

Minutes of the Board of Education
Emery County School District
May 7, 2008
Cleveland Elementary School, Cleveland, Utah

The May 2008 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson, Sam Singleton and Rue Ware. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

Presentations Item #1: After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Board of Education presented Recognition Awards to three employees of the District. Board President Johansen first presented an Employee Recognition Award to Lorraine Frandsen, Resource Teacher at Cottonwood Elementary School and Driver's Ed instructor at Emery High. Mrs. Frandsen was recognized for her patience, understanding, and willingness to go the extra mile in teaching children with disabilities. She has served as a faculty representative for the PTA, leads the School Action Team, and regularly spends summers working on professional development. She also regularly conducts summer school for any kids who want to attend. She is well known for conducting herself with a positive attitude and up-beat personality in both her school and community responsibilities.

Preschool Aide Nanette Harrison was the next to be recognized. Ms. Harrison was praised for truly caring about the kids in the Preschool program. She has brought many suggestions to the program and has been a leader in helping get the program to where it is today. Ms. Harrison implements each child's objectives into her lessons and does everything she can to give each child a positive experience. She was recognized for showing improvement each year in her position and for helping children meet goals so that they are well prepared for Kindergarten.

Board Member Marie Johnson presented a recognition award to Gayle McDonald, Secretary at Huntington Elementary School. Mrs. McDonald was recognized for being the glue that holds together everything else in the school. She is the go-between of students, parents, staff, and the District office. She has worked hard in all of her responsibilities, and is known for treating everybody with respect and providing humanity in everything that is done at the school. Members of the Board each expressed their congratulations and appreciation to Mrs. Frandsen, Mrs. Harrison, and Mrs. McDonald.

Action Item #1: Members of the Board of Education reviewed the consent agenda. A motion was made by Rue Ware to approve the minutes, warrants and the March and April 2008 financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

To accommodate those in the audience who were in attendance to make requests or presentations, Mrs. Johansen moved action item # 7 and report # 1 to the front of the remaining agenda.

Action Item #7: President Johansen invited Brandon Larsen to present a request from the Emery High School Marching Band. Mr. Larsen explained that he was in attendance on behalf of Ben Carroll, Band Teacher at Emery High School. The Marching Band would like approval to travel to Salt Lake City on July 23-24 to participate in the Days of '47 parade. The trip would also include stops at Boondocks and Lagoon. Mr. Larsen answered some questions of clarification about the trip request after which Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the trip request as presented. Marie Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Reports Item #1: Corinne Dalton, Ag Science Teacher at Emery High School, was invited to present a report on the FFA program to the Board of Education. She invited three of her students, Kevin Jensen, Colton Grange, and Zach Wallace to assist her in the report. Each took a turn explaining some of the positive aspects of the FFA program, as well as some of the awards & recognitions that the FFA program has received during

the school year. Members of the Board expressed their congratulations to the students and to the FFA program, also recognizing how important the program is to students at Emery High School.

Action Item #2: Superintendent Sitterud next presented LAND Trust Plans for each school, noting that these plans require approval of the Board of Education. Members of the Board asked questions to clarify some of the items listed in the plans. After Mr. Sitterud responded to these questions, Marie Johnson motioned to approve the LAND Trust Plans as presented. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Action Item #3: Superintendent Sitterud presented Block Grant Plans and budgets for approval. After Mr. Sitterud provided the Board with a brief review of each plan, Sam Singleton moved to accept the Block Grant Plans with Marie Johnson seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item #4: A revision to the three-year calendar was presented for approval. Mr. Sitterud explained that the Utah Education Association had released dates for their fall conference in 2009 and 2010, so the dates for fall break each of those years were added to the calendar. The dates for fall break will correspond with the UEA conference. Rue Ware made a motion to approve the updated three-year calendar as presented. Royd Hatt seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Action Item #5: Superintendent Sitterud presented several personnel requests:

The following employees have submitted a letter of intent to resign, effective on the date listed:

- *Shawna Carroll* *Teacher* *Ferron Elementary* *End of Contract*
- *Melissa Esplin* *Teacher* *Emery High* *End of Contract*
- *Debra Johnson* *Educational Assistant* *Huntington Elementary* *March 5, 2008*
- *Korene Merrell* *Educational Assistant* *Cleveland Elementary* *End of Contract*
- *Jayne Williams* *Teacher* *Green River High* *End of Contract*

The following employees have submitted a letter of intent to retire at the end of the current contract year:

- *J.J. Grant* *Secondary Supervisor* *District Office*
- *Sandra Jeffs* *Teacher* *Castle Dale Elementary*
- *Paulette Kelley* *Educational Assistant* *Huntington Elementary*

Marie Johnson motioned to approve the requests as presented. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Sitterud then recommended to the Board that the following persons be approved for hire, beginning employment at the start of the appropriate contract period for the 2008-09 school year:

- Emily Mills:* *Teacher* *Huntington Elementary*
- Audry Gordon:* *Teacher* *Ferron Elementary*
- Janet Childs:* *Teacher* *Castle Dale Elementary*
- RoseAnn Dawes:* *Teacher* *Huntington Elementary*
- Jennifer Parkins:* *Speech Pathology Educational Assistant / Technician, 6 hr*

After consideration, a motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve these hiring recommendations as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item #6: Superintendent Sitterud next presented the following policies to the Board, recommending that each be approved or revised as presented:

- **IKFD: Honorary High School Diploma** – a new policy that meets a recommendation from a Resolution passed by the Legislature this year.
- **KCBC: School Community Council** – policy revision that meets the requirements of new laws.
- **JLCD: Administering Medicine in School** – a policy revision that meets the requirements of new laws.
- **GCBD/GDBD: Staff Fringe Benefits** – a policy revision to change eligibility for insurance benefits for future hires to 20 or more hours per week. This puts Emery School District in line with other Districts in the State and also makes all benefits offerings consistent.

Following a brief discussion and explanation of each of the policy recommendations, Marie Johnson motioned to approve the policies as presented. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous vote.

Action Item #9: Mr. Black explained that the District Insurance Committee has been meeting since the start of the year to discuss and review various options for the District-offered health insurance. The District is currently in the last year of a 3-year commitment to the current carrier, so this is the year to evaluate whether to continue with the same carrier or change. The Insurance Committee has 13 representatives from across the District. After reviewing all options available to the District, the recommendation of the Insurance Committee is to change to a group plan with Aetna, starting September 1st, 2008. The plan would provide a richer medical and dental benefit and employees would no longer need to buy-up to have access to IHC facilities. Board Member Marie Johnson, who was the Board representative on the committee, added that it was clear that the employees on the committee had done a good job discussing the options with other employees in the District, and that the consensus was clearly to go with Aetna—that this is what the employees wanted to do. Mr. Black responded to several questions from Board members, after which Royd Hatt motioned to approve Aetna as the District’s carrier for medical and dental insurance, beginning on September 1st, 2008. Marie Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Reports Item # 2: Principal Ed Clark of Cleveland Elementary was invited to present an update of Cleveland Elementary School to the Board. Mr. Clark thanked the Board for coming to Cleveland for their meeting, adding that he feels fortunate to work with such quality teachers and staff. Online testing continues to progress at Cleveland Elementary. Principal Clark presented some statistics showing the growth that Cleveland Elementary is experiencing. The school is expected to add around 20 students for the 2008-09 year.

Mr. Clark also took the opportunity to report on some of the vocational programs in the District, noting that the construction house is nearing completion and that the machining and welding programs are some of the best in the State. President Johansen and other members of the Board thanked Principal Clark for his work and praised his ability to juggle multiple responsibilities and assignments as effectively as he does.

Reports Item # 3: Superintendent Sitterud expressed his appreciation to Mr. J.J. Grant, who has accepted the position of Director for the Southeast Education Service Center, and will be retiring from the School District at the end of June. He then reported that he has submitted a new reading plan that will place an extended day Kindergarten session at all of the Title One Schools in the District—Huntington, Ferron, and Book Cliff. Another part of the new plan is that the District is pursuing a partnership with Carbon School District to hire a reading coach. Mr. Sitterud also discussed projected enrollments with the Board. In general, Elementary Schools are growing, and he is hopeful that within 3-4 years, the District will see an overall enrollment growth, after so many years of declining enrollments.

Reports Item # 4: Mr. Black reported that the District is working on bids for some of the larger capital outlay projects for this summer.

Board President Johansen asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Grant mentioned that representatives from Emery High School recently presented information to the UHSAA related to the realignment proposals.

At 8:15 pm, a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the character of individuals, and separately, to discuss collective bargaining. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item #8: Upon reconvening to an open meeting at 9:05 pm, Superintendent Sitterud recommended the immediate expulsion of two students at Canyon View Junior High School, due to Safe Schools violations. The suspensions are recommended for one year. The District will meet with parents within 45 days of the suspension to outline conditions for returning, as well as whether or not a return to school can happen sooner than the one year timeline. A motion was made by Rue Ware to approve the recommendation for expulsion as recommended. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.