

Emery County School District | Board of Education

The December 2012 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Huntington Elementary School, was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Vice-President Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson and Sam Singleton. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud was also present. Board member Nanette Tanner and Business Administrator Jared Black were absent.

Mrs. Johansen welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Action Item (B1): Members of the Board reviewed the consent agenda, including the warrants, minutes for the November 2012 Board meeting and financial reports for November 2012. A motion was made by Royd Hatt to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports as presented. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B2): Mr. Sitterud recommended to the Board that the following individuals be approved for the positions indicated:

Katelyn Behling: Educational Assistant, 3 hr, Special Education Ferron Elementary

Sam Singleton motioned to approve the hiring recommendations as presented. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. All approvals are subject to the completion and review of a background check.

Board Action Item (B3): A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the monthly meeting calendar for School Board Meetings in 2013. The motion passed unanimously. The approved calendar will be advertised in the local newspaper for two weeks. A copy of this calendar is attached as part of the official minutes.

Report Item (C1): Principal Garth Johnson reported that he is enjoying his transition to Huntington Elementary School. He thanked the Board for the opportunity and expressed that he feels rejuvenated in his current position. He commented on how impressed he is with the teaching at Huntington Elementary. He has been impressed with both the teachers and assistants and how hard they work. He acknowledged the struggles of many students, adding that he and the faculty are working hard to find ways to help each student, particularly with reading and math. Principal Johnson showed the Board the new iPad cart the school is using. The school has a committee looking for the best educational apps to use on the iPads. He thanked the Board for their support. President Johansen thanked Mr. Johnson for his report.

Report Item (C2): Mr. Black was not at the meeting to present a report.

Report Item (C3): Superintendent Sitterud reviewed with the Board the status of the education evaluation program. He then discussed a recent rural schools study. The conclusions are that, for the most part, rural schools do better than their urban counterparts in the Core tested subjects and graduation rates, but not as well on college entrance tests such as the ACT. Rural students generally thrive in the basic curriculum and have low dropout rates, but aren't offered the breadth or depth of advanced courses offered to non-rural students. This may be suppressing college enrollment rates and keeping rural students from attaining higher levels of education. The study also showed that rural schools face significant challenges related to hiring teachers, particularly those in specialty subjects.

Mr. Sitterud next reviewed the final proposal for USHAA realignment for 2013-15. Green River will see no significant changes while Emery High will continue to compete in 2A, except for football, where they will compete in 3A. He then discussed a potential bill proposing to equalize commercial based property tax. This would result in a loss of capital outlay revenue to the District. The bill is being sponsored by Senator Aaron Osmond.

Board President Johansen thanked Superintendent Sitterud for his report.

Public Comments: No public comments were made.

A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.