

Emery County School District | Board of Education

The May meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Emery High School, was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson, Sam Singleton and Nanette Tanner. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud was also present as was Business Administrator Jared Black. Mrs. Johansen welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations Item (A3a): The first item was to congratulate and recognize the District Employees of the Year. Board member Sam Singleton first presented the Teacher of the Year award to Dean Nelson, French and English teacher at Emery High School. Mr. Nelson was chosen due to his humble, consistent and effective approach to teaching and helping kids. Throughout his career he has been able to reach many struggling students. Mr. Nelson was also recognized for his years as a coach and is known for having developed student athletes who competed hard while at the same time exhibiting sportsmanship and respect. Members of the Board congratulated and thanked Mr. Nelson for his excellence and dedication to students in Emery County. Mr. Nelson expressed his appreciation to all in attendance for their friendship and support over the years.

Board President Johansen next presented the Support Staff Employee of the Year award to Doug Johnson, a Technology Specialist for the District. Doug was recognized for his substantial knowledge and expertise as well as his pleasant and helpful personality. He is a dedicated employee, known for always going the extra mile to help employees understand how to use their computers and other technology equipment. Doug responds to needs across the District willingly. President Johansen joined the other members of the Board in expressing their appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson thanked the Board and Superintendent.

Presentations Item (A3b): Jon Crawford and Lori Labrum made a presentation on the Edutest project, demonstrating how the testing works and the type of data gathered through the testing.

Presentations Item (A3c): Corinne Dalton made a presentation on the value of the FFA program. This presentation was originally given by FFA student Andrea Price at the state FFA convention.

Board Action Item (B1): Members of the Board considered the warrants, minutes for the April 2010 Board meeting and financial reports for March. A motion was made by Marie Johnson to approve the warrants and minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and carried by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B2): Dixie Fielder and Luci Robinson, District Counselors, presented the comprehensive guidance program plan for the 2010-11 school year. They noted some of the highlights and challenges of the program and outlined how the program is structured to meet State of Utah requirements. They also summarized the results of program reviews recently conducted at Emery and Green River High Schools. Members of the Board thanked them for their presentation. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the plan as presented. Nanette Tanner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (B3): Corinne Dalton requested permission to use the parcel of land immediately west of the tennis courts at Emery High School for conducting live animal lab demonstrations as part of her Ag Ed curriculum. The area is currently used only for storage of maintenance items. It is fenced in and has a vehicle entrance. Mrs. Dalton indicated that it would be a school day operation and she has no plans to house animals permanently on the property. Member Johnson stated her concern that animals not be housed overnight at the facility. Kerry Lake stated that Castle Dale City ordinance would allow animals on the property. The ordinance is one animal per

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10,000 square feet. Principal Larry Davis was asked his opinion and stated that he is supportive of the request and feels it would add to the educational experience for Ag Ed students. Neal Peacock, Castle Dale Mayor, indicated that up to 3 animals could be on the property based on the zoning ordinance and also indicated his support of the idea. He requested that Mrs. Dalton and her students contact citizens whose properties border the parcel in question to let them know what the classes will be doing. Member Johnson made a motion to approve the use of land as indicated with the stipulations that no animals be housed overnight on the property and that Mrs. Dalton and her students notify neighbors about what they will be doing. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (B4): There were no names for approval presented.

Board Action Item (B5): Superintendent Sitterud next presented the following policy revisions to the Board, recommending that each revision be approved as presented:

- **GCI: Professional Staff Classifications** – a policy revision to allow the District to extend the provisional status of employees for up to two additional years based on criteria outlined in the policy. This comes from Utah legislation passed in the 2010 session.
- **GDA: Support Staff Positions and Classifications** – same revisions as in GCI.
- **GDI: Support Staff Probation and Tenure** – same revisions as in GCI.
- **GDFD: Background Checks—Support Staff/Volunteers** – a policy revision based on legislation passed in the 2010 session that requires support staff to pay the costs associated with background checks. Licensed employees have been paying these costs as part of their re-licensure.

Following a brief discussion and explanation of each of the policy recommendations, Sam Singleton made a motion to approve the policy revisions as presented. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B6): 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, Nanette Tanner motioned to approve the LAND Trust Plans as presented. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (B7): Mr. Sitterud indicated that the State of Utah is applying for the second round of funding for the Federal Race to the Top program. The State Office of Education is preparing an application for Utah and is asking Districts to again indicate their participation by approving a Memorandum of Understanding. He recommended Board approval of the memorandum, particularly in light of the fact that the changed required by participation in Race to the Top will be coming regardless of whether or not the District participates. Members of the Board asked questions to clarify aspects of the program and Mr. Sitterud responded to the questions. Marie Johnson motioned to approve the memorandum as explained. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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Board Action Item (B8): Mr. Black recommended that the Board approve Impact Payment Systems as the District vendor for an online payment system. This system would be used by parents to make online payments for school fees or lunch fees. He indicated that after reviewing several systems, Impact Payments had the lowest fees as well as a system that would easily integrate with District and School systems. In addition, Emery County uses Impact Payments for online payment services, so citizens in the County who use it with the County will already be familiar with how it works. Royd Hatt motioned to approve Impact Payment Systems and Marie Johnson seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Reports Item (C1): Principal Larry Davis reported to the Board. He indicated how much he is enjoying his work at Emery High and that the school is very dynamic and is moving in a positive direction. He expressed his appreciation for the great faculty and staff who work at Emery High and who work together progressively. The school enrollment has decreased from 448 at the beginning of the year to 414 students, mostly due to early graduation. He reported that curriculum and academics are moving forward and improving.

He indicated that the current Region 12 alignment has been excellent for Emery High, with schools from similar communities and with similar enrollments. He has implemented the “Nuestra Casa” program to reward students for outstanding achievements in academics, attendance and citizenship. Mr. Davis mentioned his appreciation to the Board of Education for the support.

President Johansen thanked Principal Davis for his report and indicated her appreciation for his willingness to go the extra mile, take on numerous responsibilities, and direct all endeavors at Emery High School.

Report Item (C2): Superintendent Sitterud congratulated Vicki Rasmussen for being named one of five Teachers of the Year by Arch Coal. Mrs. Rasmussen teaches at Cleveland Elementary and was recently recognized in a ceremony at Manti Elementary School. He also mentioned that staff from all schools in the District would be participating in Reach training at Green River High over the next two days.

Report Item (C3): Mr. Black mentioned that the student build house in Castle Dale is nearing completion and an open house would be scheduled in the next few weeks.

Public Comments: None were offered.

At 9:10 PM a motion was made by Royd Hatt and Seconded by Sam Singleton to move into a closed meeting for a discussion related to the character, professional competence or health of an individual. Member voting on this motion was as follows:

- Laurel Johansen Aye
- Royd Hatt Aye
- Marie Johnson Aye
- Sam Singleton Aye
- Nanette Tanner Aye

Certification of Closed Executive Session (Utah Code 52-4-206)

I, Laurel Johansen, President of the Emery County School District Board of Education, certify and swear that the purpose of the above closed executive session was to review and discuss the character and professional competence of an individual. Under the code referenced above, a closed executive session discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual is exempt from recording requirements and therefore, this portion of the closed session was not recorded.

Laurel Johansen

Upon reconvening at 10:30 PM, a motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.