

Minutes of the Board of Education
Emery County School District
May 5, 2004
Castle Dale Elementary School, Castle Dale, Utah

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Members present were Laurel Johansen, Rue Ware, Marie Johnson and Sam Singleton. Also present were Superintendent Kirk Sitterud, and Ross Huntington, Business Administrator/Clerk.

The Emery Education Association was represented by Carol Ediger. Utah School Employees Association was represented by Kayce Fluckey and Brian Christensen.

Board President, Laurel Johansen welcomed all those present to the meeting. A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the warrants and the monthly financial report as presented and the minutes with one minor correction; paragraph four, line one, change the work “quests” to “guests”. The motion passed unanimously.

Chad Harris, Associate Executive Director for the Utah School Boards Association gave a brief presentation to the Board. Mr. Harris explained the services available to the District through the association.

D. Kent Mitchie and Alex Buxton from Zions First National Bank explained the notice of sale of bonds to be issued and a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$1,510,000, series 2004, of general obligation school building bonds. A resolution was then introduced in writing, fully discussed and pursuant to a motion made by Board Member Rue Ware and seconded by Board Member Sam Singleton was adopted by unanimous vote.

Ralph Worthen, Principal at Castle Dale Elementary School was next on the agenda. On behalf of the faculty and staff, Mr. Worthen expressed appreciation to the Board and the District office for their support. In giving his presentation, Mr. Worthen demonstrated audio enhancement equipment currently in use in several of the schools. The equipment is designed to assist classroom instruction by enhancing the user’s voice thereby reducing the vocal strain commonly associated with teaching. Mr. Worthen explained about the various efforts to improve reading and literacy skills at his school. He also told the Board about school efforts to emphasize good eating habits as well as exercise.

Gwen Callahan, Principal at Emery High School, was welcomed to the meeting. Mrs. Callahan requested permission to do some landscaping near the new tennis courts and softball practice field. After listening to her proposal and discussing it briefly, the Board asked her to gather additional cost information and then return at a later date.

Neal Peacock, Mayor of Castle Dale City, was next on the agenda. Mr. Peacock asked the Board to consider the possibility of participating with Castle Dale City and other governmental

agencies in the construction of a new swimming pool. He stated this was not a formal request at this time and that he was just laying the ground work for the future.

A resolution providing for the Board to authorize a Board Voted Leeway tax rate of 0.000065 for the purpose of addressing the K-3 Reading Achievement Program was unanimously approved following a motion by Marie Johnson and a second by Sam Singleton. Board Members noted that the 0.000065 tax rate will be transferred from the Capital Outlay tax rate resulting in no tax increase to the taxpayers.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the Board approve the letter of resignation from Alicia Whitesel, a Special Education/ PE teacher at San Rafael Jr. High School effective at the end of the school year. A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Marie Johnson to accept Mrs. Whitesel's resignation. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended Stephanie Roper be approved as the Title One Coordinator/Teacher to replace Wendy Hodson who is retiring at the end of the school year and that Eldon Carbine be approved as the new band teacher at San Rafael Jr. High School. Mr. Carbine will begin approximately June 1 with summer band. A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

The Superintendent recommended the Board grant permission for two students from San Rafael Jr. High School, Ashlin White and Brittanie Clarke, to attend the National Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Convention in Chicago from July 9th-16th. He also recommended that six peer helper students from Emery High School be granted permission to attend their National Pride Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, from April 5th-9th, 2005. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve both recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

All schools having submitted their School Trustland plans and those plans having been reviewed by the Superintendent and the Board, a motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the plans as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud informed the Board about the Science and Math Core Academy training for elementary teachers which will be July 28th-30th. Sixty-six out of sixty-seven teachers have registered this year, the highest percentage in the state. We also have 20 para-professionals registered. Emery is the only district in the state to train para-professionals at the Core Academy.

The Superintendent informed the Board that Charles Durrant, who has been serving in Iraq had recently returned home. Welcome home Charles!

A letter from Emery Telcom was reviewed by the Board. The letter detailed the Crystal

Apple/Southeastern Utah Teacher of the Year awards ceremony to be held at the College of Eastern Utah on May 15th. This new award, sponsored by Emery Telcom, recognizes teachers who demonstrate dedication, innovation and excellence in teaching. This years nominations from the Emery School District are Jessica Jenkins, Green River High School, Jody Carter, Book Cliff Elementary, Madelei Thompson, Ferron Elementary, Lori Labrum, Cottonwood Elementary, Diane Carter, Emery High, and Jerel Lofley, Cleveland Elementary. The winner will receive the Crystal Apple Award and \$500 to be used in the classroom and will be nominated by Emery Telcom for the “2005 Rural Teacher-of-the-Year Award”.

A request for Family Medical Leave from Alicia Whitesel was presented to the Board. Mrs. Whitesel will soon be having a baby and wishes to start her leave on May 6th. A motion to approve the request was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Laurel Johansen. The motion passed unanimously.

The following vehicles were declared surplus and the business administrator authorized to dispose of them by unanimous vote after a motion by Rue Ware and a second by Sam Singleton:
Unit #902, 1990, Bluebird bus; Unit # D34, 1991 Chevrolet Sedan; Unit #D37, 1991 Chevrolet Sedan; Unit #D40, 1992, Chevrolet Sedan; Unit #D43, 1994 Chevrolet Sedan; and Unit #38, 1992 GMC Van.

A letter of apology from a former teacher, Mr. Kenneth Gee, was presented to the Board and read aloud in open meeting. A part of Mr. Gee’s sentence for having filed a false insurance claim with the District was to write a letter of apology to the Board. It was noted that Mr. Gee has made full restitution to the District.

A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel issues and possible litigation. The motion carried.

Upon reconvening from executive session Superintendent Sitterud recommended that the Board accept the resignation and leave of absence request of Wade Peacock, teacher at San Rafael Jr. High School. Mr. Peacock’s resignation would become effective at the end of the school year. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Rue Ware to accept Mr. Peacock’s resignation. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud also asked the Board to allow himself to begin participation in the State Retirement System and continue employment with the District under the exemption for appointed officials with a voluntary salary reduction of \$13,000 annually effective July 1, 2004. As a part of his request he also asked the Board to delay participation in the Early Retirement Program until his final termination of employment with the school district. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Rue Ware to approve the Superintendent’s request. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was then made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Laurel Johansen to adjourn. The

motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM..