

The December 2016 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Ferron 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 Julie Wilson. Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

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

**Presentation:** Mrs. Johansen took a minute to recognize the recent passing of School Board member Sam Singleton. She expressed her appreciation for the wisdom, kindness, and friendship that Sam brought to all of his interactions as a Board member. She acknowledged that he is greatly missed. She presented a plaque to Kyle Singleton (Sam’s son) in recognition of Sam’s sixteen years of service on the Board of Education. Superintendent Larry Davis read a poem he wrote in recognition of Sam’s friendship and service. Other members of the Board of Education expressed their sorrow and condolences on Sam’s passing. Principal Brian Dawes also took a few minutes to mention his appreciation for Sam’s friendship and mentoring over the years.

President Johansen indicated that this will also be the last Board meeting for Member Julie Wilson. She thanked Julie for her service, adding that Julie was selected to serve mid-term by the other members of the Board, and they have had no regrets about their decision. Member Marie Johnson presented Member Julie Wilson with a plaque recognizing her service to the Emery County School District. She praised Julie as a Board member who has been energetic, enthusiastic, and has had the best interest of all students in mind. Superintendent Davis read a statement acknowledging the important service given by Mrs. Wilson who, in turn, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as a School Board member.

**Board Action Item (C1):** Board members considered the warrants, minutes of the November 2016 meeting, and financial reports for November 2016. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (C2):** Superintendent Davis recommended to the Board that the following individuals be approved for the positions indicated:

<i>Megan Hatt:</i>	<i>Head Girls Basketball Coach</i>	<i>Green River High (Junior High team)</i>
<i>Royd Hatt:</i>	<i>Assistant Girls Basketball Coach</i>	<i>Green River High (Junior High team)</i>

Member Royd Hatt abstained from voting. Julie Wilson motioned to approve the hiring recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Marie Johnson and passed unanimously.

Superintendent Davis then recommended that the following individual be approved for the position indicated:

<i>Ryan Johansen</i>	<i>Assistant Baseball Coach</i>	<i>Emery High School</i>
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Royd Hatt motioned to approve the hiring recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Wilson and passed by unanimous vote. All approvals are subject to the completion and review of a background check.

**Board Action Item (C3):** Mr. Black recommended approval of a policy amendment that would add the option of a phased retirement with Utah Retirement Systems. He explained that phased retirement would allow a retiree to

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continue to work half-time for the District and still receive half of their pension amount. He mentioned that adding this policy language for phased retirement would simply increase District flexibility for post-retirement employment options. The policy amendment also included minor changes to policy wording. Marie Johnson made a motion to accept the policy change as presented. Julie Wilson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (C4):** Mr. Black presented bids for the purchase of school buses, recommending that two buses be purchased. One bid, based on State purchasing contract MA812, was received from Bryson's Sales & Service. The price per bus is \$115,268 and is nearly identical to the price of our buses purchased a year ago. Transportation Supervisor Roger Swenson briefly discussed the need for two buses. Mr. Black also mentioned that the District receives approximately 65% reimbursement from the State for transportation expenses, including bus purchases. Julie Wilson made a motion to approve the purchase of two buses. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

**Report Item (D1):** Principal Brian Dawes welcomed the Board of Education to Ferron Elementary School. He reviewed SAGE data from the 2015-16 school year. Ferron Elementary School scored above State averages in all three areas. He expressed his appreciation to faculty and staff for their efforts to help each student. He also recognized Kelly Perkins as a new teacher at the school, indicating that she is doing very well with her 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. Principal Dawes mentioned that it has been a difficult 6 weeks for families and students in Ferron. Several tragedies have occurred in the community. He voiced his appreciation for the support of Superintendent Davis and for the many District and community partners that provided assistance and resources to the school. He thanked the Board of Education for their support and for the opportunity to work as a Principal in the District.

President Johansen thanked Principal Dawes for his report and for his leadership at Ferron Elementary School. She mentioned that in her last visit to Ferron Elementary, she noticed that each student in each classroom was engaged in learning. It was very impressive to see.

**Report Item (D2):** Mr. Black reported that a comprehensive audit of the Child Nutrition Program was completed earlier this week by auditors and specialists from the Utah State Board of Education. They were very complimentary of the program in their exit interview with District administration. A final report will be issued shortly.

**Report Item (D3):** Superintendent Davis reported on several matters. He was pleased with the turnout at the recent Youth Protection Seminar. A similar seminar is being planned for the Green River area. A recent meeting was held with newly elected Utah legislators in which Superintendent Davis and others were able to express their concerns about rural education. He reported that the same concerns were shared by several Districts and our legislators showed support for those concerns. He and Mr. Black also recently met with each of the newly elected school board members.

Mr. Davis acknowledged that the recent death of EHS student Ethan Winter was a tragedy and has had a profound effect on the community and schools. He and other administrators visited the Winter family to express condolences and extend a hand of support. He thanked all who have helped in providing needed counseling and support services at the schools.

Superintendent Davis reported that Constitutional Amendment B passed and will provide additional funding to school community councils through the Landtrust program. This funding has been very helpful to schools over the

years. Mr. Davis has also been visiting all of the schools and reported that he is seeing exceptional teaching and learning in every school. He expressed gratitude for the dedicated teachers and staff in our District. He also reminded members of the Board about the upcoming USBA conference in Salt Lake.

Mr. Davis provided a brief update of the 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition, indicating that it is progressing according to the timeline he established at the beginning of the school year. EHS is doing registration this week and this will jump-start the process where staffing decisions can be made throughout the schools and grade levels. He reaffirmed his commitment to do all possible to avoid employee layoffs.

Superintendent Davis was pleased to report that the technology grant was approved. The committee is now working to put together a professional development plan as well as a five year technology plan. He also mentioned that he had a great visit with the Green River High School student council. During his visit, they were planning a way to help support the Winter family and he was impressed with their kindness and leadership.

**Public Comments (E):** No public comments were made.

**Closed Meeting (F):** At 8:00 p.m., a motion was made by Julie Wilson and seconded by Royd Hatt to move to a closed meeting for the purpose of discussion related to 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
- Julie Wilson                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 sole purpose 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 closed executive session was not recorded.

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Laurel Johansen

The closed meeting was held in the Library at Ferron Elementary School on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, beginning at 8:05 pm. Board members Laurel Johansen, Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson and Julie Wilson were in attendance as well as Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black. The closed meeting finished at 8:15 pm.

