

The March 4, 2020 meeting of the Board of Education, held at Castle Dale Elementary School, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Board President Tracey Johnson. Vice-President Marie Johnson and members Kenzi Guymon, Royd Hatt, and Jessy Johansen were also present. Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black were in attendance.

Work Session (A)

- Stuart Clason and Emily Skill, representing the Utah Association of Counties and Enyo Energy respectively, provided an overview of the proposed Castle Solar Project. Mr. Clason mentioned that the school board now has representation on the county redevelopment committee. Board member Jessy Johansen is the representative serving on that committee. Some concerns regarding the Castle Solar project were discussed. These concerns are primarily related to how the project would affect neighboring residential property owners.

Board members requested information to substantiate the requested 40% incentive. They also requested that Ms. Skill provide an update on efforts to resolve the residential property concerns. Mr. Clason indicated that he and Ms. Skill will work on providing this information and that they hope to be able to execute another interlocal agreement with the school board for this project.

- President Johnson mentioned that USBA has a hiring announcement template that could be used for the pending business administrator opening. She will work with USBA to get the announcement put together. She asked Superintendent Davis if he would provide some photos. A hiring timeline was also established.
- Mr. Black shared that the developer of the Hunter solar project is interested in providing a donation to the school district. This interest was expressed via the county commission. Preliminary discussions have been held regarding how this donation could best be used. Robotics is one program where this donation could be used to benefit students throughout the District. Commissioner Wilson will be visiting with the donor about this idea.

Regular Session (B)

At 7:05 pm, President Johnson welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation & Public Comments (C1): Mr. Black gave an overview of the proposed fee schedule for the 2020-21 school year. He explained that the proposed schedule has been developed through input from our secondary schools. It is substantially different from previous years, particularly because it eliminates curricular fees. Questions were asked by those in attendance. Members of the school board and Mr. Black responded to these questions. Another opportunity for public comment will be given in the April 1st board meeting. Mr. Black mentioned that he will be meeting with coaches and advisors prior to the April 1st meeting to make sure the proposed fee schedule takes their input into account.

Board Action Item (D1): Members of the Board considered the warrants, minutes for the February 2020 Board meetings and financial reports for February 2020. It was recommended that the approved minutes for February 2020 include that Vice-President Johnson abstained from voting on the motion to approve the January 2020 minutes. A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Kenzi Guymon to approve the warrants, minutes, and financial reports, including the aforementioned addition. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

- Ferd Allred Head Volleyball Coach Emery High School
- Maegan Butterfield Head Cheer Advisor Emery High School
- Brittny Hoffman Assistant Cheer Advisor Emery High School
- Kara Smith Assistant Cheer Advisor Emery High School
- Collette McElprang Assistant Cheer Advisor Emery High School

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

Board Action Item (C3): CBA—Qualifications and Duties of the Superintendent: A revision to this policy was proposed in order to align qualifications with current state guidelines. A motion was made by Marie Johnson to approve the amended policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (C4): Mr. Black discussed proposed water lease arrangements and recommended that these arrangements be approved on the same terms as the previous year. A motion was made by Kenzi Guymon to renew all water share lease agreements for the 2020 season. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

Principal’s Report (E1): Principal Melinda Durrant welcomed all to Castle Dale Elementary. She reported that the school this year has added a focus on social & emotional learning. The Paths program is used to provide in-class lessons and the outcome has been very positive. She added that, anecdotally, fewer instances of student emotional challenges have occurred this year. She expressed appreciation for being able to have elementary counselor Ashley Jensen at her school more frequently this year. This has made a huge difference in the number of students who can be served. Ms. Jensen does both group work & classroom presentations to assist faculty and students.

Principal Durrant mentioned that the Lexia Reading program is being used successfully for K-3 reading. She has noticed that teachers are incorporating STEM activities more frequently in the classroom. The school upper grade robotics team qualified for the state competition. Castle Dale Elementary held its first reunification drill last fall and it was very successful. Schools are sharing best practices and learning from each other as these drills occur throughout the year. Ms. Durrant added that the Castle Dale faculty is glad to play a part in advancing professional learning communities in our district and believe deeply in the PLC philosophy. Two teachers were able to attend the Solution Tree conference in SLC this last fall and returned with great ideas for the school.

Many activities and events are always happening at Castle Dale Elementary. Recently, the checkers, chess, and speed stacking competitions were popular and successful. Student Luke Jensen qualified for state geography bee. End of term celebrations are held for students who meet reading goals. The Repertory Dance Theater has come to the school several times this year as part of grant funding they received to provide arts education in rural areas.

Castle Dale Elementary recently completed a successful Kindergarten registration with 27 student registrations to this point. Principal Durrant mentioned her appreciation for how the faculty & staff have worked together this year to meet the needs of students. She also expressed her gratitude for the hard work & efforts of teachers, staff, and parents, adding that it takes a team effort for students to be successful. President Johnson thanked Principal Durrant for her report.

Superintendent's Report (E2): Superintendent Davis recently attended the region spelling bee. Our district had the 2nd place finisher, Landon Byers from Ferron Elementary. He added that Green River hosted the bee and did a great job. He also gave a brief staffing update. Emery High has a current opening for a language arts teacher and multiple coaching positions open.

Mr. Davis has been participating in the legislative session that is winding down this week and next. He noted that significant bills related to overall school funding have not yet been discussed. He highlighted a few bills relevant to our school district:

- HB58 implements rules related to e-cigarettes and vaping. The district has already made amendments in our policy. This bill would also require classroom instruction on the harmful effects of vaping, which presumably would be taken care of in health classes.
- HB84 doubles the fine for traffic violations in the vicinity of stopped school buses. This bill has passed.
- HB141 would add social workers to the list of approved assignments for the teacher salary supplement program.
- The bill failed that would have removed a graduation requirement for passing a civics exam, so this exam will still be a graduation requirement.
- HB171 criminalizes any threat made against a school. It is still in review.
- SB119 would remove the requirement for assigning grades to schools. It easily made it through House but isn't finding traction in the Senate.
- HB384 includes language that would keep in place our ability to refer students to juvenile court for truancy issues.
- A bill is being discussed that would change that status of our regional service centers to agencies. This would give the service centers ongoing funding.

Mr. Davis reported that kindergarten registration has been finalized for the upcoming school year. He then shared a brief enrollment update. Current projections show a loss of only 3 students from this year to next year. Administrators will continue to work on providing accurate enrollment projections for the upcoming staffing decisions that will need to be made.

Superintendent Davis reported good progress on the cooperative effort with Emery County libraries to apply for a grant that will provide 36 Chromebooks to our county libraries. The Chromebooks will be installed with programs our students need so they can complete homework during evening hours. The libraries will also be adjusting hours to provide students more access in the evenings.

Mr. Davis mentioned that discussions are being held regarding emergency drills and what is appropriate at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In particular, it is generally agreed that we should not hold elementary level drills that simulate death or serious injury. He will discuss this with Principals and develop a guidance document for school administrators. He also outlined steps being taken preventatively related to the current coronavirus outbreak. He has been in contact with our school nurse and will be working with the health department to develop protocol in the event there is a need to shut down schools.

Superintendent Davis reported that the district technology committee finalized the first draft of the application for the next 5-year grant cycle. The juvenile justice committee recently discussed hope squad, a suicide prevention & support group involving students & adult supervisors. He requested a board representative for the district sex education committee. Members Guymon and Johansen agreed to serve on that committee. President Johnson thanked Superintendent Davis for his reports and for always keeping board members informed of important matters.

Public Comments (F): Darline DeBry mentioned that a neighboring school district offers teachers a financial incentivize for submitting letters of resignation/retirement by March 1st. She offered this as a suggestion to help with the challenge of staffing decisions we face each year.

Closed Meeting (G): At 8:45 pm., a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Jessy Johansen to move to a closed meeting for 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.

Tracey Johnson

The closed meeting was held in the faculty room at Castle Dale Elementary School on Wednesday, March 4th, 2020, beginning at 8:55 pm. All board members were in attendance, as were Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black. The closed meeting finished at 9:45 pm.

Adjournment (H): A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Jessy Johansen to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.