

The February 2018 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Cottonwood Elementary School, was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Vice-President Tracey Johnson, Kenzi Guymon, Royd Hatt, and Marie Johnson. Superintendent Larry Davis 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.

Presentations & Recognitions (B1&2): Superintendent Davis presented Academic-All-State award recognitions to the following students: Landon Fairbanks (Football), Abbie Huntington (Volleyball), Carlie Robinson (Soccer), Samantha Roberts (Tennis), Allen Durrant (Swim), and Chelsea Olsen (Swim). Members of the Board also expressed their congratulations to these outstanding students.

Board Action Item (C1): Board members considered the warrants, minutes of the January 2018 meeting, and financial reports for January 2018. A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (C2): Superintendent Davis recommended to the Board that the following individuals be approved for the positions indicated:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <i>Jennifer Thomas:</i> | <i>Behavior, Autism & Mental Health Specialist</i> | <i>Emery School District</i> |
| <i>Jay Stilson:</i> | <i>Assistant Baseball Coach</i> | <i>Emery High School</i> |

Kenzi Guymon 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): Dayna Terry discussed the Emery High School machining program, which was approved for additional funding three years ago. Ms. Terry presented data indicating successful outcomes for the program. Three students (Justin Guymon, Ty Funk, Jaden Defa), discussed their experiences in the machining program. Ms. Terry then requested that funding be approved for a continuance of the program for three additional years. Marie Johnson made a motion to approve a continuation of funding as requested. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (C4): Superintendent Davis presented athletic schedules for spring sports, requesting Board approval for these schedules. He mentioned that, included in the EHS baseball schedule is an out of state trip to Mesquite. Marie Johnson motioned to approve the schedules as presented. Tracey Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (C5): Principal Kayce Fluckey requested that the Board approve an amendment to the Landtrust budget for Green River High School. The change would allow additional funds to be allocated to implementing goals on improving parent involvement and student motivation. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the amendment with Marie Johnson seconding the motion.

Board Action Item (C6): This item was tabled until a related discussion could be held in closed meeting. Minutes of the action taken on this item are below.

Board Action Item (C7): Mr. Black discussed proposed water lease arrangements and recommended that these arrangements be approved on the same terms as the previous year. A motion was made by Kenzi Guymon to renew all water share lease agreements for the 2018 season. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (C8): 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. Several projects are recommended with a “maybe” status and would only be completed as time and budget allow. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the proposed capital projects for 2018. Tracey Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (C9): This item was tabled until a related discussion could be held in closed meeting. Minutes of the action taken on this item are below.

Report Item (D1): Principal John Hughes thanked the Board of Education for their support and welcomed them to Cottonwood Elementary. He indicated that this year has brought many changes, but the faculty and staff have shown that they are willing to adapt. The school is in its 2nd year of mastery grading. No letter grades are given, with the grading focus being on proficiency. Utilizing mastery grading has allowed teachers to really learn and understand the core. Teachers are utilizing the new program SchoolCity to provide excellent student reports to parents.

Cottonwood Elementary is holding a parent night or parent-teacher conference each term. At the last parent night, over 20 families attended. The school has used Landtrust funds to hire additional aide for the 4th/5th grade classroom and to provide intensive math & reading instruction. Principal Hughes noted that the self-contained program at Cottonwood now houses grades K-5, something he supports as it provides continuity in the self-contained program and gives all of his students the opportunity to learn empathy and compassion.

Mrs. Carroll has applied for and received nearly \$3,000 in grant money for the library this year. The school now has 48 kindle devices which are loaned to students. The kindles are pre-loaded with age appropriate books for the students to read. This is the first year the school has had a robotics team and the program is very popular. A maker space has been made available for students during recess on Mondays—a room where students can explore art projects, marble mazes, robotics equipment, and other activities.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that he is very proud of the teachers & staff at Cottonwood Elementary. They have embraced the addition of PLC’s & SchoolCity, which has required a lot of change. Teachers working hard to share strategies, collaborate and improve. President Johansen thanked Mr. Hughes for all his efforts and enthusiasm, adding that she is grateful the faculty and staff are working well together and embracing positive change.

Report Item (D2): Mr. Black requested that the Board appoint a chairperson for the District audit committee. President Johansen appointed Marie Johnson to serve as chairperson and herself as the second Board representative on the committee.

Report Item (D3): Superintendent Davis was pleased to report that four District teams recently qualified for state robotics competitions. These competitions will be held over the next few weeks. He mentioned his appreciation for the work done by Rob Murray to implement this program. He added that a robotics team will represent the District at the legislative “Utah Schools Day on the Hill”, February 23rd. He briefly commented on the recent announcement of retirement for Chancellor Joe Peterson (USU-Eastern). Superintendent Davis has worked closely with Chancellor Peterson on completing pathway programs in coordination with USU-Eastern. Gary Straquedine will serve as Interim Chancellor.

Mr. Davis briefly reviewed the USHE High School feedback report. He also presented data on graduation rates, prompting discussion among members of the Board. He provided the following updates from the current Utah legislative session:

- Representative Snow’s juvenile justice bill has amendments that are being considered. As currently written, the amendments won’t help small school districts as they are targeting schools with resource officers. The rural district lobby is trying to get an amendment for a backstop clause that would allow juvenile court to be considered after a certain number of steps have been taken.
- HB237 is a proposed amendment to the way higher education handles concurrent enrollment standards for teachers. The amendment would allow the Board of Regents to create uniform teacher requirements and would likely make it easier to have teachers approved for concurrent enrollment offerings.
- HB282 proposes adding a fee for District use of the Aspire system. This would add additional financial burden to the District.
- HB293 is an equalization bill and, as written, would be less detrimental to the District than prior equalization bills.

Superintendent Davis added that there will be a STEM committee meeting on March 5th at 3:30. The District evaluation committee has met twice and come to an agreement on changes to procedures in the teacher evaluation. The District technology committee is meeting this upcoming Monday at 3:30.

Public Comments (E): Suzette Roberts asked if there is a way to add apprenticeship programs, such as for electrical or plumbing. Superintendent Davis indicated that the District is working on pathways and the suggestion is a good one. Neal Peacock invited those in attendance to the upcoming theater performance at Emery High.

Closed Meeting (F): At 8:40 pm., a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to move to a closed meeting for the purposes of: discussion related to the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; and to discuss matters related to collective bargaining. Member voting on this motion was as follows:

- Laurel Johansen Aye
- Tracey Johnson Aye
- Kenzi Guymon Aye
- Royd Hatt Aye
- Marie Johnson Aye

The closed meeting was held in the faculty room at Cottonwood Elementary School on Wednesday, February 7th, 2018, beginning at 8:50 pm. All five Board members were present for the closed meeting, as were Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black. The closed meeting finished at 9:25 pm. A recording of the meeting was made and will be kept on file by the District.

Board Action Item (C6): Following discussion held in the closed meeting, Royd Hatt made a motion to approve an employee request for unpaid leave. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (C9): A motion was made by Royd Hatt to approve a new job description for the position of School Technology Assistant. The updated position will be effective at the beginning of the next annual employment period. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment (G): Upon reconvening to regular meeting, a motion was made by Kenzi Guymon and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.