

Minutes of the Board of Education  
Emery County School District  
April 2, 2003  
Cleveland Elementary School, Cleveland, Utah

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Members present were Laurel Johansen, Marie Johnson, Royd Hatt and Sam Singleton. Others present were Kirk Sitterud, Superintendent and Ross Huntington, Business Administrator.

A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the warrants as presented and approve the minutes with a minor correction in the third to the last paragraph, i.e., the second line should read "third grade students", instead of "first grade students". The motion passed unanimously.

Ross Huntington present the following bids for the roofing project at Huntington Elementary: All Weather Roofing, \$42,618; Clark's Quality Roofing, \$43,500; Swapp Roofing, \$47,516.80; and Layton Roofing Company, \$48,358. A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the bid of All Weather Roofing at \$42,618. The motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Gabrys, a student at Emery High School appeared before the Board to report on his progress towards graduation. Bobby had appeared before the Board last fall to report on his successful involvement with the Frontier Project over the summer. At that time the Board asked Bobby to report back as graduation time approached with a report. He explained all the work that he has done to earn the credits necessary for graduation. He has raised his GPA from 1.050 to 2.696 and plans to graduate with his class in May. The Board congratulated Bobby for his accomplishments.

A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to appoint Sam Singleton, J.J. Grant and Ross Huntington to the certified negotiating team and Marie Johnson, Jon Crawford and Ross Huntington to the classified negotiating team for this next year. The motion passed unanimously.

Jerel Lofley who is the acting principal at Cleveland Elementary while Sid Lancaster is off due to illness was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Lofley reported on an item of success that Cleveland Elementary has had with student council this year. Each of the teachers has taken a one month turn as student council advisor with the council members appointed from each of the classrooms. Students plan activities and service projects and report they like this way better than the election process. This way more students have been allowed to provide input and become involved in the student government process.

The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Lofley and his staff for their efforts to make Cleveland Elementary a great school. Superintendent Sitterud extended his thanks to Mr. Lofley and to Teresa Jensen, the secretary, for all the extra work they have done while Mr. Lancaster has been ill.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the Board approve the early retirement application of Craig Nielsen, Art teacher at Emery High School and Owen Olsen, Maintenance worker. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the retirement of Edward Hansen, Custodian at Book Cliff Elementary School effective at the end of this contract year, July 31. The motion passed unanimously.

A letter from Dennis Dooley, Art teacher at San Rafael Jr. High School, was presented to the Board. Mr Dooley requesting the District buy five years of service credit for him in-lieu of participation in the early retirement program. A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Laurel Johansen to grant Mr. Dooley's request. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval for the First Grade students from Book Cliff Elementary for an out-of-state field trip to Fruita, Colorado, was recommended by the Superintendent. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the trip and extend compliments to the teacher for putting together a field trip that looks like it will be educational and fun for the kids. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the Board modify next year's calendar to reflect a change in the dates of UEA, to Thursday and Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October and to eliminate the U-PASS days from the calendar for both next year and the following year. The recommendation was approved by unanimous vote following a motion by Sam Singleton and a second by Marie Johnson.

Carol Ediger, President of the Emery Education Association, requested that the Board allow teachers to take Human Rights Day off, which falls on a Monday, rather than the regularly scheduled Parent Teacher Conference day which falls on a Friday. Following some discussion, she was advised that the Board will look into the matter.

Superintendent Sitterud read a letter from the State Superintendent, Steven O. Laing, congratulating the Emery County School District's financial and statistical teams as recipients of the 2002 Excellence in Financial Reporting Award and the 2002 Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award presented by the State Office of Education. The Emery teams were one of only two in the State to receive both awards.

Superintendent Sitterud informed the Board that it will be necessary to provide handicapped access to the Ronald Dyke's home for the new Adult Education Program. The estimated cost of the ramp will be approximately \$2800 to \$3000. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the project. The motion passed unanimously.

Ross Huntington gave a brief report on the impacts of legislative action on funding for this next year. In spite of cutbacks in numerous programs, the overall funding to the District should actually increase, due to a revision of the special education funding formula. Funding in that program will increase by about \$200,000 and should bring it to a point of self-sufficiency.

The District does face some budgetary challenges due to increases in insurance costs. Property insurance premiums will increase by 17%, or \$8,000. Dental insurance premiums will increase by 8.7%, or about \$13,500. Health insurance premiums are expected to increase by about 14%. That double digit increase will require \$270,000 in new funding and presents the largest challenge to the Board and District Administrators for next year's budget.

The assessed valuation of property in Emery County is also expected to decrease. It has been reported to the District that the increase in value from the Green River annexation will be more than offset by the decline in values of the large centrally assessed properties such as Utah Power and Light's power plants.

In order to meet these funding challenges, three and one-half teaching positions throughout the District will be eliminated next year. District administrators are currently discussing other strategies for arriving at a balance budget for the 2003-2004 school year.

A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel issues and possible litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon reconvening to general session, a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the early retirement request of Ralph Ison, Director of Transportation. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was then made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.