

Minutes of the Board of Education
Emery County School District
February 5, 2003
Cottonwood Elementary School, Orangeville, Utah

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Members present were Laurel Johansen, Royd Hatt, Sam Singleton and Marie Johnson. 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 and minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Dennis Jones, Principal at Cottonwood Elementary was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Jones reported on the various reading programs currently being used at his school. The school is also involved in a program sponsored by the Utah Department of Health and the Utah State Office of Education called "Gold Medal Schools". It is a program to help improve student and staff general health.

The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Jones and his staff for the warm, friendly learning environment they provide at Cottonwood Elementary.

Green River High School's request for construction of a weight room was delayed until next board meeting pending clarification of concerns expressed by the State Fire Marshall.

Andy Pollaehne, teacher at Emery High School (EHS), requested board approval for students to participate in a concurrent enrollment geology class offered by the College of Eastern Utah (CEU). It will be necessary for students to miss school on Fridays for seven weeks in order to participate in required field trips. Students will receive three (3) semester credits from CEU as well as one credit from EHS. After careful consideration, and a request for follow-up in June, a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Next item on the agenda was a discussion about the property the school district owns near Elmo. Based on the information submitted and having considered the options, a motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Royd Hatt for the district to pursue leasing the property to another party. The motion passed unanimously.

Ross Huntington updated the board on the responses to presentations he has made to various employee groups throughout the district on the cost of the early retirement program. He stated that most groups recognize the imperative need for change. Discussion then ensued about the various options available to the board. It was then decided to continue studying the matter until the next board meeting.

A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to change the date of the next board meeting from the 5th to the 12th of March. The motion passed unanimously.

John Crawford, Director of Student Services, reported SAT and Core test results. Test results are available to interested parties at the district office. He also gave a brief presentation on the requirements of the new Federal program, "No Child Left Behind". This program will place greater performance requirements on all school districts throughout the nation.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the board approve the early retirement requests from Lynn Larson, teacher at EHS; Brigid Wickersham, teacher at Castle Dale Elementary; Pat Quarenburg, teacher at Book Cliff Elementary, and George Stucki, teacher at San Rafael Jr. High School. He noted that all of them meet the qualifications for the program. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

A revised version of the Field Trips and Excursions Policy (IICA-R) was then reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to table action on the revised policy until the next board meeting so that additional input can be received from administrators and bus drivers. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud reported on the status of Senate Bill 34 - Tuition Tax Credits. The Senate has passed the bill with a close vote expected in the House. The Governor has promised to veto the bill. He does not want to talk about tax credits until Utah is at the national average on per student spending.

Kathleen Truman and Shirley Spears, representing the Emery County Archives were welcomed to the meeting. They requested clarification on when the board would like them to vacate the Dyke's House they have been leasing from the district the past two years. After the needs of the district were addressed, a motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Marie Johnson to have them vacate the house by the 1st of March. The board will make a decision as to any reimbursement for improvements that might be due the Archives by the next board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Laurna Hansen, bus driver, asked the board why part-time bus drivers, with less than four hours per day, could not be allowed to purchase health insurance if they were willing to pay the full cost? She was advised that the board would look into the matter.

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

Upon reconvening to general session, a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Laurel Johansen to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:55PM.