

Emery County School District | Board of Education

The April 2015 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Canyon View Junior High School, was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Vice-President Royd Hatt, Sam Singleton and Julie Wilson. Member Marie Johnson was absent. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

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

Board Action Item (B1): Board members considered the warrants, minutes of the March 2015 meeting, and financial reports for March 2015. A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (B2): Superintendent Sitterud recommended to the Board that the following individuals be approved for the positions indicated:

<i>John Hughes:</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Cottonwood Elementary</i>
<i>Jed Jensen:</i>	<i>Supervisor of Secondary Education / July 1st</i>	<i>District Office</i>
<i>Dean Stilson:</i>	<i>Assistant Baseball Coach</i>	<i>Emery High School</i>

Sam Singleton motioned to approve the hiring recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Wilson and passed unanimously. All approvals are subject to the completion and review of a background check.

Board Action Item (B3): Superintendent Sitterud presented the following policy action to the Board for approval:

- **FFA—Student and Staff Memorials:** New policy to address issues related to requests for permanent or long term memorials on school property. Also provides suggestions for proper ways to memorialize those we lose.

Julie Wilson asked if there are currently any memorial scholarships. Superintendent Sitterud answered that there are not, just two scholarships through the District foundation. Royd Hatt asked how this would impact current memorials. Superintendent Sitterud indicated that the policy, as written, does not address this, but it could be revised in the future. Member Hatt indicated that he would like to discuss this more at some point. He then made a motion to approve the policy action as recommended. Julie Wilson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B4): Principal Larry Davis presented a proposal to add Girl's Soccer as a sport at Emery High School. He reviewed the pro's and con's identified in previous discussions and presented a detailed report on how the program would be able to work. He requested approval of District funding for coaching positions and transportation, noting that the program would cover all other costs. Superintendent Sitterud added that this program will be very helpful in aligning Title IX participation rates at Emery High. Member Hatt asked if the District has ongoing funding to cover the requested costs. Mr. Black responded that there is funding. Royd Hatt motioned to approve the request as presented. Sam Singleton seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (B5): Mr. Davis discussed a proposal to allow 9th grade students to participate in cheerleading at Emery High School. He presented language for a policy revision allowing this. He explained that the cheer program has experienced declining numbers in recent years. Allowing 9th grade cheerleaders would benefit those students interested in cheerleading, but not on a junior high cheer squad that cheers just for 7th and 8th graders.

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This proposal would also increase the possibility of expanding cheer performances and having sub-varsity cheer squads. He anticipates that this would result in additional team support and school spirit. Mr. Davis added that this request would not necessarily include eliminating 9th graders from being on their junior high cheer squad.

Members of the Board asked the cheer advisors why the number of cheerleaders has been declining. Monica Hansen responded that there were challenges in complying with the moral code of the program. Mr. Davis added that he is not recommending that transportation be provided to 9th grade cheerleaders. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the request as presented. Julie Wilson seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (B6): The next item was the appointment of negotiation team members for upcoming meetings. President Johansen appointed herself and Marie Johnson or Julie Wilson to the Licensed team with Royd Hatt and Sam Singleton being appointed to the Classified team. Business Administrator Black will participate on both teams. She also extended authority to Superintendent Sitterud to appoint District personnel to chair negotiations meetings.

Board Action Item (B7): Superintendent Sitterud presented a revision of the Green River High School Landtrust plan. The proposed revision would allow the school to purchase a Chromebook lab for writing and research projects. Sam Singleton made a motion to approve the revision as requested. Laurel Johansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Report Item (C1): Principal Jim Jones thanked members of the Board of Education for holding their meeting at Canyon View Junior High School. He indicated that students have had a good year academically—130 out of 192 had qualified for the most recent Top Cat award. The school has been preparing for an upcoming accreditation visit. Teachers are still focusing on reading and writing skills during the learning strategies period. The school is considering adding a STEM class and some reading remediation classes for the upcoming year.

He added that he is increasingly concerned about 9th grade students feeling disconnected from Canyon View due to most extracurricular activities for the 9th grade being held at Emery High School. He suggested that administrators get together to try and find solutions to help the 9th grade students feel more a part of the junior high schools. President Johansen thanked him for his report.

Report Item (C2): Mr. Black reported that a 4% WPU increase was appropriated by the legislature. Other tax increases were approved, but revenue from these increases will not impact Emery School District.

Report Item (C3): Superintendent Sitterud announced that the District has received letters of intent to retire from June Sherman, Lorraine Frandsen, and Carol Stilson. He expressed his appreciation for these employees. He read a letter received from the Utah High School Activities Association, congratulating the boys and girls swim teams for finishing first in the 2A competitions this year. He also provided a brief legislative recap.

Public Comments (D): Neal Peacock commented that there is a need to review extracurricular pay. He also mentioned that a recent teacher survey indicated a concern over 9th grade students feeling disconnected from the junior high schools. Mr. Peacock also congratulated the Emery High swim teams, noting that nearly half of the academic all-state awards in swimming were received by Emery High students.

Closed Meeting (E): At 8:20 pm., a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sam Singleton to move to a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Member voting on this motion was as follows:

- Laurel Johansen Aye
- Royd Hatt Aye
- Marie Johnson Absent
- Sam Singleton Aye
- Julie Wilson Aye

The closed meeting was held in the FACS room at Canyon View Junior High School on Wednesday, April 8th, 2015, beginning at 8:30 pm. Four board members were present for the closed meeting, as were Superintendent Kirk Sitterud and Business Administrator Jared Black (Marie Johnson was absent). Secondary Supervisor Gwen Callahan and Elementary Supervisor Jed Jensen were also present.

Certification of Closed Executive Session (Utah Code 52-4-206)

I, Laurel Johansen, President of the Emery County School District Board of Education, certify and swear that the sole purpose of the unrecorded portion of the above closed executive session was to review and discuss the character and professional competence of individuals. Under the code referenced above, a closed executive session discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual is exempt from recording requirements and therefore, this portion of the closed executive session was not recorded.

Laurel Johansen

The closed meeting finished at 8:55 pm.

Adjournment (F): Upon reconvening to regular meeting, a motion was made by Laurel Johansen and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.