

MINUTES FOR MAY 5, 2021

WORK SESSION (6:30 pm):

- A1.** Ryan Maughan and Jared Black presented the recent complete Special Ed Audit that was performed by the USOE. This extensive of an audit has not been done for 13 years. There were recommendations but no findings.
- A2.** PLC Committee Recommendations were given by Ryan Maughan based on several surveys and committee discussions throughout the District. This is planned to be presented in June as an action item.
- A3.** Policy KE – Public Complaints was reviewed by Jared Black. Discussion was made to strike the portion of Community council involvement as approvals.
- A4.** The Revenue Bond structure was explained by Jackie Allred as an educational piece.

REGULAR SESSION:

The May 5, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education, held at Bookcliff Elementary, 255 South Solomon, Green River, UT, was called to order at 7:00 pm by Board President Tracey Johnson. Vice-President Marie Johnson and members Kenzi Guymon, Royd Hatt, and Todd Huntington were also present. Superintendent Jared Black and Business Administrator Jackie Allred were in attendance.

B1/B2: President Johnson welcomed all in attendance and led all attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

C1: The summary for FY20 Final Report for LandTrust plans was given by Jared Black, Yvonne Jensen (Secondary Supervisor), and JR Jones (Elementary Supervisor). The school closure had an affect on all of these plans. JR recognized food services and transportation for working through the transition to online school during the closure. He also recognized the teacher assistants who stepped in and helped wherever needed. Scores declined on end of year testing as expected. LT plans include funding for aide time, technology, summer learning, textbooks, etc. Yvonne also reported use of LT funds buying teacher preps and half-time teachers. Chromebooks and learning software were also a great addition to schools. ACT prep time was scheduled to increase test scores. A social/emotional piece was also used to benefit students. Field trips were schedule for students to see CTE pathway opportunities. The Board appreciated the reports and all the functionality LT funds covered.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

D1: A motion from Marie Johnson for the a) April warrants and c) Monthly financial reports was made and seconded by Royd Hatt with all approving. Tracey Johnson abstained from the motion for the minutes for b) March 31st as she did not attend. A motion to approve those minutes was made by Kenzi Guymon and seconded by Todd Huntington, with all attending members in agreement. The minutes for b) April 16th was motioned for approval by Royd Hatt and seconded by Todd Huntington with all approving.

D2: The appointment of incoming Superintendent, Jason Strate, was motioned by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt. All members voted unanimously. His appointment will begin on June 1, 2021. Much appreciation was expressed to Jared Black and well wishes for his continued career elsewhere. Jason comes from Central Valley, Utah as the director from CUES.

D3: Superintendent Black recommended the following individuals for board approval:

- Errol Durrant Warehouse/Delivery Child Nutrition Program
- Justina Butler Teacher, Science/Math Canyon View

- Phil Feichko IT District Technology
- Maegan Butterfield Librarian Emery High
- Jeanette Woolsey Secretary Castle Dale Elementary
- Brindy Grange Teacher, Social Studies San Rafael
- Shadleigh Gordon Teacher Huntington Elementary
- Makaila Grange Teacher Ferron Elementary
- Karen Griffin Social worker, part time District wide
- Michael Ryan Ware Teacher, Business Emery High
- Jodi Olsen Sped Testing advisor Canyon View
- Jake Mecham Teacher Green River
- Brennan Bigelow Teacher, Social Studies Green River High
- Jill Weber ½ Teacher Ferron Elementary

Marie Johnson motioned to approve the hiring recommendations as presented. Todd Huntington seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. All approvals are subject to the completion and review of a background check.

D4: The policy EEAE – Daily Bus Inspections was presented by Jared Black to fulfill the new law for bus drivers checking interior of the bus at the end of each route daily. Motion for approval was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

D5: A proposal for a Transportation wash bay replacement was presented by Roger Swenson. Our current wash bay is no longer serviceable and can be replaced with same vendor parts using the funding from a one-time state transportation grant. Motion to approve was made by Todd Huntington and followed with a second by Royd Hatt. All members voted unanimously.

D6: Westland Construction presented Ferron Elementary’s bid package for approval. There was much discussion with the board members and also those attending the meeting. Westland recommended approving the bid based on the national and historical trends of construction prices not decreasing even through spikes. Much comment was made from those attending. Marie Johnson motioned to table this agenda so the board can have more time to review the bid in more detail. Kenzi Guymon seconded the motion. All members agreed.

D7: The Landtrust plan for each school was previously given to all board members to review. No questions or concerns were discussed. A motion for approving all school plans was made by Marie Johnson. Followed with a second from Todd Huntington, all members approved.

D8: After discussing the Mask Mandate issue in the Public Comments portion, a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Kenzi Guymon move this topic to an Action Item. The motion was to modify the Employee Face Mask Exemption form to include a Parent’s authorized exemption. This will be in effect for the duration of the current State Public Health Order that requires students to wear masks in school settings. All voted unanimously.

REPORTS:

E1. Principal report was given by Gaylene Erwin. Gaylene introduced staff members: Laura McFarlane, Pamela Hunt, Markie Vetere, Ashley Reyes, Crosby Rich, Kaye Nelson, Jake Mecham, Cindy McFarlane, and Burton Sant. Much appreciation to all the parents that have worked with the school. They have had a Library

grant, plays, and have partnered with the local museum to show student art work at the annual art show. They had a visit by an author who did workshops with classes. Testing has started and 6th grade has shown growth. However, LA needs improvement. Bookcliff has 60% of students that are dual language. 89% of the student body shows adequate yearly growth. Funds have been designated for a new part-time Literacy teacher to work with K-3 literacy where growth is showing to be needed. The new classroom addition will allow Special Ed students in the building and alleviate safety concerns. Robotics is a great activity for the students. Bookcliff has had 4 connectivity grants to connect families to the internet. *Bears Can Climb Mountains* is the theme this year, which has shown great importance this year. The social/emotional aspect is very important for the students with a new program, MindSet, that is scheduled every Monday. *Mask our face and not our heart* has been an added vision for this year to give the students power over their masks. Students have shown great resilience to maintain education this year in person.

The High school counseling goal for Green River was presented by Lance Whitesel, counselor. 70% of GR's student body are first generation college students. There have been over 40 college applications completed one on one this year. They have scheduled 3 college tours with Snow, USUE and SUU. This year's goal is to get the students access to college. Students are almost to national average for testing scores.

E2. The Superintendent Report was given by Jared Black. Graduation ceremonies for high schools are being planned in auditoriums as pre-covid normal. Board members were selected to attend each school's ceremony. Jared presented this year's current retirees: Neal Peacock, Willie Frisbie, Vicky Martineau, Ryan Hepworth, Colleen Bott, Drew Sitterud, and Vicki Nielsen. Each employee has given so much to our district. May1 was principal appreciation, this week teacher appreciation.

E3. Business Administrator Jackie Allred announced two groundbreaking ceremonies: Ferron Elementary on May 13th, and Bookcliff Elementary on May 18th. Those ceremonies have been scheduled during the school timeframe to allow students to participate.

E4. No Board Member Committee reports were given.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (F): Holly Monsen represented a group of parents addressing the state-wide mandate for schools to still require mask-wearing. They asked the board to allow parents to choose whether they send their child to school with a mask or not based on illnesses never being at zero risk in communities and many vaccinations have been administered. They asked to have the opportunity to have parents' rights given back. Representative Phil Lyman also commented by phone. His position is that the health dept and govt have put a lot of controversy on schools where the risk has shown to be the lowest. Amanda Bennett also addressed the board and stated they have 3 children and have tried to get doctor exemptions all year. Issues are migraines, asthma treatments, and missing many days of school. Social stress caused from children who have to fight daily just to attend school. The board acknowledged all of the feelings presented, along with trying to do what is required by law. Administering the parent right exemption in the school will be difficult. Keagan Bennet, student from CV, also spoke to represent the students.

CLOSED MEETING (G): At 9:40 pm., a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to move to a closed meeting for the purpose of discussion related to the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Member voting on this motion was as follows:

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

- Todd Huntington Aye

The closed meeting was held in the Gymnasium at Bookcliff Elementary School on Wednesday, May 5th, 2021, beginning at 9:50 pm. All Board members were present for the closed meeting. Superintendent Black and Business Administrator Allred were also present.

ADJOURNMENT (H): A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:10 pm.

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

I, Tracey Johnson, President of the Emery County School District Board of Education, certify and swear that the sole purpose 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 closed executive session was not recorded.

Tracey Johnson