

Minutes of the Board of Education
Emery County School District
March 5, 2008
Cottonwood Elementary School, Orangeville, Utah

The March 2008 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 Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson, Sam Singleton and Rue Ware. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

Action Item #1: After the Pledge of Allegiance, members of the Board of Education reviewed the consent agenda. A motion was made by Sam Singleton to approve the minutes and warrants as presented, and to table approval of the February 2008 financial reports until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Marie Johnson and passed by unanimous vote.

Action Item #2: The next agenda item was to present an employee recognition award to Kerry Lake from the Maintenance Department. President Johansen mentioned that Mr. Lake had been nominated for this award because of his outstanding knowledge and attitude, willingness to go the extra mile, honesty, integrity, and consistent ability to perform work at a high level. Superintendent Sitterud then expressed his appreciation to Mr. Lake for all that he does for the School District. Mrs. Johansen presented Mr. Lake with a plaque. Mr. Lake expressed his appreciation for the award, adding that he feels fortunate to be able to work for the School District. Members of the Board each expressed their congratulations and appreciation.

Action Item #3: Superintendent Sitterud recommended that the following person be approved for hire, beginning employment on March 10th:

Emily McArthur: Educational Assistant, Special Needs Student, 3 hr Huntington Elementary

A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Rue Ware to approve the hiring recommendation as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item #4: Superintendent Sitterud presented a request for unpaid leave on behalf of Heather Parsons, a Teacher at Green River High School. Mr. Sitterud explained that Mrs. Parsons is requesting unpaid leave from April 14th to May 19th for personal medical reasons. She does not qualify for Family Medical Leave. Board member Marie Johnson asked if a substitute was available and Mr. Sitterud responded that Principal Johnson is working on that, but that a substitute would be found. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the request as presented, with a continuation of benefits. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Reports Item # 1: Mayor Hilary Gordon and Councilman Jerry Livingston of Huntington City were present to report on recent discussions held about land owned by the Cattleman's Association that borders Canyon View Junior High School. Mayor Gordon explained that the Cattleman's Association indicated an interest in exchanging the property, but would not be interested in selling it. If the property can be acquired through a land exchange, a road could be put in that would allow a safer access to the school than what the current roads offer. Members of the Board of Education indicated that the School District would continue to work cooperatively with Huntington City and the Cattleman's Association.

Reports Item # 2: Principal Dennis Jones updated the Board on programs and progress at Cottonwood Elementary School. Citing several examples of improvement initiatives, Principal Jones emphasized that school improvement is an ongoing process at his school. Test scores are being used to allow teachers to develop individualized math and literacy plans. The Star Reading program enlists community volunteers to

provide specialized reading instruction to students. The PTO has been a great help to the school, assisting in a variety of ways.

This year, Cottonwood Elementary added lesson maps to the reading core curriculum. Teachers also receive continual training in reading instruction. The student action team works under the direction of Lorraine Frandsen. The students on this team are assigned a teacher and they help with any needs the teacher has. Mr. Jones thanked his faculty and staff for their dedication, noting that his teachers range from one year of experience to 35 years of experience, but all are engaged in learning and improvement.

Principal Jones thanked the Board for their continuing support of Cottonwood Elementary. Board President Johansen thanked Principal Jones for his report, noting his evident enthusiasm for school improvement. She also asked Mr. Jones to pass on the Board's appreciation to his faculty and staff.

Reports Item # 3: Superintendent Sitterud provided members of the Board with an updated summary of all education-related bills, than reported on several of the bills that had been passed or were still under consideration. Mr. Sitterud explained that Senate Bill 2 is an omnibus bill that combines several bills into one. It creates additional programs in a year when funding is most needed on the WPU. It also provides money to Districts that would be paid to educators based on a performance plan developed by each District. House Bill 332 was passed which requires all public school buildings to be made available as a civic center. The District can still charge rent and require liability insurance, so it shouldn't be a big change from the current practice. Senate Bill 48 may provide some capital equalization money to the District through the Capital Outlay Foundation program.

Reports Item # 4: Mr. Black had nothing further to report on.

Board President Johansen asked if there were any public comments. No comments were given.

At 8:00 pm, a motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Rue Ware to adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the purchase or exchange of real property. The motion passed unanimously. The Board of Education entered into the closed meeting at 8:05 pm.

Upon reconvening the regular meeting, a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.