

Minutes of the Board of Education
Emery County School District
October 3, 2007
Castle Dale Elementary School, Castle Dale, Utah

The October 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. Other Board members present were Vice-President Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson, Sam Singleton, and Rue Ware. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud was present as was Business Administrator Jared Black.

Also attending the meeting were J.J. Grant—District Secondary Supervisor, Jed Jensen—District Elementary Supervisor, Jon Crawford—District Director of Student Services, LeRoy Maxfield—District Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, and Ralph Worthen—Principal at Castle Dale Elementary School. Kim Player represented the Emery Education Association. Doug Johnson—District Technology Technician, attended with his son Hayden. The press was not represented.

Action Item #1: After the Pledge of Allegiance, members of the Board reviewed the warrants, minutes for the September 2007 Board meeting, and monthly financial reports for September 2007. Following this consideration, a motion was made by Sam Singleton to approve the minutes as well as the warrants and the September financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

Action Item #2: The next item was a request from the Emery High School FFA program to attend the National FFA Convention which will be held in Indianapolis at the end of October. Mr. Sitterud explained that the request involves one teacher and four students, and that they would be traveling with other FFA programs from Utah. Rue Ware made a motion to approve the travel request. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Action Item #3: Superintendent Sitterud next recommended that the following persons be approved for hire, with their employment beginning on the dates indicated:

<i>Julie Barnett:</i>	<i>Educ. Asst, Special Ed, 4 hr.</i>	<i>Sept. 18</i>	<i>Emery High</i>
<i>Connie Shelledy:</i>	<i>Educ. Asst / Substitute Bus Driver</i>	<i>Sept. 27</i>	<i>Castle Valley Center Bus</i>
<i>Aaron Pittman:</i>	<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Oct. 15</i>	<i>Book Cliff / Green River High</i>
<i>Susan Dorsch:</i>	<i>CNP Manager</i>	<i>Oct. 2</i>	<i>Cottonwood / Castle Dale Elem.</i>
<i>Ashley Stansfield:</i>	<i>Substitute Bus Driver</i>	<i>Oct. 9</i>	
<i>Mika Payne:</i>	<i>CNP Worker, 2 hr.</i>	<i>Oct. 3</i>	<i>Emery High</i>

After consideration, a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve all hiring recommendations as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sitterud presented a letter of retirement from Pauline Stilson, recommending that the Board accept Mrs. Stilson's retirement, effective September 20th. Mrs. Stilson has been the CNP Manager at Cottonwood and Castle Dale Elementary Schools and has accepted a position with the Emery County Sheriff's Office. Royd Hatt made a motion to accept Mrs. Stilson's letter of retirement. Sam Singleton seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Action Item #4: Superintendent Sitterud next presented the following policy revisions to the Board:

 DLD:	Employee Travel Reimbursement / Procedures
 GCBDC/GDBDC:	Staff Longevity Benefit
 GCBD/GDBD:	Staff Fringe Benefits

Mr. Sitterud asked Mr. Black to review the policy revisions. Mr. Black explained that the travel policy was revised to make it more concise and in-line with current practices. The revision also defines required pre-approvals and updates the reimbursement rates for mileage, lodging and meals. The longevity policy includes revisions that more clearly define an eligible year of service under the policy. Mr. Black mentioned that as his staff began to implement the longevity benefit, they recognized a need to more clearly define a year of service. Lastly, the fringe benefits policy was revised to differentiate between those benefits which are offered to full-time employees and those which are offered to part-time employees. Language was also added to clarify the medical premium that the District will pay.

Following these comments and questions from Board members, Sam Singleton made a motion to approve the revised policies as presented. Marie Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. This concluded the action items portion of the agenda.

Reports Item # 1: Next, Jon Crawford was invited to make a presentation to the Board on ParentLink, a new parent notification program that the District is implementing. Mr. Crawford explained that through ParentLink, administrators can send a message to any number of parents within just a few minutes. Administrators create the message, then send it through phone calls, emails, or both. The system will also allow schools to notify parents about absences. Mr. Worthen mentioned that his experience with ParentLink thus far has been very positive.

Reports Item # 2: President Johansen then invited Principal Worthen to report to the Board. Mr. Worthen first thanked the School Board for their support. Castle Dale Elementary has two new teachers this year, and Mr. Worthen reported that both are doing well. He also congratulated Tanie Worthen on being named a finalist for the State Teacher of the Year award. Mr. Worthen starts out each day by sharing “Words of Wisdom” with his staff and students. Teachers then have a short discussion with their students about the daily message.

Principal Worthen mentioned that all of his classrooms now have a Smartboard and an audio enhancement system. These technologies have improved learning opportunities for students. Mr. Worthen also commented on how supportive the local PTA has been. The PTA has sponsored several programs, including Reading Incentives, Reflections, Parents & Pastries, and Better Things to do than Drugs. Castle Dale Elementary is in its 5th and final year as a Gold Medal school. The National Walk to School day saw a 98% participation rate from students. President Johansen expressed appreciation to Principal Worthen for the tone of cooperation and learning that is evident throughout Castle Dale Elementary. Other Board members also thanked Mr. Worthen for his efforts as Principal.

Reports Item # 3: Superintendent Sitterud reported that two schools did not make AYP, only because each missed just one out of forty-five components. Overall, he is pleased with the AYP results. He also informed the Board that the October 1st enrollment number came in at 2255. Board members were reminded of the USBA regional meeting on October 11th at the Carbon District office and of the Children’s Justice Center meeting which will be held on October 17th at 1 pm at the DCFS office in Castle Dale.

Reports Item # 4: Business Administrator Black reported that the financial audit had gone well.

LeRoy Maxfield mentioned that the Green River gymnasium is now complete.

At 7:50 p.m., a motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Sam Singleton to adjourn to closed meeting to discuss personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon reconvening to general session, a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sam Singleton to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.