

Emery County School District | Board of Education

The February 2009 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Cottonwood Elementary School, 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 Nanette Tanner. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud was present as was Business Administrator Jared Black.

President Johansen welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.



Board Action Item #1: Members of the Board first considered the warrants, minutes for the January 2009 Board meeting, and monthly financial reports for January 2009. A motion was made by Royd Hatt to approve the minutes, as well as the warrants and the January financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Sam Singleton. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item #2: Mr. Sitterud recommended to the Board that the following individual be approved for the position indicated, beginning employment on the day indicated:

Deanna Hansen: Preschool Assistant, 4-Days/wk, 3-Hr/day Cleveland Elementary February 3rd

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

Board Action Item #3: Superintendent Sitterud presented one policy revision and one new policy to the Board:

-  G CJ: Professional Staff Classifications (Revised)
-  K B A: Title One Parent Involvement (New)

Mr. Sitterud explained that the revision of G CJ adds a missing component dealing with employees who leave the District after three years of employment and then return. Upon return, they would be provisional for 1 year. Policy K B A is required by Title One and outlines how the District will involve parents of Title One school children. Sam Singleton made a motion to approve the policy revision and new policy as presented. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Action Item #4: Superintendent Sitterud explained that an adjustment is necessary for the 2010-11 District calendar so that the dates for Fall Break match the dates for the UEA convention. Fall Break needs to be changed to the 14th and 15th of October, 2010. Marie Johnson made a motion to approve this change in the District Calendar. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item #5: Mr. Black updated the Board on the status of water shares held by the School District, recommending that the Board approve the lease of water shares to municipalities in Emery County. The leases would be identical to those offered in past years, with the only change being that we have two water shares less to lease to Castle Dale City because the District donated these water shares for the building of the Children's Justice Center. A motion was made by Sam Singleton to renew all water share lease agreements for the 2009 season with the same arrangements that were made in the 2008 season. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed unanimously.

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Board Action Item #6: Mr. Black presented a proposal for the purchase of two school buses. He explained that the District received a state contract bid from Bryson's out of Centerville. The quote this year came in at \$100,694 per bus (\$201,392 total). Members of the Board reviewed the bid and asked questions to clarify aspects of the bid. Marie Johnson motioned to approve the purchase of two buses as presented. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Action Item #7: Mr. Black presented bids for the resurfacing of the running track at Emery High School. This project was approved by the Board last Spring as a Capital project. It has taken the District several months to get bids, and only two vendors submitted bids. LE Renner submitted bids for three different surfaces, the RSS-100 (\$113,500), the RSS-2000 (\$161,557), and the RSS-3000 (\$193,600). Mondo submitted a proposal estimating the cost of their surface—which is top-of-the-line—at \$500,000 plus ground work. Mr. Black met previously with Principal Davis and the track coaches at Emery High to discuss the options. Their recommendation is to resurface with the RSS-3000 option. This would provide a better long-term solution as it has an estimated life of 25-30 years. The top coat would have to be reapplied each 8-10 years at a cost of approximately \$50,000 in today's dollars. Mr. Black mentioned that it is important in the current budget climate that he explain that the funding for this project is budgeted from Capital monies, which by law are specific to facilities maintenance and upkeep, and cannot be used for salaries and benefits. This is the type of project these monies are intended to be used for. Nanette Tanner motioned to approve the bid for the RSS-3000 surface from LE Renner. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Reports Item #1: Board President Johansen presented an award plaque to member Royd Hatt for 20 years of service as a Board member. The award was originally presented to Mr. Hatt at the Utah School Boards Association convention in January and he was the only Board member in the State to receive the 20 year award this year. Other members of the Board congratulated Mr. Hatt on his years of service.

Reports Item #2: District Director of Technology Jon Crawford gave a demonstration of the new District website, which he has been working on over the last year.

Reports Item #3: Principal Dennis Jones welcomed the Board to Cottonwood Elementary School. He invited teacher Lori Labrum to give the Board members a SmartBoard demonstration, after which he reported on several good news items from Cottonwood Elementary. Citing several examples of improvement initiatives, Principal Jones emphasized that school improvement is an ongoing process at his school. The PTO has been a great help to the school, assisting in a variety of ways. The student action team gives many students the opportunity to be assigned a teacher and help with any needs the teacher has, including tutoring younger students. The faculty uses a new DIBELS board to track testing information and provide students better individual instruction, the "200" club rewards students for practicing good public actions and the School has a new motto.

Principal Jones thanked and recognized his faculty and staff as well as the Board of Education for their continued support of Cottonwood Elementary. Board President Johansen thanked Principal Jones for his report, noting his evident enthusiasm for school improvement.

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Reports Item #4: Superintendent Sitterud reported that due to recent Legislative actions, the District has lifted the freeze on purchasing, field trips, travel and teacher enhancement payments for the remainder of the school year. It is anticipated that the District will see a 2%-4% cut in funding the year, which can be covered by transferring qualifying M&O purchases to Capital Outlay and by using the Secure Rural Schools funding that we should receive shortly.

He explained that much of the funding for this year is one-time, meaning that the District will begin Fiscal Year 2010 with a larger deficit than just the 2%-4%. We will know more when revenue projections are received by the Legislature on February 17th and budget decisions are then made. Mr. Sitterud also reported that the performance compensation program has been cut by 75%, so only 25% of Districts will receive funding for this program and he does not know if Emery will be selected or not.

Reports Item #5: Mr. Black briefly reported that if the Federal Stimulus package is passed, the District is anticipating some revenue that can be used for building modernization, renovation and/or repairs. The funding does come with requirements and the District is currently preparing projects so that they will be ready to go if and when the funding arrives.

At 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sam Singleton to move to a closed meeting for a discussion of property and the character or competence of individuals. The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:00 p.m., upon reconvening to open meeting, a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.