

The February 2019 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Huntington Elementary School, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Board President Tracey Johnson. Other Board members present were Vice-President Marie Johnson, Kenzi Guymon, Royd Hatt, and Jessy Johansen. Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

**Working Session:** The following items were discussed during the working session:

- Board members agreed to generally have a work session each month, 30 minutes prior to the start of the regular meeting. Superintendent Davis indicated that at a future work session we could have a representative from Utah Association of Counties come to discuss the process of tax increment financing.
- President Tracey Johnson briefly reviewed the topics discussed at the recent monthly meeting involving herself, Superintendent Davis and Association Presidents.
- Assignments were made in order to have Board member representation with school community councils. Each board member is assigned two schools as follows:
  - Tracey Johnson: Emery High School & Cottonwood Elementary School
  - Marie Johnson: Canyon View Middle School & Cleveland Elementary School
  - Kenzi Guymon: San Rafael Middle School & Ferron Elementary School
  - Royd Hatt: Green River High School & Book Cliff Elementary School
  - Jessy Johansen: Castle Dale Elementary School & Huntington Elementary School
- It was acknowledged that community concern over the District's hiring policy have been expressed and will be discussed further during the public comments portion of the agenda.
- Brief reports were given by board members of topics and sessions attended at the recent USBA Conference.
- Director of Student Services Ryan Maughan gave a presentation on the new school accountability system, indicating that it is an improvement. It is based on proficiency, general growth of students, and growth of students who previously had scored in the bottom 25%. It does not assign a letter grade to schools. He reviewed the scores for District schools. Board members asked some clarifying questions.

**Regular Meeting:** At 7:00 pm, President Johnson called the regular meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board Action Item (D1):** Emery High School student Connor Cramer was invited to share with the Board his interest in serving as a student school board representative. He explained that he would be able to provide inside awareness of issues that impact students. He wants to make a difference in the community and also feels this would be a great opportunity to gain knowledge and leadership experience. Board President Johnson then made a motion to add Connor as student board representative. Member Hatt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Black administered the Oath of Office to Connor after which he was congratulated and officially joined the Board as a student representative.

**Board Action Item (D2):** Board members considered the warrants, minutes of the January 2019 meeting, and financial reports for January 2019. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (D3):** Superintendent Davis recommended to the Board that the following individuals be approved for the positions indicated:

- Carter Robinson                      Educational Assistant, Resource & YIC                      Emery High School / District
- Courtney Cox                              Maintenance Worker    Emery School District

Tracey Johnson motioned to approve the hiring recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Kenzi Guymon and passed unanimously. All hiring approvals are subject to the completion and review of a background check.

**Board Action Item (D4):** A policy revision was presented for District Policy KB—Parent and Family Engagement. Mr. Maughan explained that the revision would combine two current parent engagement policies into one and includes updated language to meet Title I requirements. Vice-President Johnson made a motion to approve the policy revision as presented and explained. Member Johansen seconded the motion and all board members voted in favor of the motion.

**Board Action Item (D5):** A proposed Landtrust amendment from Book Cliff Elementary School was presented for Board approval. Mr. Black explained that the amendment would eliminate previously approved incentives and instead allow for the purchase of student take-home kits for art, math and science. Marie Johnson asked if there is a process to check up on how these kits are being used in the homes. Superintendent Davis responded that the administration and teachers at Book Cliff Elementary do a good job of checking in with the students. Marie Johnson then motioned to approve the amendment as presented. Member Hatt seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Board Action Item (D6):** Mr. Black discussed proposed water lease arrangements and recommended that these arrangements be approved on the same terms as the previous year. He also mentioned that the number of shares held with the Cottonwood Creek Irrigation Company is 24.45, instead of the 16.24 shares previously listed. A motion was made by President Johnson to renew all water share lease agreements for the 2019 season. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

**Report Item (E1):** Principal Garth Johnson expressed his thanks for the many caring, supportive employees working at Huntington Elementary, all of whom are dedicated to students. He also thanked the volunteers who come in regularly to help students. He mentioned that the school has implemented a character education program called Me to We that teaches character building tools and incentivizes students to do good things throughout the school year. Students from Huntington Elementary recently participated in the First Lego League competition and performed well. Mr. Johnson emphasized that teachers are doing great things in their classrooms. He discussed the prevalence of social and emotional challenges students are facing, adding that our elementary counselor, Ashley Jensen is a tremendous resource. He then stated how grateful he is for the support he feels from the Board and District. President Johnson thanked Principal Johnson for his report.

**Report Item (E2):** Superintendent Davis reported that he recently spent a day at Huntington Elementary and it was a wonderful experience. He thanked Principal Johnson and his faculty & staff for what they are doing. He saw that the students were engaged and having fun learning. Member Marie Johnson added that the environment at Huntington Elementary is welcoming and supportive. She voiced her appreciation for how Principal Johnson helps kids to feel cared about.

Mr. Davis announced the winners of the recent District spelling bee: Jexton Woodhouse (Canyon View), Jaxon Durrant (Huntington Elementary), and Brindlee Stevens (San Rafael). Jed Jensen then discussed the recent accreditation approval for the automotive program at EHS. Mr. Davis provided an update on the Coal Country strike team that is working to develop a “Silicon Slopes East” area in Carbon/Emery counties. The grant developed by the strike team is now a finalist for a major grant award.

Superintendent Davis provided a brief update on the current legislative session. House Bill (HB) 118 is a bill that provides grading incentives for statewide assessment performance. He also reviewed HB198—Education Accountability Amendment, that removes the requirement to use a letter grade when assigning a school an overall rating.

Mr. Davis indicated that the Juvenile Justice committee has been meeting and discussing a Truancy Tiered Intervention Program (TTIP). He provided a handout explaining this program. The committee is working to adjust local procedures in order to comply with legislative amendments. The Technology committee will meet on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The CTE committee will be working on strengthening pathways & community partnerships.

**Public Comments (F):** Jeff Winget asked if the student testing & grading incentives bill has the potential to be damaging to the District. Superintendent Davis indicated that it probably works both ways, so the potential is there for it to be both beneficial and damaging.

Brad Giles expressed his opinion that the current District hiring policy discourages hiring people who do not currently reside in Emery County. He asked if the Board would consider amending or changing the policy to align it with the ideals of fairness and putting students first in all decisions. President Johnson thanked Mr. Giles for his comments and indicated that this will be a discussion item in the next work session.

No other public comments were given.

**Closed Meeting (G):** At 7:50 pm., a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson 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:

- Tracey Johnson           Aye
- Marie Johnson           Aye
- Kenzi Guymon           Aye
- Royd Hatt                Aye
- Jessy Johansen         Aye

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

I, Tracey Johnson, 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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Tracey Johnson, Board President

The closed meeting was held in the faculty room at Huntington Elementary School on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, beginning at 8:00 pm. In attendance were the five school board members, Superintendent Davis, and Mr. Black. The closed meeting finished at 8:50 pm.

**Adjournment (H):** Upon reconvening to the regular meeting, a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Kenzi Guymon to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.