

Minutes of the Board of Education  
Emery County School District  
April 4, 2007  
Cottonwood Elementary School, Orangeville, Utah

The April 2007 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Laurel Johansen, who led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Other Board members present were Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson, and Sam Singleton. Board member Rue Ware was absent. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud was present as was Business Administrator Jared Black.

Others attending the meeting included J.J. Grant—District Secondary Supervisor, Jed Jensen—District Elementary Supervisor, Dennis Jones—Principal of Cottonwood Elementary School, and Leroy Maxfield—District Director of Maintenance. Randy Winn represented the Emery Education Association. Leedan Johnson was also in attendance. The press was represented by Patsy Stoddard.

The meeting began with Board action items, the first of which was to consider the warrants, minutes for the March 2007 Board meeting, and monthly financial reports for March 2007. After consideration, a motion was made by Marie Johnson to approve the minutes, as well as the warrants and the March financial reports. The motion was seconded by Sam Singleton. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Grant updated the Board on the status of the swimming pool project that Emery County is pursuing. Mr. Grant represents the School District as a member of the pool project committee and presented to the Board updated drawings of the facility. Superintendent Sitterud mentioned that formal agreements were not yet available for the Board to sign, but that the commitment of the School District will be that of donating land for the project, as well as paying up to \$86,000 for costs related to the construction of the parking lot. As no agreements were available for approval, Royd Hatt motioned to table this item until the May meeting. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next action item was personnel actions. Superintendent Sitterud recommended that Vee Guymon be promoted to the position of Child Nutrition Manager at Huntington Elementary School, and that Terri Bolotas be reassigned from her current 3 hour CNP worker position to a 6.5 hour CNP worker position, with her time being spread between San Rafael Junior High and Ferron School. Both employees would begin their new assignments at the start of the next school year. Marie Johnson moved to approve the recommendations, seconded by Sam Singleton. The motion passed unanimously.

Business Administrator Black presented to the Board combined bids for summer asbestos abatement projects of approximately 14,460 square feet at Green River High School and Book Cliff Elementary School. After consideration of each bid, Marie Johnson moved to approve the bid of \$32,780 from Fresh Air Environmental of Murray, UT. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Other bids submitted were from Thermal West Industrial (\$37,500), Rocmont Industrial (\$44,000), and Eagle Environmental (\$49,094). These projects will complete asbestos abatement at the two schools.

Mr. Black next explained to the Board that the School District has been issued a judgment of \$24,940, meaning that the District has to refund this amount of previously paid taxes to Canyon Fuel. Mr. Black explained that that the District has two options: 1) pay the amount from the current year budget, or 2) recover the amount by issuing a judgment levy, then pay the amount (plus interest) to Canyon Fuel in December, when the District would receive taxes from the levy. Marie Johnson motioned to approve the issuing of a judgment levy for the amount of \$26,234. This amount would cover the judgment, plus daily interest until December 15, 2007. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

The final action item was the appointment of negotiation team members for the next school year. Based on a unanimous vote, following a motion by Sam Singleton and a second by Marie Johnson, J.J. Grant was appointed Chairperson of the District negotiating team for certified personnel with Royd Hatt, Sam Singleton, and Jared Black as team members. Jed Jensen is to chair the classified negotiating team with Marie Johnson, Laurel Johansen, and Jared Black as team members.

Principal Dennis Jones of Cottonwood Elementary presented his State of the School address to the Board of Education. Principal Jones emphasized that school improvement is an ongoing emphasis at Cottonwood Elementary School. The teachers at the school are constantly receiving training in math, reading, and other programs, resulting in improved instruction. Principal Jones is proud that his staff is so experienced (having from 20 to 34 years of teaching experience), yet they all remain engaged in continual learning and self improvement.

Principal Jones expressed thanks to the local PTO, which has been very supportive of the school and serves an important role in Cottonwood's school home connection. The PTO is conducting a reading at home program which rewards students each quarter who meet goals for reading a certain number of minutes each week. The school has been upgrading its technology by adding smart boards to instructional classrooms. Principal Jones commended the quarterly student action teams which help organize assemblies and provide assistance to teachers. The school is also introducing a bullying prevention program called "Don't Laugh at Me." Board President Johansen thanked Principal Jones for his address and for his dedication to the students and faculty at Cottonwood Elementary School. She also expressed how impressed she is that the experienced teachers at the school are still active in training and improvement efforts.

Superintendent Sitterud reported to the Board on various informational items. The District has received recognition from the Utah Highway Patrol for outstanding performance in school bus maintenance for 2006. He expressed congratulations to the entire Transportation Department, with special credit to mechanic Courtney Guymon. The Superintendent then reported that the School District will receive \$57,733 in funding next year for Extended-Day Kindergarten programs. The funding will only fully fund one school, with priority going to schools with the highest percentage of students on free lunch. This priority may be flexible and the Superintendent will receive more information in coming weeks, at which time the District will determine which school(s) receive Extended-Day Kindergarten programs next year.

Mr. Sitterud then presented to the Board updated enrollment projection numbers. The anticipated District-wide enrollment for the 2007-08 school year is 2252 students. He then explained to the Board that he has received a request from the Senior class at Emery High School to hold commencement exercises in the auditorium instead of in the Spartan Center. The Superintendent feels that the request is reasonable and he will be notifying the Senior class that commencement can be held in the auditorium.

Business Administrator Black presented updated Open & Public Meetings Act information to the Board. He also congratulated former Business Administrator Ross Huntington as well as current business employees Jackie Allred and Kerri Allred for recently receiving awards from the State Office of Education for the Financial and Statistical reporting of the 2005-06 school year. Less than five School Districts in the State received both awards, which require timeliness, completeness, and accuracy.

At 7:58 p.m., a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to adjourn to closed meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon reconvening to general session, a motion was made by Laurel Johansen and seconded by Marie Johnson to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.