

The March 2016 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, Marie Johnson, Sam Singleton and Julie Wilson. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

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

**Presentation (B1):** This presentation was tabled until the next Board meeting.

**Board Action Item (C1):** Board members considered the warrants, minutes of the February 2016 meeting, and financial reports for February 2016. A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Julie Wilson to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (C2):** Superintendent Sitterud recommended to the Board that the following individual be approved for the positions indicated:

<i>Heidi Lindsay:</i>	<i>Bus Driver (Route)</i>	<i>Transportation</i>
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Marie Johnson motioned to approve the hiring recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed unanimously. All approvals are subject to the completion and review of a background check.

**Board Action Item (C3):** Board President Johansen indicated that she had asked Superintendent Sitterud to present a summary of administrative recommendations related to the recently completed study of 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade level reconfiguration. Mr. Sitterud presented the following recommendations:

After taking input from parents, community members, educators and administrators, concerning a proposed reconfiguration of schools in the Emery County School District, and after studying the impacts with regard to funding, facilities, curriculum, transportation, student developmental issues, scheduling, extra-curricular activities, school populations, academic opportunities and so forth, the District administration makes the following recommendations:

- Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, the Board of Education move 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from Canyon View and San Rafael Junior High Schools to Emery High School.
- Also, beginning with the 2017-18 school year, the Board of Education convert Canyon View and San Rafael Junior High Schools into middle schools and change school names accordingly. Also, that 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Castle Dale, Cottonwood, Ferron, Cleveland, and Huntington Elementary Schools be moved to one of the two newly created middle schools, according to the current attendance boundaries.
- It is further recommended that the Board of Education integrate both 9<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students into the regular course schedule in their respective schools, and where endorsed teachers already exist at the current junior high schools, that the existing staffs remain intact as much as possible, except where change is necessary in areas affected by the move of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and the possible need to move some elementary teachers to the newly created middle schools.

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- It is recommended that the Board of Education make every effort to staff the new configurations without requiring any current teachers to be forced to leave the District due to the change in configuration. It is recommended that any necessary reductions in elementary staff, due to reconfiguration, be accomplished by:
  1. Filling 2016-17 elementary vacancies with temporary one-year assignments and not replacing 2016-17 elementary retirees, unless openings are available for 2017-18, after reconfiguration staffing needs are met;
  2. Offering elementary teachers the opportunity to move to one of the two middle schools and complete the required endorsement, at District expense (tuition, fees, and books), within a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the District and/or USOE rules;
  3. Moving appropriately endorsed teachers at the newly created middle schools to Emery High School to offset the number of elementary teachers needed to be moved from the elementary to middle schools;
  4. Complete staffing needs at Emery High School through new hires and transfers in areas needed to meet the needs of the newly added 9<sup>th</sup> grade students; and
  5. Complete the filling of staff vacancies for the 2017-18 school year, throughout the District, through new hires or transfers as needed.
- It is recommended that the Board of Education consider and adopt policies addressing 6<sup>th</sup> grade participation in extra-curricular activities, including sports programs, that are consistent with other middle schools in the State and that are in the best interest of the safety of students when considering individual activities and the physical developmental differences between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students; authorize the District Administration, Principals and Counselors to begin implementation efforts including staffing, curriculum adjustments, facility preparation, schedule planning, transportation route configurations, etc.; and reasonably provide the necessary and appropriate resources for reconfiguration.
- Finally, it is recommended that, during the initial years of the reconfiguration, the Board of Education annually receive reports from schools on the implementation progress, and the successes and challenges of the reconfiguration, and receive input from staff, students and parents on needed modifications.

With these recommendations made, Superintendent Sitterud requested, if the Board was in agreement with the recommendations, that a motion to accept them be made and that the Board entertain any further discussion before taking a vote. Mrs. Johansen asked if there were any further comments or discussion. Patsy Stoddard asked if such a change would mean that Emery High School would be in a higher classification for UHSAA activities. Neal Peacock responded that the classification is based on 10-12 student counts, so this change would not impact the classification status.

Marie Johnson made a motion to approve the recommendations as explained by Superintendent Sitterud. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

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**Board Action Item (C4):** Mr. Black presented a list of capital improvement projects to the Board of Education for approval. He explained the process administrators go through each year of project proposal and review. He indicated that over 200 projects were proposed, with about 80 recommended for approval. Several projects are recommended with a “maybe” status and will only be completed as time and budget allow. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the proposed capital projects for 2016, as explained by Mr. Black. Julie Wilson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (C5):** The next item was the appointment of negotiation team members for upcoming meetings. President Johansen appointed herself and Marie Johnson to the Classified team with Royd Hatt and Julie Wilson being appointed to the Licensed team. Business Administrator Black will participate on both teams. She also extended authority to Superintendent Sitterud to appoint District personnel to chair negotiations meetings. Marie Johnson made a motion to approve these appointments. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Report Item (D1):** Superintendent Sitterud mentioned the upcoming regional USBA meeting in Price. He then reviewed several bills being considered by the legislature.

**Report Item (D2):** Mr. Black reported on the District wellness program that is administered by Kerri Allred. He mentioned that the program has had good participation and has resulted in good outcomes. He also briefly reviewed legislative matters with potential impacts on the upcoming fiscal year budget.

**Report Item (D3):** Principal Jim Jones invited Dean Stilson, teacher at Canyon View Junior High, to present the school report. Mr. Stilson has been working on his administrative endorsement. He reported that the school is seeing success with the Top Cat program – it provides incentives for students based on grades, citizenship and attendance. He mentioned that one recommendation from the accreditation visit last year is for teachers to use Mastery Connect. Mr. Stilson discussed how he is using this in his classroom. Mr. Jones reported that five teachers at CVJHS are using the program this year and he is hoping more will in the future. Mr. Stilson reported that 45% of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are participating in extracurricular activities at Emery High School this year. Only three 9<sup>th</sup> grade students have participated in extracurricular activities at CVJHS. The school is addressing remedial reading needs through a Landtrust funded program providing small reading classes for students. Board President Johansen thanked Principal Jones and Mr. Stilson for their report.

**Public Comments (E):** Patsy Stoddard mentioned that Superintendent Sitterud had recently been selected by USU-Eastern to receive a lifetime achievement award. He will be presented the award on March 5<sup>th</sup> at a ceremony in Price. Neal Peacock asked if a timeline and process had been established for a Superintendent search. Board President Johansen explained that there is a timeline in place, and that a search committee will be put together in the coming days.

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

**Adjournment (G):** A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.