

Emery County School District | Board of Education

The February 2014 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Emery High School, was called to order at 7:00 PM 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 also present as was Business Administrator Jared Black.

WORKING SESSION

Discussion on Ninth Grade Activities: Superintendent Sitterud, along with Gwen Callahan and Principals Larry Davis, Jim Jones and Doug Mecham, summarized the many discussions held recently in response to the decision by the Carbon School District Board of Education to move 9th grade students to Carbon High School. Many rumors have been circulating about how Emery School District would respond and a discussion needed to be held to clarify the position of the Board of Education. Marie Johnson commented that Emery School District should do what is best for our students and other members of the agreed.

The summarized consensus of the administrators present was that very little would need to be changed in terms of Board policy. Some clarifications on Board intent need to be made, but generally, 9th grade students would be able to participate in sports and other activities at the high school level in the same way they do now. The major change would be that 9th grade students who are cut from a high school sport would not have an opportunity to participate in that sport at the Junior High level.

Principal Davis commented that in relation to drill-team and cheerleading, existing policies are effective and do not need to be changed. The drill advisor is supportive of making her program work within the existing policies.

Concerns were expressed about the 9th grade students who are cut from high school teams, and how this may create a situation where they feel disconnected from their school. Principal Larry Davis added that he feels like Emery High School and many of the 9th grade students would benefit from this circumstance, because more students would look at participating in some of the sports and activities which have traditionally been less popular. These programs would likely see an increase in participants.

Principals Jones and Mecham added that other activities can be offered at the Junior High schools to help these students feel connected to their school. One example is that lunch-time intramurals are already happening and could be continued. Members of the Board indicated their agreement that no major policy changes would need to be made at this time. Superintendent Sitterud added that a small policy change would be made to eliminate wording that allows 9th grade students to participate in Junior High sports if they are cut from a high school team. This needs to be changed since there will be no Junior High teams for 9th grade students.

It was agreed upon that 8th and 7th grade participation in the Castle Valley association should continue as-is. In relation to the question of allowing 7th grade cheerleaders, Nanette Tanner commented that it would make sense to continue to do things as we are now, and if the need for a change arises, the Board can consider changes at that time.

Members of the Board and the Administrators present expressed agreement on those items discussed. After-school transportation from Canyon View Junior High School to Emery High School will need to be arranged for the 2014-15 school year. Some football equipment would also need to be purchased since the equipment used by the Junior High schools does not meet High School standards.

Emery County School District | Board of Education

REGULAR SESSION

At 7:00 pm, Mrs. Johansen welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Action Item (B1): Members of the Board reviewed the consent agenda, including the warrants, minutes for the January 2014 Board meeting and financial reports for January 2014. A motion was made by Royd Hatt to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports as presented. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B2): There were no personnel actions needing approval so a motion was not made on this item.

Board Action Item (B3): Superintendent Sitterud explained that the Waterford Institute has received a grant to do a study over the next 5 years to determine the success of the UPSTART Program, with additional components added to the summer following Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade. They have asked Emery County School District to be involved in this study. The District would receive \$25,000 per year for 5 years to support preschool efforts and to employ a liaison to work with Waterford and the District in recruiting students and parents to participate over the next 5 years. The liaison will be trained and will take the lead on all efforts. There should be no additional costs to the District.

He added that he sees the potential for great benefits to our preschool age children through this study. He recommended that the Board approve participation in the study. Marie Johnson made a motion to approve participation in the study, as proposed by Superintendent Sitterud. Nanette Tanner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Report Item (C1): Principal Brian Dawes welcomed members of the Board of Education to Ferron Elementary School and thanked them for their support of education in the District and specifically at Ferron Elementary. He noted that students at Ferron Elementary had recently done well in both the Science Fair and Spelling Bee competitions held in the District. He also mentioned that Ferron Elementary has again been named a High Performing Title I School. This is the sixth year in a row that the school has received this designation.

Principal Dawes thanked the faculty and staff at Ferron Elementary for their commitment to excellence and their dedication to student success. He also thanked the District staff and Board of Education for supporting him as he serves as the President of the Utah Association of Elementary School Principals. He explained that he has had enjoyable and unique experiences, both in Utah and throughout the United States, serving in this position.

Board President Johansen thanked Principal Dawes for being a great representative of Emery County School District and for striving for excellence in his position at Ferron Elementary School. She also asked him to extend the appreciation of the Board to his faculty and staff.

Report Item (C2): Mr. Black had nothing additional to report on.

Report Item (C3): Mr. Sitterud had nothing additional to report on.

Emery County School District | Board of Education

Public Comments (D): Patsy Stoddard asked if the Board would explain what will be happening with 9th grade students in response to the decision by Carbon School District to move 9th grade to their high school. Board President Johansen and Superintendent Sitterud asked Gwen Callahan to respond to this question. Mrs. Callahan explained that based on discussions held earlier in the work meeting, there will be very few changes to what is currently happening. The major change is that 9th grade sports will no longer be available at the Junior High level.

Ninth grade students will be able participate in sports and several other activities at Emery High School. A bus will be available after school to take students from both Junior High Schools to Emery High School. Ninth grade students will be able to continue participating in non-competitive activities at the Junior High level, such as music. Eighth and seventh grade students will continue to participate in Castle Valley Association sports and activities under the same rules they do this year. Superintendent Sitterud added that the Board has no plans to move 9th grade students to Emery High School.

Closed Meeting (E): A closed meeting was not held.

Adjournment (F): A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.