



Monday, Feb. 10, 2020
Vol. 2, No. 10

Just So You Know

Friday, the best day ever! But not always. Take for example Friday the 13th, any Friday that the Cubbies lose, and Friday, Jan. 31—the day the power went out at Canyon View Middle School.

Principal Winget made the call around 7:30 am. I was finishing up reading current events and in the midst of enjoying the USBE's first-ever "*Audit Newsletter*." I kept saying to myself, "Finally! A publication about audits. Please, no interruptions." Foolishly, I answered the phone and learned that the power was out at the school and would be until noon. After a pause that lasted way too long, running into what was actually a delay, I said, "What are you going to do about it?" As soon as those words came out, I realized Mr. Winget hadn't called to hear me ask him what he was going to do about his emergency.

Knowing that school was about to start at Canyon View, I asked the principal to prepare to send a ParentLink message to stakeholders regarding a delay in the start of the school day, but not to send it out until I got back to him. Then another call came in, and I was told that "rumor has it" that it was a school bus that hit a power pole, causing the whole mess. Gad! Of course, my thoughts were with those on the bus, especially the driver as I spoke to a room without ears, "Why couldn't you hit a power pole that wasn't connected to a school?" Way too premature for that foolishness, but at that point I was frustrated. My unrumpled Friday was suddenly getting rumpled, and it wasn't even 7:45 am.

At that point, the decision to temporarily close school was made, but how that would play out with transportation, school breakfast and lunch, kids walking to school and then turning around to go back home, and making up the school time missed were like the colored squares on an internal Rubik's Cube looking for proper alignment. I had a flashback to a year ago when intense snow storms left many wondering why I hadn't called for a "Snow Day." People called me vile names then, "Snow Day Hater!" "Larry, Larry, the Snow Fairy," and "Deposed King of the North," to name a few. If I called a "Power Outage Day" would it kill that beast? or feed him?

It was about 8 am when another call came in, but having all things in proper motion, I was confident in answering the phone, almost hoping the caller would ask me, "What are you going to do about it?" That didn't happen. It was a call to let us know that the power was back on at Canyon View Middle School. Gad. The anticipated 5-hour outage turned out to be a 30-minute outage, not even an outage really. It was more like a pauseage.

Shakespeare nailed it. "All's well that ends well." A few more calls and a lot of collaboration cleared up the rumors about the bus hitting the pole, got the kids to school, the lunch meal prepared and served, the WiFi back on, the day complete. There was no need for a "Power Outage Day," and no need for "Power Outage Make-up Day" either. Instead, it turned out to be a pretty good Friday, just like I had hoped. I even had time to proof read the Digital Teaching and Learning Grant Application which wasn't quite as inspiring as the *Audit Newsletter*, but pretty darn close.

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."

Feb. 5 board meeting summary report

The Emery Board of Education met on Wednesday, Feb. 5 for its monthly general session. The meeting was at Cleveland Elementary, and all Board members were present. Following is a summary of the meeting:

Gear Up Report: Linda Hapsmith, regional director of Gear Up, and Tom Burr, Gear Up supervisor for Emery High School, offered the board an update on the program as it exists in the Emery District. Gear Up currently operates in district secondary schools and involves 70 students who qualify through economic need. The program generally provides support for college prep through tutoring, ACT testing preparation and financial support, and higher ed site visits. Gear Up is funded through a federal grant.

2020-21 Enrollment Update: District Supervisors JR Jones and Yvonne Jensen provided tentative enrollment data to the board for the 2020-21 school year. The presentation was prefaced by an update on kindergarten registration which will be taking place throughout February. It was noted that until those numbers are solidified, the enrollment data presented for elementary schools would be skewed and currently show a decline of 76 students. On the other hand, current numbers for secondary schools show an increase of 25 students, resulting in a net loss of 51. Supervisors Jones and Jensen indicated that it would be premature at this point to speculate about staffing until final KG registration numbers are in, the 2020 Utah Legislature concludes, more is known about employees who may be leaving the district via retirement or resignation, and individual school staffing requests have been submitted. An update will be provide in the March 4, board meeting.



Facilities Committee Notes: Jared Black, District Facilities Committee chairman, updated the board on the progress the committee is making on evaluating district facilities, setting priorities on building needs, and making recommendations to the board. He noted that the committee has reviewed the 2012 in-depth facility report which is foundational to the committee's mission. The committee has visited all district facilities to witness first hand issues and concerns. Also, the committee is planning on out-of-district site visits to recently constructed schools and other educational facilities to establish points of reference.

Approved for district employment: The board approved the following as district employees—Ryan Jensen, Emery High assistant softball coach; Courtnee Justice, Emery High girls' track coach; Nicole Maxwell, special ed bus aide; Angela Paskett, Cottonwood Elementary special ed aide; Sara Collard, Castle Dale classroom aide; and Hugh Christiansen, Emery High boys' track coach. Also, the board approved the 2020 Emery High softball and track schedules.

Principal's Report— Cleveland Elementary Principal Jenny Gagon gave a "State of the School" report to the board with an emphasis on the school's teamwork and collaboration. Principal Gagon focused on literacy, math, science, and social/emotional learning. The school has set goals for student growth in each of these areas and established plans and timelines for achievement. The principal praised the support and hard work of her faculty as well as the Cleveland Elementary stakeholders.

Superintendent's Report— Larry W. Davis, superintendent, updated the board on legislation introduced in the current session that will have some impact on public education. He noted that the Administrative Team is currently working on the new Digital Teaching and Learning Grant for FY2021 and will soon initiate the application for the FY2021 Mental Health Grant. The superintendent updated the board on several committee activities, including the Technology Committee and the Juvenile Justice Committee.

Public Comment: Neal Peacock, co-president of the Emery Education Association, asked the board to consider organizing a selection committee with representation from a variety of stakeholder groups as it relates to the hiring of a new superintendent. Superintendent Davis has announced his retirement effective Aug. 1. The board took Mr. Peacock's request under advisement.



Students compete In District Spelling Bee

Nineteen students from elementary and middle schools throughout the district competed in the annual Emery District Spelling Bee at Emery High School on Feb. 5.

After numerous rounds, the competition came down to three students who continued on through several more rounds to determine winner and runners up.

By correctly spelling the word ARCHIVES, Noah Byars, a 5th grader at Ferron Elementary, was named the winner. He is the son of James and Patricia Byars from Emery.

Determining the second and third place finishers took a few more rounds, but when Breeanna Cruz



DISTRICT SPELLING BEE WINNERS, left to right: Noah Taylor, 3rd place; Breeanna Cruz, 2nd place; and Landon Byars, 1st place.
TOP PHOTO: District Spelling Bee contestants.

spelled AROMATHERAPY correct, she took second place. She is a 7th grader at San Rafael Middle School. Finishing in third was Noah Taylor, a 5th grader at Huntington Elementary. All three will enter region competition at Green River High School on March 4 against spellers from Carbon, Grand, and San Juan School Districts. The winner from that will go to the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC.

Teacher Feature: Stephanie Roper

In the Teacher Feature section of this newsletter the EEA has chosen Stephanie Roper. Stephanie is a huge asset to the district in many ways. She has worked for the district for over 25 years and is a champion for the schools she works at, three schools, to be exact. She is on the move, assisting and serving in many areas, particularly in the literacy area while training many teachers and para-professionals in Dibels. Stephanie has been known to not only be her best self, but build up others around her. One example of this is the way she is able to help and organize testing procedures



Stephanie Roper

throughout the school every year. She helps it run efficiently and smoothly. Her positive attitude is a game changer for her

coworkers. Stephanie brings enthusiasm, professionalism, and support to all she works with.

Stephanie was the first in Emery School District to implement PLC's. She began creating these professional learning teams while teaching in Ferron. She was able to touch on each and every student through her efforts. She is always looking for ways to help keep students on track and with encouragement is able to help out other teachers with their target goals. Those that have worked beside her not only see her as a fantastic teacher, but more importantly as a friend and advocate.

When Stephanie is not serving our district she can be found serving in other areas of the community. She is always helping others and has a heart that extends to neighbors and friends. She is a devoted mother and grandma. She enjoys scrapbooking her memories, especially those of her family. Her family is very important to her. She enjoys shopping with her girls.

Stephanie is a role model; this is evident from the many roles she fills in our district. We greatly appreciate her service and her leadership.



A BIG HONOR: Stephanie Roper, right, was notified by UEA President Heidi Mathews, center, that she was a Teacher of the Year Finalist for 2017-18. Cottonwood Principal John Hughes was on hand to celebrate the news.

Process underway for 2020-21 staffing

Efforts are just getting underway by the Emery School District to assess staffing needs for the 2020-21 school year which will include assessment of several contributing factors:

Enrollment: Kindergarten registration will be held earlier than usual (see announcement) in order to offer insight into student numbers for the next school year. Also to be considered will be the number of students leaving our system through graduation as well as those currently in our system who will advance to the next grade level.

Staffing: The enrollment count will have a great deal to do with the number of educators the district can financially support in each school. It is also helpful for current employees who are planning on retiring or resigning from their positions to notify the district via a letter to the superintendent regarding such intentions.

School and District Personnel Needs: Each principal is asked to submit a list of personnel needs for the next school year. Such requests need to be justified as part of the submission, and all requests will be considered through the staffing process.

Budgeting: The 2020 Utah Legislature is currently underway and will to a great extent determine

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

It's time once again to register kindergarten students who will be attending school in August 2020. This will include all children who have a birth date of September 1, 2014 thru September 1, 2015. Following is the schedule:

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|--|--------------------|
| • Book Cliff Elementary – Tuesday, February 18, 2020 | 10:30 AM-12:30 PM |
| • Huntington Elementary – Wednesday, February 19, 2020 | 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM |
| • Cottonwood Elementary – Monday, February 24, 2020 | 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM |
| • Castle Dale Elementary – Monday, February 24, 2020 | 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM |
| • Ferron Elementary – Tuesday, February 25, 2020 | 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM |
| • Cleveland Elementary – Wednesday, February 26, 2020 | 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM |

Students should be present to have hearing and vision screening.

All students must bring the following with them to registration:

Certified Birth Certificate

Immunization Record

To attend KG, a student **must** have proof of the following immunizations:

- 5 DTP/DTaP/DT - 4 doses if 4th dose was given on/after the 4th birthday
4 Polio - 3 doses if 3rd dose was given on/after the 4th birthday
2 Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
3 Hepatitis B
2 Hepatitis A
2 Varicella (Chickenpox)

Proof of immunity to disease(s) can be accepted in place of vaccination only if a document from a healthcare provider stating the student previously contracted the disease is presented to the school.

To receive a vaccination exemption form, the legally responsible individual who claims the exemption for the student must complete the online immunization education module. To access the online immunization education module go to immunize-utah.org. If the legally responsible individual who claims the exemption for the student declines to take the online education module, he/she can obtain a vaccination exemption form from a local health department and receive an in-person consultation.

the district's financial standing for the next school year. Of primary interest will be the percentage increase that will go toward the WPU (Weighted Pupil Unit), providing a dedicated amount based on the number of students. Legislative action will also impact grant funding as well.

Local Taxes: Also important to this process will be the amount of money to the district from local

property tax collection. That amount usually becomes known to the district about the time the legislative session ends in March.

Once all these factors are considered, staffing will be determined and where appropriate, new hiring and/or district transfers will take place. It is generally the goal of the district to have all positions filled by the end of the current school year.

**Emery School District
Mission Statement:**

"The mission of the Emery County School District is to provide a comprehensive education that will prepare students to take a proactive and responsible role in an ever-changing world."

District Calendar:

Feb. 10: Midterm Early-Out PLC Day



Feb. 11: Administrative Council Meeting, 8:30 am, DO... Association/Board/Superintendent Meeting, 3:30 pm, DO

Feb. 12: Digital Teaching and Learning Team PD webinar

Feb. 14: USBA Day on the Hill

Feb. 18: Digital Teaching and Learning Team Meeting, 9 am, DO

Feb. 20: District Day on the Hill

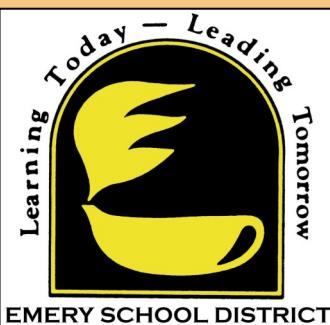
Feb. 24: Juvenile Justice Committee Meeting, 9 am, DO

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STICKY NOTES:



NEW DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS: As of the first of the year, the Emery School District Office will be open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4 pm. Use of the office after regular business hours will be scheduled as needed.

SCHOOL WEB CALENDARS: To find out what is happening in each of the Emery District's 10 schools, go to the Emery Website at www.emeryschools.org, and click on the "schools" drop-down menu. Choose the school you are looking for, click on the name, and you will be taken to the school website where you can locate the school calendar.

March SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 pm for work session and 7 pm for general session, Castle Dale Elementary School.

2020-21 District Staffing Request: Any employee in the Emery School District planning on retiring or resigning at the end of the current school year is asked to notify the superintendent in writing of those intentions as soon as possible. This is a professional courtesy that would assist the district in staffing for next school year.