

Monday, Jan. 28, 2019
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Just so you know

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

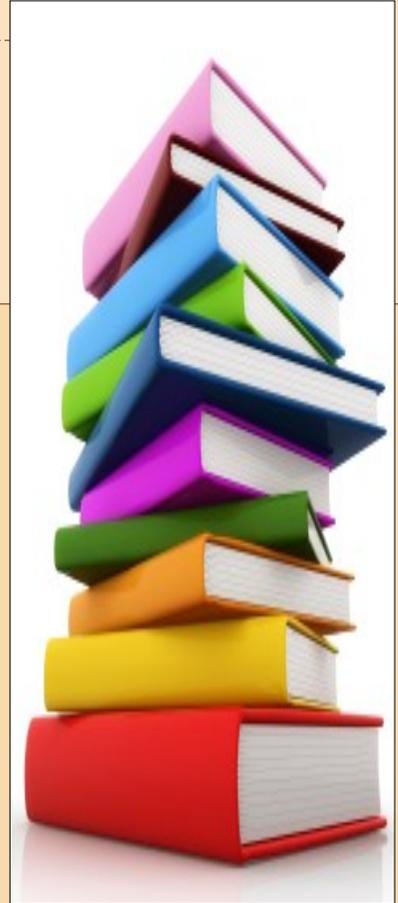
One of my goals as superintendent has been to create a district newsletter with the intention of keeping stakeholders more up-to-date on Emery School District affairs. While our district has improved our website and established it as a major source of information, the newsletter will simply add to that resource through a publication with multiple blurbs, photos, news and feature articles. The newsletter will also serve as a supplement to the monthly Board Bulletin that board members receive prior to each board meeting. The newsletter will help fill in the gaps from one board meeting to the next.

The new publication, which is titled "Just so you know," will be solely designed, written, and distributed by the superintendent while the audience will be the stakeholders of the Emery School District. Publication will generally be twice monthly, and access to the newsletter will be through the district website: emeryschools.org.

Content will be determined by what is relevant and timely to the readership. The district website will continue to offer news articles, photo galleries, and "Potato Soup," which is the superintendent's video program. The website also has links to each of our school websites which have their own sources of information and public relations.

I hope that you will enjoy, but more importantly, learn from this publication and build on your depth of knowledge of the Emery District and the people it serves. Please give me your suggestions regarding this publication.

Thanks for caring about our district's children— Superintendent Davis



Vision Statement:

"Education is a collaborative effort of home, community, and school. Students experience success on a daily basis and excel in performance through applying knowledge to real life situations. Schools are student-centered, guided by educators who possess excellent leadership and educational skills. Education expands beyond the classroom walls through the use of technology, and the curriculum meets the highest standards of an ever-changing world. Graduates are prepared to enter the workforce or continue their formal education at an advanced technical institution or a college or university. The Emery County School District believes that learning today provides leadership for tomorrow."



SWORN-IN: Far Left, Royd Hatt and Marie Johnson take the oath of office. Left, Jessy Johansen begins her 2-year tenure on the board after she was chosen to replace Laurel Johansen.

January board meeting features oath of office and leadership elections

Tracey Johnson was elected president of the Emery Board of Education at the Jan. 9, board meeting held at Cottonwood Elementary. In addition, Marie Johnson was elected the vice president of the board. Each will serve a 2-year term in their leadership roles.

The first meeting of 2019 also featured the swearing in of two board members who were re-elected in the November election—Royd Hatt and Marie Johnson. Board Member Hatt has served the district since 1989 while Vice President Johnson has been on

the Board since 1990.

Also new to the Board is Jessy Johansen who was sworn-in at the December meeting after she was chosen by the Board to fill the unexpired term of then Board President Laurel Johansen.

STUDENT ART ON DISPLAY AT USBA CONFERENCE



STUDENT ART: The recent Utah School Boards Association Conference featured an art display of student work from around the state. The Emery School District was represented by Emery High School senior Kelsey Anderson whose artwork of a 1920's "Flapper" was prominent among dozens of other entries. The art was part of a history assignment at EHS. Kelsey and her art are shown above.

State, local graduation rates show improvement

SALT LAKE CITY – Last spring 47,487 students graduated from Utah’s public high schools. This represents 87 percent of students who entered schools as freshmen four years earlier. It also represents the sixth straight year of high school graduation rates increasing in Utah, according to data released recently by the Utah State Board of Education.

Locally, the graduation rate in the Emery School District also showed improvement with a gain of 4 percentage points over the previous year. For 2018, the Emery District rate was 94 percent which is a huge increase from the 90 percent rate of both 2017 and 2016. Emery High showed an increase of 3 percent, going from 91 percent in 2017 to 94 percent in 2018. The Emery District has traditionally been above the annual state graduation rate, and for 2018, the district is eight percentage points above the state graduation rate.

According to Emery Superintendent Larry Davis, “We are very proud of our graduation rate which ranks among the highest in the state. It is a tribute to the hard work of students and their teachers as well as counselors, parents and other stakeholders who make high school graduation a priority.” He added that “the district won’t be satisfied until 100 percent of our students graduate.”

The state’s overall graduation rate has risen by 1 percent per year since 2014. It grew

2 percent between 2013 and 2014. That means the graduation rate has risen from 81 percent in 2013 to 87 percent this year. Minority student graduation rates, however, have risen much faster. Between 2013 and 2018, students who identify as Hispanic have achieved a 10 percent increase in high school graduation and now have a 78 percent graduation rate. Students who identify as American Indian have increased graduation rates by 12 percent to 77 percent in that same time frame. Students who identify as Asian have increased graduation rates from 79 percent in 2013 to 92 percent this year, giving those students the highest graduation rate in the state.

“I am heartened to see Utah’s educational outcomes improving over time,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “Achievement gaps still exist, but they are narrowing, and that is good news for Utah students and for the future of our state.”



Employee/volunteer award nominations now being accepted

The Emery School District Education Foundation is accepting nominations for the following annual awards:

Secondary Teacher of the Year: Outstanding certified educators in district middle, junior high, and high schools, including teachers, counselors, social workers, etc.

Elementary Teacher of the Year: Outstanding certified educators in district elementary schools, including teachers, counselors, social workers, etc.

Classified Employee of the Year: Outstanding employees in the district working as secretaries, aides, custodians, lab assistants, lunch workers, etc.

Volunteer of the Year: Outstanding individuals donating time on a regular basis in service to our schools and their students.

Deadline and Selection Process: Nominations will be accepted until March 29, 2019. A district selection committee will review the nominations and then select the winners. The committee will also select an Emery District Teacher of the Year who will enter the Utah School Boards Association Teacher of the Year Competition. Announcement of the 2018-19 Outstanding Employees will be made in May. Awards will be presented to the winners at their schools and work sites as well as at the June School Board Meeting.

Nomination form: Anyone can make nominations in any or all of the above categories. Nominations must include the following: 1) Name of person making the nomination... 2) Name, position, and site location of the nominee... 3) Relationship to the nominee

such as coworker, student, parent, community member, administrator, etc. 3) Narrative describing why you think this individual is one of Emery School District’s most outstanding employees or volunteers. In the narrative, include at least one example which exemplifies the nominee’s outstanding qualifications for this award.

Submitting Nominations: All nominations must have the above information in order to be considered. Nominations may be emailed to Superintendent Davis at: larryd@emeryschools.org or may be mailed to: Superintendent Larry Davis, Emery School District, PO Box 120, Huntington, Utah 84528.

All nominations need to be at the district office by Friday, March 30, 2019. Announcement and recognition of winners will be made before the end of the current school year.

SCHOOL/DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS RELEASED

New Parent-focused Tool Includes More Detailed Information on School Performance

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has released new, redesigned 2018 school accountability report cards. The interactive tool was developed over the past 18 months with educators, parents, and community members. It includes several new features based on that feedback including ratings for each indicator and the ability for schools to highlight self-selected performance information.

In 2017, the Utah Legislature revised the school accountability system to include additional measures to assess school performance including success in readiness coursework, progress on English language proficiency and academic growth of a school's lowest-performing students. The Legislature defined what constituted scores for A-F letter grading scales for schools, but allowed USBE to suspend assigning school grades for the 2017-18 school year.

"It is my hope that parents will take the opportunity this year to look more deeply into their child's school performance," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. "The comprehensive data that will now be publicly available offers a clearer picture of school progress and achievement in core subjects and advanced coursework."

For the first time the report card provides schools with ratings on each indicator used to assess school performance. Ratings are reported on a five-point scale using the following descriptors (from highest to lowest): exemplary, commendable, typical, developing, critical needs. These indicator ratings capture different aspects of school performance and include academic proficiency and growth in core subjects, progress on English language proficiency, graduation rate, performance on the ACT college entrance exam, and success in readiness coursework, which includes such items as Advanced Placement and concurrent enrollment participation as well as students who

complete career and technical education Career Pathways. Users will be able to drill down for more information including how well a school performs on each indicator compared to other schools in the district and in the state.

Other new pieces include the testing participation rate for each school and the percentage of students consistently attending the school. The latter statistic counts only students who remain in a single school for at least 160 of the 180-day school year and are in school attendance at least 90 percent of the time.

Student scores – including demographic disaggregation – on some of the same proficiency tests used to measure school accountability were released in September. Individual student scores are not released to the general public but have been available to teachers since that time.

This year's school accountability reports are available at the Utah State Board of Education website. www.schools.utah.gov



STICKY NOTES:

HUNTSMAN RE-ELECTED UBSE CHAIRMAN: The Utah State Board of Education recently re-elected Mark Huntsman to a third term as chair of the 15-member governing board. Chair Huntsman represents District 14, which includes the Emery School District. He is a resident of Fillmore. Also re-elected was Brittney Cummins as vice chair. She represents District 6 covering west-central Salt Lake County.

RURAL SCHOOLS PLANNING MOVING FORWARD: The 2018 Rural Schools Conference will be held at USU Eastern on July 10-11-12. This is the first time the conference has been held at a location other than Cedar City. Registration for the conference will be open this month. Also, applications for breakout presentations will also be available soon.

2019 UTAH LEGISLATURE: The first day of the 2019 Utah Legislature is Monday, Jan. 28. The 45-day session will end on Thursday, March 14. During the session, the following events have been planned at the Utah Capitol: Utah Superintendents' Meeting, Feb. 8; Utah Rural Schools Association Meeting, Feb. 14; Utah School Boards Association Meeting and Day on the Hill, Feb. 15; and Utah School District Day on the Hill, Feb. 19. Each week of the session, a Rural Caucus Meeting and a Cowboy Caucus Meeting will be held that directly involve rural legislators and educational leaders.

HEATHER BEHLING NAMED FERRON ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

FERRON: Not only did Ferron Elementary begin a new year when school resumed on Jan. 2, 2019, the school also welcomed a new principal— Heather Behling who was selected as the school’s administrator following the resignation of Brian Dawes in December.

Ms. Behling had been serving the Emery District as the preschool coordinator over the last three-and-a-half years. During that time, she has been working on an administrative en-



**Principal Behling
Ferron Elementary**

dorsement which is nearing completion.

In addition to her administrative responsibilities at Ferron Elementary, Principal Behling is the team leader for the Kindergarten Collaborative Team as part of the district’s Professional Learning Community. She will be attending a Solution Tree PLC Conference later this year for additional training.

Along with the administrative endorsement, Principal Behling has degrees in elementary and special education. She is a native of Emery County and a graduate of Emery High .

Coal Country Strike Team is finalist for economic development

This year, the University of Utah’s American Dream Ideas Challenge inspired people from a wide variety of backgrounds to compete for the opportunity to help improve middle-class life in Utah.

The goal of the challenge was to see who had the best idea to help 10,000 households in Utah’s middle-class gain a net income of 10 percent or more by 2020.

The top 10 finalists received a \$10,000 prize to help refine their ideas. Then, three finalists were selected and given a grant of \$30,000 to help develop their plan even further. The three finalists will compete on Jan. 29, 2019, in Phoenix for up to \$1 million from Schmidt Futures.

One of the finalists is a group led by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute called the Coal Country Strike Team. For the last nine years, the economy in Utah’s Coal country has contracted. Since the coal industry’s peak in

2001, Utah’s coal production has fallen by 47 percent. Because of this, Utah’s coal country, which includes Carbon and **Emery** counties, is struggling. Employment declines, unemployment, poverty rates and lower home values have hurt Carbon and Emery county residents. This situation inspired the Coal Country Strike Team to step-up.

The Coal Country Strike Team, with input from the GOED staff, outlined four public policy innovations that could raise incomes in Carbon and Emery counties.

The first is called Silicon Slopes East. It will use high-speed broadband from Emery Telecom. Price would open a Silicon Slopes chapter and develop co-working space for entrepreneurs, provide entrepreneurial training, and scout-out partnerships for remote work sites in the area.

The second policy is called Hearth and Home, a program to

help combat rising home prices. The proposed solution, in part, plans to “revitalize the housing stock in the two counties.” There are also plans to create an Opportunity Zone investment just outside of Price, Utah.

The third step would be the Red Rock Gateway, which focuses on tourism development. The goal here is to capitalize on the region’s attractions such as the San Rafael Swell and 9-Mile Canyon. These sites and more can attract visitors from around the world.

Finally, custom incentives will be used to help bring more people and business to Utah’s coal country. Few companies use statewide economic development incentives, so the Coal Country Strike Team’s mission is to “capitalize on the designated Opportunity Zone, and consider how to keep local property taxes in the area.”

**Emery School District
Mission Statement:**

***“The mission of the
Emery County
School District is to
provide a compre-
hensive education
that will prepare
students to take a
proactive and re-
sponsible role in an
ever-changing
world.”***

District Calendar:



Monday, Jan. 28: Juvenile Justice Committee Meeting, 3:30 pm, district office

Tuesday, Jan. 29: Superintendent Site Visit– Huntington Elementary

Wednesday, Jan. 30: Superintendent Site Visit– Castle Dale Elementary

Monday, Feb. 4: District Administrative Team capital outlay tour (all schools)

Tuesday, Feb. 5: Association/Board/Superintendent Meeting, 7:30 am DO... Administrative Council, 8:30 am, DO (Rater Reliability Professional Development)

Wednesday, Feb. 6: School Board Meeting, 7 pm, Huntington Elementary

Feb. 7-8: Superintendent’s Legislature site visit, Utah State Capitol

Friday, Feb. 8: Utah Superintendents’ Association Meeting, 9 am, State Capitol

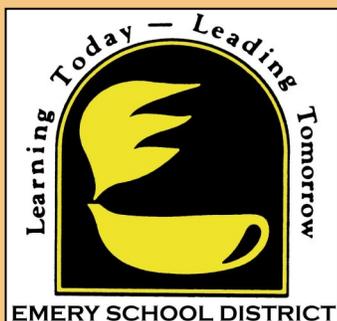
Saturday, Feb. 9: Utah School Boards Association Leadership Training at USBA Office, Sandy

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THERE’S SNOW SCHOOL TODAY: An abundance of snow in mid-January made for a lot of fun activities during lunch and recess at Emery District schools. Above, students at Huntington Elementary take advantage of the snow as well as the sunshine to enjoy time out of class.