

Minutes of School Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 27, 1999
Ferron Elementary School

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

A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sharman Seamons to approve the warrants and minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Rose Card was recognized as the Emery School District 1999 teacher of the year. Mrs. Card was presented with a plaque and gift certificate. Mrs. Card was selected on the basis of her dedicated service, commitment to student achievement and learning, and her professional contributions to the Emery School District. She was thanked by the Board for the tremendous job she does as a teacher and for all the extra effort she puts forth to help kids grow.

Neal Peacock was recognized as having been selected by the Utah High School Activities Association as Speech Educator of the Year. He will be honored by the association during a luncheon at the Willow Creek Country Club on November 3. The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Peacock for his devoted service to students and for the self esteem he helps instill in kids.

Kathy Peterson, Principal at Ferron Elementary was welcomed to the meeting. Mrs. Peterson thanked the Board for the support her school receives from the Board and the District Office. She explained about the many successes at Ferron Elementary during the past year. She also expressed concern over the ageing building and its internal systems. She requested that the Board consider elementary counselors as a high priority. The need for counselors was established some ten years ago by a blue ribbon committee and remains a top priority of teachers and parents. The Board thanked Mrs. Peterson for the enthusiasm she brings to education.

Kerry Lake, newly elected President of the Classified Employees Association introduced the other newly elected officers; Irene Allred, Vice President and Naoma Oman, Secretary. After a brief presentation, he requested that classified employees be allowed to use an additional two days of sick leave for personal leave. No action was taken on the matter. The Board asked Mr. Lake to prepare a comparison of Emery School District classified employees benefits to other districts.

Following a review of those items negotiated with the teachers union a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the list as presented together with a 1.125% cost of living increase. Motion passed unanimously.

Bryan Stone, a parent, was welcomed to the meeting. He expressed concern about the attendance policies, the enforcement of those policies, and the deficiency of the system which does not allow for parents and community to have input into these policies and other matters relating to our schools.

Mr. Stone stated that many children had received the wrong message at the beginning of the school year about the attendance policy. He asked the Board to remedy this situation. He requested that the Board consider establishing community councils at each of the schools. They would provide a means for parental involvement and input in the making of policy. Mr. Stone alleged that the current system is not working and that there is an “ imbalance of power” with the parents having little.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended that Toni Hatt be hired as an Educational Assistant at Book Cliff Elementary School. A motion was made by Roger Swenson and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously, with Board Member Royd Hatt abstaining. The Superintendent recommended that Mark Seely be hired as the In-School Suspension Coordinator at San Rafael Jr. High School. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sharman Seamons to approve the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the Board ratify his approval of the release of a student from school attendance as requested by the students parents. A motion was made by Roger Swenson and seconded by Sharman Seamons to ratify the approval. Motion passed unanimously.

A request from Mr. Emery Jones of Four Corners Mental Health asking permission to take seven students from Emery High School Peer Helper Program to the World Drug Prevention Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in April 2000 was discussed. A motion to approve the request was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt. Motion passed unanimously.

A three year schedule of administrators recommended travel to National Conferences was presented to the Board. A motion to approve the schedule with the stipulation that attendance at meetings, workshops, seminars, etc., be limited to one person at a time unless a specific and compelling need is clearly demonstrated was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sharman Seamons. Motion passed unanimously.

The Emery High School boys and girls basketball schedules were reviewed and discussed. A motion to approve the schedules and related travel was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the types of events held in our buildings and the need for some of these activities to require liability insurance. A motion was made by Roger Swenson and seconded by Marie Johnson to require liability insurance certificates for all events sponsored by commercial organizations, by government organizations and also by non-profit organizations with state or national or large group affiliation. Liability insurance certificates would not be required of families and individuals not affiliated with an organization, such as: reunions, family dinners, receptions, showers, etc. A waiver of liability would be required of these groups before using the facilities. Motion passed unanimously.

Information on the new funding formula for Necessarily Existent Small Schools, October 1

enrollment numbers, State Trust Land funds, the USBA Regional Meeting (November 4th), the upcoming meeting with legislators (November 17th), and the Standards and Accountability Task Force was presented to the Board.

Shannon Hiatt from the Emery County Recreational District was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Hiatt requested assistance from the Board in helping him to schedule the use of district buildings.

Mr. Hiatt stated that the demand for facility usage is up even though school enrollment is declining. Mr. Hiatt was invited to Administrative Council meeting on November 16th to discuss the situation with administrators. Mr. J.J. Grant volunteered to work with administrators and the Recreation District to coordinate building usage.

Karen Bishop, Counselor at San Rafael Jr. High School (SRJHS), requested Board approval to begin construction of new counseling rooms at her school. The Maintenance Department would provide oversight with the custodians at SRJHS doing the actual construction. Estimated costs for materials are \$5,000. Additional costs are estimated to be \$1092 for carpet. No estimate for tables and chairs, which may or may not be needed, was given. It was the consensus of the Board that additional cost information is needed before a decision will be made and that issues about the heating need to be resolved. Mrs. Bishop also informed the Board that Green River High School had passed its comprehensive guidance review and would now be entitled to additional funding for that program.

Kathy Petersen, Principal at Ferron Elementary, requested that her school be the first to receive new playground equipment, noting that the community had raised nearly \$30,000 towards the project. No action was taken on the matter.

A motion was made by Roger Swenson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel matters and possible litigation. Motion passed unanimously.

Upon reconvening a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to have the district staff research the Community Council concept, to collect information from other school districts who are using community councils, to research how these councils relate to board authority, to report to the Board at a later date and to explore how the District can improve communications at all levels.

A motion was made by Roger Swenson and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the offer of \$15,000 by the Utah Housing Finance Agency for lot number 3 and the east half of lot number 2 in the Castle Heights subdivision and to authorize Ross C. Huntington, the Business Administrator, to sign all necessary legal documents. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Roger Swenson to adjourn. Motion passed.

