

Emery County School District | Board of Education

The May 2015 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held on May 6th, 2015 at Cottonwood 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, Sam Singleton and Julie Wilson. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

At 7:00 pm, Mrs. Johansen welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Action Item (B1): Coach Dean Stilson, representing the Emery High School girls basketball program, requested bus transportation for one summer team camp, in lieu of not scheduling any overnight tournament during the regular season. After brief discussion by members of the Board, Marie Johnson made a motion to approve the request. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation (C1): Thomas Sitterud presented the concerns of several parents related to 9th grade students and a potential move of the 9th grade to Emery High School. He shared that for academic reasons, such a move should allow for more electives as well as access to a variety of extracurricular clubs and organizations not currently available at the junior high schools. He also indicated that the parents he represents feel that 9th grade students are in a situation where they have a sort of identity crisis. Related to athletics, 9th grade students participating on teams at EHS are often 30 minutes late to practice. He also shared that many parents feel that 9th grade students don't have the confidence to go to EHS for athletics when they spend the rest of their day at a junior high school

He shared a concern that a long-term effect of the current setup may be that we are teaching kids to not be involved in anything – or to be apathetic. He shared that he understands a 9th grade move to EHS may be a logistical challenge, but his feeling is that all of the logistical concerns can be addressed.

Andrea Johansen shared her feeling that before parents jump to conclusions, they need to become more education about this complex issue. The District needs to look at what is best for all students. Corinda Stilson added that a bigger concern is moving 6th grade students to a middle school setting. She expressed that she does not feel they are emotionally ready for this type of change.

Superintendent Sitterud answered questions about the types of licensing and endorsements required for elementary teachers to teach students up to the 8th grade. He explained that elementary teachers are licensed to teach up to the 8th grade, however they must have the appropriate endorsements for each subject area. He indicated that the District is prepared to look at this issue in a responsible and comprehensive way. He discussed the need to identify the key issues involved and set up focus groups and a committee to oversee an extensive evaluation of the pro's and con's of moving grade levels in the District. This is a process the District will engage in over the next year.

Jody Cox mentioned that only a small percentage of parents were at the meeting, so it would be important to get input from parents throughout the District, not just those at this board meeting.

President Johansen mentioned that, in the meantime, the School Board and administrators are seeking better opportunities for 9th grade students. Member Marie Johnson added that the members of the Board know that the current situation is not working well, and are working to do everything they can to help 9th grade students feel more of an identity with the schools they attend. She also encouraged parents to communicate their specific concerns to their respective Board members. President Johansen closed the discussion by stating that the Board

of Education is taking this concern very seriously. She thanked those in attendance for their care and concern related to public education in the County.

Presentation (C2): Kim Player, representing the Emery Educators Association (EEA), read a statement indicating the desire of EEA to be more of a partner with the school district in working to improve the school district.

Recognition (D1): Board President Johansen presented a plaque to former board member Nanette Tanner, thanking and recognizing her for several years of service on the school board. Other members of the Board also thanked Mrs. Tanner for her friendship, kindness and years of service.

Recognitions (D2): Member Marie Johnson presented Nanette Harrison with the Emery County School District support staff employee of the year award, sharing with the audience many of Ms. Harrison’s accomplishments during her 22 years of employment in the District preschool program. President Johansen then presented Janet Tuttle with the Emery County School District teacher of the year award, also commenting on many of her accomplishments. Ms. Tuttle has taught in the school district for 8 years. Members of the Board and Superintendent Sitterud expressed their congratulations and appreciation to Ms. Harrison and Ms. Tuttle.

Board Action Item (B2): A representative from B.A.C.A. (Bikers Against Child Abuse) requested that the Board allow them to conduct a t-shirt design contest for elementary and junior high students throughout the District. The winning design would be worn by members of their club during their annual ride. The winning students at both the elementary and junior high levels would receive a prize for their design. Marie Johnson made a motion to allow B.A.C.A. to place flyers in schools, allowing interested students to complete their designs outside of school time and turn them into the school offices. B.A.C.A. can pick up the submissions from each school. Julie Wilson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B3): Board members considered the warrants, minutes of the April 2015 meeting, and financial reports for April 2015. A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (B4): Superintendent Sitterud recommended to the Board that the following individuals be approved for the positions indicated:

<i>Ralph Worthen:</i>	<i>Supervisor of Elementary Education</i>	<i>District Office</i>
<i>Cindy McFarlane:</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Book Cliff Elementary</i>
<i>Gayla Luke:</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Cottonwood Elementary</i>
<i>Erik Nielson:</i>	<i>Girl’s Soccer Head Coach</i>	<i>Emery High</i>
<i>Erin Hurdsmann:</i>	<i>Girl’s Soccer Assistant Coach</i>	<i>Emery High</i>
<i>Yory Allred:</i>	<i>Girl’s Soccer Assistant Coach</i>	<i>Emery High</i>

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

Superintendent Sitterud next presented letters of resignation from the following employees:

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<i>Greg Parsons:</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Book Cliff Elementary</i>
<i>Joyce Houskeeper:</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Ferron Elementary</i>
<i>Katie Behling:</i>	<i>Educational Assistant</i>	<i>Ferron Elementary</i>

Sam Singleton motioned to approve the resignations as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Wilson and passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (B5): Superintendent Sitterud presented the following policy action to the Board for approval:

- **ECAF—Video Surveillance:** New policy directing the use and restrictions on video surveillance used in our schools, facilities, and on District property.

Marie Johnson motioned to approve the new policy as recommended. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Black presented a revision to the following policy:

- **KFB-E1—Building Permit Agreement (Non-Commercial):** Revised to add a signature line for representatives from Emery County Recreation to verify that a coach is requesting a building permit for an official county recreation sponsored activity. This allows the school to waive fees for county recreations sponsored building use.

Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the policy revision as recommended. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B6): Superintendent Sitterud presented Land Trust plans for each school, noting that these plans are developed by school administration and school community councils, but also require approval of the Board of Education. Following brief discussion about the plans, Marie Johnson motioned to approve the Land Trust Plans as presented. Julie Wilson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (B7): Superintendent Sitterud presented a copy of a proposed MOU between Emery School District and Grand School District, to provide adult education services to Green River. Grand School District has been doing this for years since Moab is closer to Green River than Castle Dale. USOE is now asking that we establish an MOU in order for Grand School District to be able to continue collecting the funding for adult education. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the MOU as presented and explained. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B8): Emery High band teacher Ben Carroll requested approval for the marching band to travel and perform in the Days of '47 parade in Salt Lake City on July 24th. The trip would include an overnight stay on the night of the 23rd and would involve around sixty students with eight chaperones. The estimated cost for each student would be \$70. Julie Wilson made a motion to approve the trip as requested. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B9): Mr. Black presented five capital improvement projects to the Board of Education for approval.

Parking Lot Improvements (Green River High School)

<u>Nielson Construction</u> \$66,210	<u>Double E Construction</u> \$11,806 (Seal Cracks Only)	<u>Nielson Construction</u> \$8,700 (Seal Cracks Only)
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Parking Lot Expansion (Green River High School)

<u>Nielson Construction</u> \$83,000	<u>Double E Construction</u> \$107,960
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Cement Improvements (Cottonwood Elementary)

<u>Nelco Contractors</u> \$19,922	<u>Nielson Construction</u> \$24,500	<u>B. Hansen</u> \$24,860	<u>Arrowhead Construction</u> \$28,380
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Lighting Upgrades (Ferron Elementary Gymnasium - LED)

<u>Kay Electric</u> \$11,367	<u>DiVi Energy</u> \$12,024	<u>Christensen Electrical</u> \$12,234	<u>Lofthouse Electric</u> \$12,364	<u>Bodec</u> \$6,379 (T5's, not LED)
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Lighting Upgrades (Huntington Elementary)

<u>DiVi Energy</u> \$47,025	<u>Lofthouse</u> \$54,498	<u>Bodec</u> \$56,225	<u>Kay Electric</u> \$56,303	<u>Christensen</u> \$60,571	<u>Cripps</u> \$69,500	<u>ECI</u> \$123,784
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Mr. Black recommended awarding this project to the low bidder for each project, indicated above as the first option for each project, also in bold lettering. Marie Johnson made a motion to approve the five recommended bids as presented. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Report Item (C1): Principal John Hughes welcomed the Board of Education to Cottonwood Elementary School. He discussed some of the new school-wide expectations and security procedures that have been recently implemented. He emphasized that the faculty and staff will be data-driven in providing the best opportunities for each student. The school has implemented several new programs, including a positive morning message, positive office referrals and a new Facebook page. He complimented the exceptional faculty and staff at Cottonwood Elementary for their diligence in serving students.

Report Item (C2): Mr. Black had nothing additional to report.

Report Item (C3): Mr. Sitterud had nothing additional to report.

Public Comments (D): Teri McElprang asked about the policy and considerations made in a reduction-in-force situation. After some clarifying questions, Superintendent Sitterud indicated he was aware of the situation Mrs. McElprang is referring to, and that it was not appropriate for him discuss in an open meeting.

Closed Meeting (E): At 8:55 pm., a motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Marie Johnson to move to a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Member voting on this motion was as follows:

- Laurel Johansen Aye
- Royd Hatt Aye
- Marie Johnson Aye
- Sam Singleton Aye
- Julie Wilson Aye

The closed meeting was held in the lunchroom at Cottonwood Elementary School on Wednesday, May 6th, 2015, beginning at 9:05 pm. All board members were present for the closed meeting, as were Superintendent Kirk Sitterud and Business Administrator Jared Black. Secondary Supervisor Gwen Callahan and Elementary Supervisor Jed Jensen were also present.

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 sole purpose of the unrecorded portion of the above closed executive session was to review and discuss the character and professional competence of individuals. 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 executive session was not recorded.

Laurel Johansen

The closed meeting finished at 9:45 pm.

Adjournment (F): Upon reconvening to regular meeting, a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.