

Minutes of the Board of Education
Emery County School District
September 1, 2004
Emery High School, Castle Dale, Utah

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Board President, Laurel Johansen. Other Board Members present were Rue Ware, Sam Singleton, Royd Hatt and Marie Johnson. Also present was Superintendent Kirk Sitterud and the Business Administrator, Ross Huntington.

Jed Jensen, Elementary Supervisor; J.J. Grant, Secondary Supervisor; Roger Swenson, Transportation Director; and, Jon Crawford, Director of Student Services, were present as well. The press was represented by Sharee Jensen of the Emery County Progress. The Emery Education Association was represented by Carol Ediger. In addition, there were several concerned parents in attendance.

Laurel Johansen welcomed all those present to the meeting. A motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the warrants, minutes, and the August financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Gwen Callahan, Principal at Emery High School (EHS) was welcomed to the meeting. Mrs. Callahan was pleased to welcome two new members to the faculty at EHS, Lee Moss, who will be teaching Physics and Chemistry, and Kristy Guymon, who will be teaching Math. Mrs. Callahan reported that truancies are at an all time low and discipline issues are minimal. Enrollment is down this year to 517 from 545 last year. The decline has had a serious impact on funding for student activities due to the reduction in fees collected. Remediation classes for those who did not pass the UBSCT have been scheduled for the next four weeks. Overall, students in the Emery School District did very well on the test. The school has three improvement goals; improvement of writing, improvement of reading, and increase use of assessment data to drive curriculum.

Next item on the agenda was a discussion of the proposed Building Use and Rental Policy. Several people from the community asked questions and commented on the proposed policy. It was pointed out that the District is attempting to establish consistent rental and usage fees throughout the District. Following the discussion, the Board asked for written comments from anyone interested, and advised those present that they will study the matter further.

A motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the following people to serve on the Safety Committee:

Carol Ediger
Neal Peacock
Jed Jensen
J.J. Grant
Sam Singleton
Jolene Stevens

Kerry Lake
Roma Brotherson
Ross Huntington
Larry Davis
Kerry Olson
Roger Swenson

The motion passed unanimously.

Roger Swenson, Transportation Director recommended the Board approve the following people be hired as substitute bus drivers in the Green River area; Trent Fluckey, Kent Nelson, and Eugene Swalberg. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the recommendation providing they meet all the necessary qualifications. The motion passed unanimously.

Following a brief discussion on the matter, a motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Marie Johnson to declare Lot #16 of the Castle Heights Subdivision in Castle Dale as surplus, sale it to the Utah Housing Finance Agency, and authorize the Business Administrator to sign all the necessary documents to complete the sale. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the following people be approved for hire with the District: Brandi Yates, half day art teacher at San Rafael Jr. High School; Sherrie McMullin, Speech and Hearing Education Assistant (6 hours per day) at Huntington Elementary; and Pat Brady, Cross Country Coach at Green River High School. A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the Board approve District participation in a Student Health and Risk Prevention Survey sponsored by the Utah State Office of Education, the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Following a brief explanation from the Superintendent, a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Rue Ware to approve a revision in policy JECA (Admission to School, Resident – Non-Resident). The word “custodial” was added in front of the word “parent”. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-action items relayed to the Board by the Superintendent was a report on opening institute, the first-day-of-school enrollment figures (2345), a reminder that Legislator’s “Back-To-School Week” is September 20-24. The Superintendent reported that we are working with both Utah State University and Southern Utah University to get proposals to offer a Reading Endorsement program in our District. The District is focusing on several training programs this year such as; Essential Elements of Instruction/mastery Teaching, Clinical Supervision, “Walk’bout” Supervision, Reading First, Science Core Training, “Classroom Instruction that Works”, and Using Data to Drive Instruction.

Under “Other Items”, requests for Family Medical Leave from Laura Barnett and from Verna Higbee were considered and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by Sam Singleton and a second by Laurel Johansen

A motion was then made by Rue Ware and seconded by Marie Johnson to adjourn to executive session to discuss possible litigation and personnel items.

Upon reconvening to general session, a joint motion and second by all Board Members to deny a request for placement of a non-resident student received a unanimous vote.

Based on the recommendation of the Transportation Director, the Superintendent, and Utah State Division of Risk Management, a motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Sam Singleton to deny a parental request for a morning and afternoon bus stop i.e.; AM Route #021, Stop #28; PM Route #421, Stop #8. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time a motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Rue Ware to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:30PM.