

School Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 1998
San Rafael Jr. High School, Ferron , Utah

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Royd Hatt, Roger Swenson, Marie Johnson, Laurel Johansen and Sharman Seamons. Others present were Kirk Sitterud, Superintendent and Ross Huntington, Business Administrator.

It was moved by Roger Swenson and seconded by Marie Johnson that the consent items, including the warrants and the minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Patsy Stoddard, President of the Emery Parent Teacher Association Council, was welcomed to the meeting. She explained that the main focus of the PTA this year is on the safety of the children in our communities. Another thing that they will be focusing on this year is Art in Education and the Artist in Residency Program. She encouraged all schools to apply for grants to help educate our children in the arts. The Board thanked her for her efforts and for the efforts of the PTA's in helping kids.

Superintendent Sitterud informed the Board that the Directors of the Arts In Education Program will be at Cleveland Elementary on October 14th for in service and will sponsor a dinner that evening at 6:00 p.m. at Ferron Elementary for the board members, principals, district supervisors and others to encourage support of arts in the schools.

Merlin Weber, Principal at San Rafael Jr. High (SRJHS) was welcomed to the meeting. He reported that SRJHS had been selected as one of the 21st Century Schools in the State and now the teachers must work very hard to accomplish the goals they have set. He also reported on the tremendous community wide effort this past summer to change the school and make it a much more pleasant place. The renovation is nearly complete and should be finished in time for back to school night. He thanked the Board for their support in helping to bring about the changes. He requested that the Board now consider the possibility of replacing the curtains in the commons area, obtaining additional tables for the lunch room and purchasing a storage unit for band instruments.

Ralph Worthen a teacher at Castle Dale Elementary was welcomed to the meeting. He stated that he was enrolled in the administrative certification program along with four others from the district. He had not applied to the district for financial assistance at the time the program was originally offered and would like to do so now. The Board informed Mr. Worthen that there were seven applicants who had applied but were not accepted and that it would be unethical for the Board to provide him with financial assistance at this time. He then inquired as to whether or not the Board might consider an interest free loan program, similar to that offered for the purchase of computers. It was the consensus of the Board to take the matter under advisement.

Kelly Pyper, a parent was welcomed to the meeting. Kelly informed the Board that her son had been injured at football practice. His injuries had resulted in major medical bills. Even though they carry their own personnel insurance, she assumed the District also carried insurance on

students but had learned that this is not the case. Her concern is that parents need to be informed that the District does not carry medical insurance on students and that the student insurance forms be handed out to students in a timely manner. The Superintendent stated it was his understanding that in the many years insurance forms had been handed out to students they had never been required to hand them out before school started. However, he suggested that in the future the District consider using a parental consent and insurance disclosure form for all those wishing to participate in interscholastic athletic activities and that insurance forms be distributed prior to the beginning of athletic practices in the fall. In addition, all such participants be required to have passed a physical examination before being allowed to participate.

Negotiated items with the teachers and the classified employees were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Laurel Johansen to approve those items as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the following personnel be hired to fill vacancies in the District: Tom Hansen, Head Softball Coach, Emery High; Todd Burke, Assistant Softball Coach, Emery High; Darrell Gardner, Head Boy's Track Coach, Emery High; Kevin Reynolds, Head Girl's Track Coach, Emery High; and Errol Durrant, part time, temporary help at the warehouse. Motion was made by Sharman Seamons and seconded by Roger Swenson to approve the names as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud presented the Board with the beginning school enrollment figures for the 1998-99 school year. Total enrollment as of September 2nd is 3108 students. This is down 123 students from last Fall's enrollment of 3231, a 3.8% decline. Two schools, Book Cliff Elementary and Cottonwood Elementary, show increases in enrollment while the other eight schools in the District show declines.

Superintendent Sitterud presented the Board with information for their review on a recently completed study by the Western Institute for Research. It was the intent of the study to compare education equity between rural high schools and other high schools in the state. There will probably be legislation of some kind in the near future on this issue.

The Superintendent presented the Board with a draft proposal of a new District Employee Recognition Program for their consideration and discussion at a later date. He also asked them to review a new reduction in force policy for 12 month support staff personnel (GDPA) and revisions of two existing policies (Staff Hiring - GCD, and Support Staff Vacations and Holidays - GDBE). All of these need to be reviewed by the employee associations and the principals before final action is taken.

The Superintendent submitted the following requests for approval of travel in excess of 150 miles (one way) to non region athletic contests: Volleyball, Bountiful, 160 miles; Football, Cedar City, JV and Soph, 220 miles; Football, Brigham City, Varsity, 215 miles; Football, St. George, JV and Soph, 250 miles; Football, Ogden, Varsity, 190 miles; Tennis, Moab, Varsity and JV, 150 miles and Tennis, Cedar City, Varsity and JV, 225 miles. Motion by Roger Swenson and

seconded by Marie Johnson to approve these trips. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Roger Swenson and seconded by Laurel Johansen authorizing the Board President and the Superintendent to sign an agreement with the Red Cross allowing the use of our school buildings in the event of disaster situations. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathy Peterson, Principal at Ferron Elementary was welcomed to the meeting. She explained about the pro-active stance of the PTA in helping the school get playground equipment. She also requested the District look into purchasing new curtains for SRJHS.

Ross Huntington gave a brief report on construction progress at Spartan Center. The contractor is still on schedule for a November completion date. He also reviewed with the Board the current status of several of the other projects currently underway.

After a discussion of the \$2 million GO Bond projects, both those completed and those pending, it was the consensus of the Board that there is a need for a long term plan for Emery High. There is need for an analysis of both the structural and the building systems.

Motion was made by Roger Swenson and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the Business Administrator to begin the process of obtaining bids and preparing the ground work for the construction of four new tennis courts at Emery High. Motion passed with Roger Swenson, Marie Johnson, Laurel Johansen, and Royd Hatt voting in favor and Sharman Seamons voting against.

Motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sharman Seamons to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel issues and possible litigation. Motion passed unanimously.

Upon reconvening from executive session a motion was made by Sharman Seamons and seconded by Laurel Johansen to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.