helping the Board fulfil its obligations.

Sincerely,

Martin W. Bates, J.D., Ph.D.

Superintendent

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**From:** Education Collective SLC <[equity@edcollectiveslc.org](mailto:equity@edcollectiveslc.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 5:07 PM

**To:** Melissa Ford <[Melissa.Ford@slcschools.org](mailto:Melissa.Ford@slcschools.org)>; Nate Salazar <[Nate.Salazar@slcschools.org](mailto:Nate.Salazar@slcschools.org)>; Martin Bates <[Martin.Bates@slcschools.org](mailto:Martin.Bates@slcschools.org)>

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**Subject:** Follow Up on 2020 Community Request for Westside High School Process

SLC School Board President Ford, Vice President Salazar, and District Superintendent Bates:

Attached is a follow up letter to our 2020 Community Request for the Salt Lake City School Board and District to launch an authentic, community-based process to design and build an innovative new high school on Salt Lake City's Westside.

In this follow up letter, we request next steps for the Board and District to further study and consider the prospects and opportunities that a new high school would offer the students and parents of Salt Lake City.

We will be contacting you in the near future to discuss this letter and next steps.

Sincerely,

Education Collective SLC

Jennifer Mayer-Glenn

Paul Kuttner

Richard Jaramillo

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 **Letter to City Council Re West Side High School.pdf**  
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