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# AGENDA

OF THE  
GREATER AVENUES  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

[www.slc-avenues.org](http://www.slc-avenues.org)

December 2023

Vol. XXVII

Issue 12

Representing the Avenues and  
Federal Heights neighborhoods  
of Salt Lake City, Utah

## Chair's Message for December

by Merrilee Morgan



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Customarily our December issue is when the outgoing Chair reflects on the successes of the past year. Personally, I prefer to look to the future and plan what's next, but out of respect for everyone on the Board and in the Community Council, I will draw on the words of wisdom from my friend and Past Chair, Gwen Springmeyer. She ensured me my time as Chair would simply be "rewarding." And she was correct, this has been a rewarding experience. Just when I thought I had the system down for running civic meetings, syncing the laptop with Zoom, stumbling through Robert's Rules and meeting you at my "Board to the People" campaign, my term as Chair is over.

Rest assured, you are in good hands. The incoming Chair, Joseph Murphy aka Jurphy, is a brilliant, sophisticated leader and a true Southern Gentleman. He shines where I am dim, he's sharp where I am dull. With Jurphy at the lead, the Board is positioned to move forward to do good things for the community, staffed with newly recruited Board members who'll partner with seasoned veterans, of which I will become one as the Past Chair.

My thanks to all who participated with the Land Acknowledgement Statement, the Emergency Preparedness Fair, the Bus Route 209 Vote, the F Street Development Vote, the Street Fair, the removal of the Restrictive Covenant Vote. Thanks for showing up, participating and engaging in a passionate way. Thank you to all the Avenues business owners that hosted me. Thank you to residents that show up regularly reminding us to slow down, clean up after our pets and water our trees, pull weeds at Memory Grove, sing in the Avenues Choir and petition to keep our schools open. I have enjoyed participating with the community, learning your values and seeing your contributions.

Over the past year, as I have taken the "Board to the People," I have listened to your comments for improving parks, trails, transportation, construction, housing and restriping. I have heard praises sung to the charming, neighborly feel of the historic Lower Avenues with cafes and coffee shops and I have heard the cry of stopping development in the Upper Avenues. Creating a space for everyone to have a place for your voice to be heard is the reason we are a Community Council. What's more, there are currently 16 committees that address many of your concerns and proactively problem solve and plan events to create a greater sense of belonging. This leads me to my final request for volunteers from the community. If you really want something done differently, volunteer. If you want to meet interesting people, volunteer. I promise you, it will be rewarding!

Join us on December 6th for our holiday party, which will be held promptly after the Community Reports and Open Forum.

Finally, a special thanks to Smith's for providing the delicious food and beverages for our holiday party. And to each of you, I want to wish you a joyous and happy holiday season, however you celebrate.

Warmest Regards, Merrilee Morgan.

## GACC in Person and Virtual Meeting December 6th from 6:00 pm to 7:50 pm

### Agenda

- 6:00-6:01 Welcome, **Merrilee Morgan**
- 6:02-6:03 Avenues Choir Announcement, **Jim Jenkin**
- 6:04-6:16 2024 GACC Budget - **Michael Hughes** and  
2024 Treasurer **Ryan Kendrick**
- 6:17-6:47 Community Reports
- 6:48-6:58 Open Forum
- 6:59-7:50 **Holiday Celebration with Community**

The December 6th Community Meeting will be a hybrid. Meet in person at the Sweet Library, 455 F Street, at 6:00 pm, or join with Zoom. We will post the Zoom Meeting Link and Password

at <http://slc-avenues.org/>

at 5:00 pm on December 6th



the  
**AVENUES**

**GACC Board Meeting - Hybrid**

**December 13th, 2023 at 6:00 pm**, Sweet Library. All are welcome. If you wish to participate or for special accommodations, contact GACC Chair Merrilee Morgan at [gaccchair@slc-avenues.org](mailto:gaccchair@slc-avenues.org)

**Community Resources**

**Sweet Library Events** [www.slcp.org/801-594-8651](http://www.slcp.org/801-594-8651)

ALL City Libraries are CLOSED on Sunday Dec. 24 and Monday Dec. 25.

**Kids Calendar**

**Book Baby storytime.** Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am. A fun storytime that encourages playful interactions between little ones and their caregivers. Ages 0-3.

**Preschool Storytime.** Thursday mornings at 10:30 am. Stories, rhymes, and fun to help kids get ready to read! Ages 3-5

**Playtime.** Friday mornings from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Playtime is an unstructured time for little ones to play with toys and make new friends! Drop in anytime between 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

**Nature Preschool Storytime.** Dec 7, 10:30 am. Join Wasatch Mountain Institute for a special storytime centered around getting outside and connecting with the natural world around you.

**Gingerbread Preschool Storytime.** Dec 14, 10:30 am. Kids can decorate their very own gingerbread person in this cookie-themed storytime event.

**Teen Calendar**

**Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners (10 years old and up).** A friendly introduction to Dungeons & Dragons for first-timers, led by an experienced player. Held on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.

**Adult Calendar**

**Book Club:** Sweet Reads will meet up again in January 2024 with the book *Ariadne* by Jennifer Saint. Stop by the Sweet Branch for a list of Sweet Reads 2024 titles.

**Art Exhibit**

Enjoy the latest art exhibit by Joel Hanes titled **Salt to Sky: Birds and the Lands They Call Home** at the Sweet Branch Library. These extraordinary photographs will be on display throughout the end of the year.

**The Agenda**

**December 2023, Volume XXVII, Issue 12**

*Publisher's Statement*

*This Greater Avenues Community Council newsletter "The Agenda" is mailed free each month to all residences in the Avenues. This publication is to conduct the business of the Greater Avenues Community Council.*

*Mail correspondence to P.O. Box 1679, Salt Lake City, UT 84110.*

**GACC 2023 Officers and Publisher Contacts:**

Chair: **Merrilee Morgan**, [gaccchair@slc-avenues.org](mailto:gaccchair@slc-avenues.org)

Chair-Elect: **Joseph (Jurphy) Murphy**, [gaccchairelect@slc-avenues.org](mailto:gaccchairelect@slc-avenues.org)

Secretary: **Jim Jenkin**, [gaccsecretary@slc-avenues.org](mailto:gaccsecretary@slc-avenues.org)

Treasurer: **Michael Hughes**, [gacctreasurer@slc-avenues.org](mailto:gacctreasurer@slc-avenues.org)

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The GACC web page is [www.slc-avenues.org](http://www.slc-avenues.org)

**Community Resources, cont.**

**Law Enforcement/Crisis Lines:**

Crime in Progress 9-1-1  
Police Non-Emergency 801-799-3000  
Detective Marie Stewart 801-799-3012  
[marie.stewart@slcgov.com](mailto:marie.stewart@slcgov.com)  
Domestic Violence Hotline 801-799-3756  
Suicide and Crisis Lifeline 9-8-8  
Drug Hotline 801-799-3784  
Gang Hotline 801-799-GANG  
Traffic Complaint Hotline 801-799-3311

**Fire Department:**

Fire or Health Emergency 9-1-1  
Non-Emergency 801-799-3473

**City:**

Bulk Waste Removal 801-535-6953  
City Council 801-535-7600  
Garbage Cans 801-535-6999  
Graffiti Removal 801-972-7885  
Homeless Outreach Services 801-799-3035  
Housing/Zoning Enforcement 801-535-7225  
Mayor Office 801-535-7704  
Noise Complaints 801-799-3000  
Parking Enforcement 801-535-6628  
Parks Department 801-972-7800  
Snow Removal Complaints 801-535-2345  
Street Lighting 801-483-6738  
Urban Forestry 801-972-7818  
Water Conservation 801-483-6860

**County:**

Animal Services 385-468-7387  
Health Department 385-468-4100  
Household Hazardous Waste 385-468-3862  
Transient Camp Clean-up 385-468-4100

**Community:**

Adult Protection Services 801-538-3567  
Child Protection Services 801-488-2620  
Community Resource 2-1-1  
Legal Aid 801-328-8849  
Urban Wildlife Assistance 385-419-3405  
UTA rideuta.com or 801-743-3882

**GACC**

GACC Website [www.slc-avenues.org](http://www.slc-avenues.org)  
Street Fair [www.avenuesstreetfair.org](http://www.avenuesstreetfair.org)  
Wildfire Info [AvenuesWildfireLiaison@comcast.net](mailto:AvenuesWildfireLiaison@comcast.net)  
Orange Crossing Flags [call 801-201-3415](tel:801-201-3415)

**Free Yoga Class Open to All**

The free community yoga class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 AM at the LDS Chapel at 135 A Street. Please bring your own mat and a strap. Barbara Cramer 801-355-1856.

**Tenth East Senior Center**

237 S 1000 E, M-F 7:00-4:00 with lunch 11:30-12:15. Enter on the north side for plenty of parking in the rear, 385-468-3140 or [slco.org/tenth-east-senior-center](http://slco.org/tenth-east-senior-center).

In addition to fitness classes such as yoga, the Center is adding new activities in December and early in 2024:  
Holiday Meal and Music Friday, 12/15 11:30 Good food and The Jeppsen Boys with country western music. In the new year: Flash Fiction Workshop Wednesday, 1/17 12:30-2:00, please register ahead, and Aging Mastery Thursday, 2/15-4/18, 12:00-1:30.

**Neighborhood Avenues Exercise Class**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. FREE! Everyone Welcome! Contact Jan Root for our current location and for any questions at 801-455-2082, [janroot@xmission.com](mailto:janroot@xmission.com).

**Environmental Tips Happy Holidays Everyone!**

As per the Boy Scout Motto: Be prepared! Try and consider all the things that you and your family might need for different emergencies like an earthquake or winter storm that could knock out power. Heat, food, medicines, lights, cash, gas, weatherised clothing and a radio. Tom Brooks - [cooper.brooks@gmail.com](mailto:cooper.brooks@gmail.com)



## Greater Avenues Community Council 2024 Officers

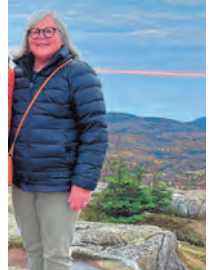


### Chair 2024: Joseph (Jurphy) Murphy

I got involved with the GACC by volunteering at the Street Fair in 2021. I enjoyed the sense of community and serving with civic-minded individuals so much I joined the board in 2022. I am looking forward to this new leadership role and serving with the council and my neighbors. Outside of the GACC, I work at an engineering firm and am involved in LGBTQ community outreach.

### Chair Elect: Dianne Leonard

I moved to the Avenues in 2012 and a big part of the reason we chose to live in this neighborhood is the Greater Avenues Community Council. Prior to moving to Salt Lake City I visited several Community Councils and immediately this felt like home. I got involved with the GACC shortly after we moved here and I have been involved ever since. I have recently retired from the University of Utah and I am having so much fun traveling and trying out all the things that I always said I would do if I had time. I look forward to working with this new GACC Board and getting to know many more of our neighbors.



### Treasurer : Ryan Kendrick

I'm excited for the opportunity to serve as the Treasurer for the GACC in 2024. I've served as a board member representing the Western Avenues for the past year. Our family has lived in the Avenues for eight years and we love the welcoming, vibrant community that it is. I am a life-long banker and our family loves to ski whenever we get the opportunity.

### Secretary: Steve Miller

I have lived the majority of my life on the Avenues and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve this wonderful community on the GACC board. My family of five children have all greatly enjoyed their Avenues friends and schools and we look forward to getting to know each of you.



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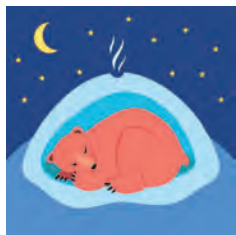
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## A Delicate Balance

by Hilary Jacobs



Seasons are changing. Shorter days, chillier nights, and peaks dusted in new snow all inform us winter is approaching. But as we don our warm jackets and boots to enter this seasonal wonderland, what are the critters in the Foothills doing? Hibernating? Brumating? Sleeping? It depends.

Bears eat as much as they can during the autumn before retreating to their dens to hibernate. During this long winter nap, endothermic (warm-blooded) animals' metabolism decreases significantly to conserve energy. Their heart rates, breathing, and even brain activity slow down dramatically, and they rely on stored fat to produce the heat essential to survival.

By contrast, ectothermic (cold-blooded) reptiles and amphibians brumate. Dropping temperatures trigger their metabolisms to slow down. They stop eating and seek deep spaces—such as burrows in the soil, spaces under rocks, and tree stumps—to find protection from frigid surface temperatures. Though awake, these critters are lethargic; all metabolic processes, including body temperature and heart and respiratory rate, remain very low. Some snakes, including rattlesnakes, winter together huddled in 'hibernacula' to share collective warmth.

Then there are the animals that stay active all winter, such as elk. As cold arrives, elk's summer fur transitions into a thick double coat. Long, hollow guard hairs provide waterproofing over very dense undercoats. This parka keeps heat close and prevents snow from melting on their backs. During cold, overcast days and at night, elk bed down on protective east- and north-facing slopes, beneath dense stands of trees that offer shelter from snow and wind. With their legs tucked underneath them and their guard hair held up, they huddle bundled in warmth. On sunny days, elk move to open west- and south-facing slopes, where they warm themselves in the sun. Elk must eat to produce heat. While they prefer noshing on dry grass, as winter progresses, they resort to bark and other less desirable choices to make it through the lean months.

Foothill fauna are well adapted to extreme temperature fluctuations, but they are vulnerable when disrupted. A disturbed bear wastes essential fuel, a lethargic snake cannot relocate, and elk need hushed corridors between forest shelters and sunny slopes. As we recreate this winter, let's remember we are but visitors in a wintry quiet zone. As we engage in our beloved winter activities, we mustn't tip the balance for the animals that call the foothills home.

## Holiday Message from Chris Wharton



Photo by Busath Photography

Happy Holidays!

In the spirit of the season, I want to continue to encourage residents and businesses to participate in local charity events, contribute donations, or dedicate some of your valuable time to volunteerism. Our collective efforts can significantly impact those in need and enrich the fabric of our community.

As your City Councilmember, I am committed to facilitating activities that strengthen our community bonds. I hope this month's newsletter will help keep you informed and connect you with opportunities to get involved. Together, we can ensure that this holiday season is marked by acts of kindness and generosity.

May this festive season bring you and your loved ones joy, warmth, and a profound sense of community.

## Save Wasatch: Please Speak Up Today

by Julia Lyon and Debra Hummel

For the past several months, Salt Lake City School District has studied seven elementary schools for potential closure due to declining enrollment district-wide. One of those schools is Wasatch Elementary, which just received the highly competitive 2023 National Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

Located at 30 R Street, Wasatch has been an asset to our city and school district for 130 years.

Our enrollment is strong. So we ask you to speak up today to help save our diverse school with its unique arts-integrated curriculum.

Families do not want to live in neighborhoods where there is no easily accessible elementary school. This affects not only real estate values but the future vitality of our city.

If Wasatch and the three other downtown/central city schools proposed for closure (Emerson, Bennion, Hawthorne) were all to shutter, we believe it would have a multi-generational, devastating impact on our city.

For the last 30 years, Wasatch has offered an arts-integrated education. That means every child from kindergarten through sixth grade receives instruction in dance, drama, music and visual art - every year. No other public school in Salt Lake City offers this. Research shows the arts improve academic outcomes, so it is perhaps no surprise our school was just rated "exemplary" on the state report card.

Please help save Wasatch by submitting a comment to the school board: <https://www.slcschools.org>. The board will make its final decision January 9th.

Visit [Savewasatch.com](http://Savewasatch.com) for more information.

Julia Lyon, Wasatch PTA Secretary  
Debra Hummel, Wasatch PTA President



### Bonneville Boulevard

**Heavy Construction Traffic and Delays:** Construction traffic will be two-directional with flaggers at either end to allow vehicles to pass safely. Public vehicles will still be allowed, but expect 10 – 15 minute delays.

**Barrier Separating Pedestrians and Vehicles**

In order to maintain recreational usage and safety a Jersey Barrier will be in use to allow recreationists access.

**Trail Access Maintained - Access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail will be maintained throughout the project.**

### City Creek Canyon Road

**Closed Nov. 16, 2023 - January 2027.** Roadway above Bonneville Blvd. Open weekends and holidays. Bikes and pedestrians only.

**Closed Monday – Friday.** Roadway above Site #16 closed for the duration of the project due to pipework which will remove the paved roadway.

\*Note: Restrooms at picnic sites 9, 12, 15, and 16 will remain open on weekends.

Safety is always a top priority for any project. Reconstructing an entire plant comes with its hazards and safety concerns. The project team is committed to keeping everyone safe throughout the project.

To receive text alerts about City Creek Canyon access during construction text CCWTP to 833-271-7589. Contact us: Phone: 801-616-3336. Email: [Info@keepitpurecitycreek.com](mailto:Info@keepitpurecitycreek.com).

Project website: [keepitpurecitycreek.com](http://keepitpurecitycreek.com)



## GACC Land Use Committee Update

Your GACC Land Use committee is working on a number of initiatives continuing into 2024. These include

1. The update of the Avenues Master Plan. The current plan was adopted in the mid 1980s and is used by the many City departments when reviewing ordinance changes or individual projects or developer requests.
2. The ongoing review of proposed changes to ordinances, City procedures or citizen applications related to land use.
3. Review of Zoning Variances for applications within the GACC area.
4. The possible closure of LDS Hospital.

The GACC Land Use Committee will be scheduling regular meetings, most likely monthly at the Sweet Library.

To find out more, or volunteer to serve on the GACC Land Use Committee, please contact committee chair Jim Jenkin via email to [landusecom@slc-avenues.org](mailto:landusecom@slc-avenues.org).

## Historic Districts Contributing Structures

The City Council is considering changes to the method of determining a building's historic or non-historic status. Also changes to public notification of any proposed demolition of historic structures.

Why does this matter? Because the contributory/non-contributory status of a building in an historic district is the core of the City's land use regulation. If the building is non-contributory, then the City may approve its demolition with no public notice.

Is there currently any notification requirement for demolition of a non-contributing structure? Yes, notice of demolition of a noncontributing building currently requires a notification period of 12 days and notice is within 85 feet of the property being changed.

This may not be adequate for effective citizen participation in the process. See more on this matter from the City Council and concerned citizens here:

[https://www.slc-avenues.org/images/pdfs-doc/contributory\\_status\\_in\\_historic\\_districts.pdf](https://www.slc-avenues.org/images/pdfs-doc/contributory_status_in_historic_districts.pdf)

## Current Salt Lake City Planning Division Online Open House projects

Visit <https://www.slc.gov/planning/open-houses/> which includes the Ivory Homes petition for a Planned Development at 13th Avenue and F Street. Public Comment is still being accepted on this petition. See more at <https://www.slc.gov/planning/2023/07/10/openhouse-00656/>.

## HUD Community and Development Grants

Share your thoughts on how we can best use federal funding for housing and community needs. Your input is vital to how we prioritize these funds to support the needs that matter most to our community and have a lasting impact. The City Council will review and hold a public hearing on the specific awarding of these grants early next year. Email [comments.council@slcgov.com](mailto:comments.council@slcgov.com), or call 801-535-7654.

Learn more at <https://www.slc.gov/housingstability/community-development-grants/federal-grants-cdbg-home-hopwa-and-esg/>



**Our Mayor's Community Liaison**  
**Alicia De León** is available at any time for appointments and community conversations, questions for the Mayor or help with City related issues, navigating the City or its website.

If you are a business, non-profit, or other community gathering place interested in hosting the Mayor's community liaison team for a public meeting, please reach out to Alicia at [alicia.deleon@slcgov.com](mailto:alicia.deleon@slcgov.com), 385-454-3824 (Hablo español).

## City To Update Mobile Business Regulations

The Planning Division is proposing an update to the City zoning ordinance for Mobile Business Regulations. The proposed amendment would update the standards related to mobile businesses, which includes retail businesses operated from trucks, trailers, and vending carts.

Read the proposal [https://www.slc-avenues.org/images/pdfs-doc/Mobile\\_Business\\_Regulations.pdf](https://www.slc-avenues.org/images/pdfs-doc/Mobile_Business_Regulations.pdf)

Submit your written comments via e-mail to [seth.rios@slcgov.com](mailto:seth.rios@slcgov.com) or by USPS mail to: ATTN Seth Rios, Salt Lake City Planning Division, 451 S State St Rm 406, PO Box 145480, Salt Lake City UT 84114-5480.

If you have any questions, please call Seth at (801) 535-7758 or reach out via e-mail.

## City Conducting Survey on 11th Avenues Pickleball Courts

Salt Lake City Parks Dept. has opened a survey to identify what open-play rule model most people prefer at the picturesque and popular 11th Avenue Courts.

Most other pickleball parks in the City use a rotation rule where players play one game to 11, then come off the court and place their paddles back in rotation. This allows all people who show up to play the least amount of wait time.

Do you agree with this rule adoption? Let the City know here: <https://slcparks.com/11th-avenue-pickleball-survey>

The survey results will help us understand player preferences for 'open play' rules at the 11th Avenue Park pickleball courts.

The survey will be open until mid-December. Following feedback collection, we will analyze the data to determine this location's most preferred open-play rules.

Based on the survey results, a three-month pilot program will be announced.

Look for more GACC pickleball events in 2024!

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**GACC Hybrid Meeting!**  
**December 6th**  
**Sweet Library - 6:00 p.m.**

Go to <https://slc-avenues.org/>  
at 5:00 p.m. on December 6th for  
the Zoom link

The Greater Avenues Community Council recognizes the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes, whose ancestral homelands we occupy today. The Council honors the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and their traditional lands, and thanks them for their longstanding land stewardship.

This publication, *The Agenda*, is the monthly newsletter of the Greater Avenues Community Council, and is mailed free to all residents.  
December 2023, Volume XXVII, Issue 12.

**Update on Virginia Street Reconstruction**  
*by Keegan Galloro*

The Virginia Street Reconstruction project is still currently in the design phase and is being led by the City's Engineering Division. They are working to convert the concept design into a viable plan for a contractor. During this phase, there is substantial coordination with other City divisions and departments and private utility companies. This phase also includes alignment of the project budget with the estimated cost of construction.

Commonly, the concept design can be modified slightly during the design phase. There are a variety of reasons for why adjustments might be made, including incompatibility with existing infrastructure and prioritization of project elements to fit within the budget. In addition, project elements may be added or removed as the design goes through refinement. Every effort is made to remain true to the goals of the project when making any changes to the concept design.

The project is still scheduled for 2024. We won't know the details about the construction timeframe and impacts until a contractor is selected. The Engineering Division is planning to finish the design and get a contractor on board in early 2024. At this point, the estimated start of construction could be late spring or early summer of next year. We will provide updates at future GACC meetings and in this newsletter as the process progresses. Please visit the project webpage for more details and project updates at [www.slc.gov/mystreet/virginia/](http://www.slc.gov/mystreet/virginia/) or email [virginiastreet@slcgov.com](mailto:virginiastreet@slcgov.com) if you have any other questions.

**School Board Public Hearing Opportunity!**  
*by Ashley Anderson*

This winter, the school district will be concluding their boundary and population study, and sharing recommendations for potential boundary changes and longterm school closure. As part of the process there have been numerous public information meetings and public comment periods in our regular business meetings. Before the board votes on any recommendations from staff this January, there is a public hearing being held in the West High School Auditorium beginning at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 5th. Unlike public comments in the business meetings, public hearings have no end-time and do not require speakers to sign-up. Please come out to share your perspectives with staff and board members. Through the end of the year, you can find up-to-date information on the process on the district website, [slcschools.org](http://slcschools.org), which will automatically direct you to the Population & Boundary Study Landing Page.

As we near the end of the year, I want to thank the many families and community members who contribute to the district as volunteers and donors. To support holiday giving projects, you can reach out to your neighborhood school for opportunities and you can also find ways to help through the district's education foundation by visiting [saltlakeeducationfoundation.org](http://saltlakeeducationfoundation.org). I am also looking forward to the many holiday performances and concerts at Precinct 3 schools this season.

There are many important topics ahead for the school district in the new year, whether it's ongoing discussions about declining enrollment, a potential bonding campaign for our high schools, or our second phase of sustainability planning. What's most important are the day to day experiences of our students; I care about your feedback so please feel free to send me a message any time — [ashley.anderson@slcschools.org](mailto:ashley.anderson@slcschools.org).

