

Emery County School District | Board of Education

The March 2009 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Huntington Elementary School, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Marie Johnson, Sam Singleton and Nanette Tanner. Vice-President Royd Hatt was absent. 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: Board President Johansen invited Lavar Jensen to address the Board. Mr. Jensen explained that he was speaking both as President of the Huntington LDS Stake and as a father of students who have been and are in high school. He mentioned that students are proven to be more successful if they are able to spend time with their families, especially mealtimes. He requested that the Board give a strong recommendation to schools in the County to have activities and practices end by 5 pm on Monday nights so that students have at least one night a week when they can be home in time for dinner. He also suggested that no homework be assigned on Monday night so that students do not have to spend their time on homework.

Member Marie Johnson mentioned that student achievement data does show the importance of students being able to eat meals with their families. She mentioned that several years ago, the Board gave a recommendation to schools to end activities early on Monday night, but that the recommendation has not been reiterated to schools since that time, something that should probably be done again now.

Superintendent Sitterud mentioned that the District is certainly in support of students having time with their families. The District cannot have a formal policy on this matter because of 1st Amendment rights, but a recommendation could be given. Members of the Board thanked Mr. Jensen for expressing his concerns.

Board Action Item #2: Members of the Board considered the warrants as well as the minutes for the February 2009 Board meeting. A motion was made by Marie Johnson to approve the warrants and minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sam Singleton. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item #3: Mr. Sitterud recommended to the Board that the following individuals be approved for the positions indicated, beginning employment on the day indicated:

<i>Marilyn Collard:</i>	<i>Swim Team Coach</i>	<i>Emery High</i>	<i>February 11th</i>
<i>Whitney Smuin:</i>	<i>Educational Assistant, 3-Hr</i>	<i>Book Cliff Elementary</i>	<i>February 23rd</i>

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

Board Action Item #4: Superintendent Sitterud explained that he had recently sent out a survey to assess the interest employees would have in a one-time early retirement incentive. Based on the feedback he received from the survey, his recommendation is to approve the early retirement incentive. If enough employees do not apply for it, the Board could still retain the right to rescind the offer. If approved by the Board, there would be a deadline of March 13th for employees to indicate their intent to participate.

Marie Johnson made a motion to approve a one-time early retirement incentive, with an option to rescind the program if enough employees do not apply. The incentive will be the equivalent of 18 months of COBRA health insurance, couple-coverage, at the 2008-09 rates, which is \$11,660. Nanette Tanner seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

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Board Action Item #5: Child Nutrition Program Director Jeneane Warren presented to the Board two new programs that she would like to start in the next few months. First would be a breakfast program at Green River High. It is the only school that does not currently have a breakfast program. The food would be prepared at Book Cliff Elementary, then transported to the high school. Second is a summer lunch program, which would be offered at Huntington Elementary, Ferron Elementary and Book Cliff Elementary. These three schools qualify for the program due to the percentage of students qualifying for free and/or reduced lunch rates.

Mrs. Warren explained that the State Office of Education and Utah's Against Hunger have both strongly suggested that she begin these programs. She presented the Board with a fiscal analysis of the summer lunch program, explaining that, based on the reimbursement rates and projected meals served, the overall nutrition program should break even and possibly gain some revenues from offering summer lunch. In addition, it is a service that will benefit many children in our communities. Sam Singleton motioned to approve the two programs presented by Mrs. Warren. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation: Board member Marie Johnson presented an employee recognition award to JanaKae Wall. Mrs. Wall was recognized for the motivation, professionalism and work ethic she has shown as a resource teacher at Huntington Elementary. She has introduced a new reading and spelling program into her classroom which has led to better performance from her students. She had a deep interest in her students' academic progress and always expects the best from each student. Members of the Board each congratulated Mrs. Wall on her award.

Reports Item #3: Superintendent Sitterud reported that he had received letters of intent to retire from four employees. He then reported on the current legislative session, highlighting some of the proposed legislation that would affect education in Emery County. The most current projection for a budget cut for next year is 6% to 8%, but much of the funding that would make that possible is one-time funding. Emery School District will be facing both a budget reduction and declining enrollment, which creates additional budgeting challenges. He then discussed three pieces of legislation dealing with property taxes, teacher licensing and school parent groups.

Reports Item #5: Mr. Black briefly reported on the progress of the facilities assessment the District will be going through. Bids will go out this summer, but in the meantime, he will be putting together a facilities committee that will include both employees and County citizens. This committee will be involved in all aspects of developing a master plan for our buildings.

At 7:55 p.m., a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Nanette Tanner to move to a closed meeting for a discussion of property owned by the School District. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:35 p.m., upon reconvening to open meeting, a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.