



Monday, Dec. 9, 2019

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Just So You Know

My mother must have made sure I was bundled up. She must have given me many warnings about how to behave and how to be respectful. She must have said, “When you’re done, come right home.” These things I don’t remember specifically, but because she always did and said those things when “I must have been” a preteen, I’m confident that is the way it was then in my days of innocence. For me, it was an adventure into something I knew nothing about, except that it was something that good people do, like make your bed, brush your teeth, clean your room, and do your homework. So, away I went into the cold Idaho night.

I must have met up with the others, the kids my age and probably an adult or two, at the neighborhood church, and I must have been told by the probably adult or two to quit goofing around “or else.” I was probably intimidated by the “or else” although what it was I could only speculate, and I probably chose not to. There were likely snowballs being thrown, and snow angels being crafted, and red cheeks and runny noses, and all that is predictable with kids on a winter night. It was probably that way.

What I know to be indisputably true, however, was the purpose and the unexpected outcome of this adventure. I was part of an organized group of same-aged kids from our community for the purpose of going to homes in the neighborhood to sing Christmas songs. We went to a lot of homes that night, probably, but I am certain of two homes specifically. Even 60 years later, I remember these not for their colorful holiday lights, their beautiful ambiance, or the glow of their inhabitants. I remember them for the dying of the light -- The quivering smile of an elderly woman, bed-ridden and alone, as we sang carols around her repose... and the pain in the eyes of a middle-aged man whose head protruded from the machine that was keeping him alive. I remember clearly his smile reflecting from the mirror above his head, and I like to think that our little primary singing group probably brought a measure of joy to some who were suffering. I know it brought an uncomfortable joy to me and a lesson for the ages.

At those moments, in those modest homes with good people facing desperate circumstances, there was no “probably” and there was no “or else.” It was all sobering reality, and something I needed to



know, and learn at an early age to gain respect for all that would come thereafter. It was a good thing, and adults made it happen by recognizing a need and realizing a solution, as small and fleeting as it was. I probably went home that night, hugged my Mom, brushed my teeth, and slept really well.

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.”

School Board Meeting Dec. 4, Summary Notes

BOARD HANDBOOK: The board reviewed several school board handbooks from various districts as models for the Emery School District Board and settled on several ideas to include in a 4-5 page publication. The handbook will specify rules and procedures that the board will follow in conducting business and board meetings. A draft handbook will be reviewed in a future meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT POSITION: With Superintendent Davis retiring at the end of the current school year, the Emery Board discussed the timeline for filling his position. Working with the Utah School Boards Association, the Emery Board will meet with USBA Administrative Director Richard Stowell at the USBA Conference in January to set dates for advertising the position, application deadlines, application vetting, and interviews. The local board wants to fill the position well before the end of the school year to provide transitional time before Superintendent Davis retires.

SCHOOL FEES: Business Administrator Jared Black reviewed the expectations and timeline with respect to new State Board Rules on school fees. The local board has until April 1, to approve updated policy for a rollout for the 2020-21 school year. Prior to policy approval, the board will need to hold at least two public hearings. Superintendent Davis provided two model policies regarding school fees. One is specific to fee waivers, and the other is specific to establishing fee schedules. The board will also be addressing changes in school fundraisers.

REQUEST FOR BUS STOP IN FERRON: After three months of debate, research and discussion on a request for a bus stop in Ferron, the Emery Board voted 4-1 not to approve the request. The proposal called for a stop along 800 West to transport several students to and from Ferron Elementary. However, the stop does not fall within the state requirements for eligible elementary bus stops and would require a local exception. Although the request cited safety issues, the consensus of the board was that it is the responsibility of local law enforcement to assure students walking to and from school are safe. The board was also concerned that by allowing a non-qualifying bus stop in Ferron, a precedent would be set for numerous other non-qualifying requests from throughout the district.



Sam Corrigan, a senior at Green River High School, was honored by the Emery Board of Education for earning Academic All State honors in baseball. The recognition took place at the Dec. 4, 2019 board meeting at Book Cliff Elementary. Above, Board Member Royd Hatt, right, presents Sam the Achievement Award. Sam is an honor student at GRHS and has a 3.91 GPA.

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REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL LEAVE: Principal Gaylene Erwin of Book Cliff Elementary requested approval of the board to support requests of two non-benefited staff members to take maternity leave with assurances of continued employment at the end of their leave. The employees requesting the district support are Michaela Hughes, computer lab tech and library aide, and Dallice Webster, Title I and Special Education aide. The board approved the requests.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS: Principals Gaylene Erwin of Book Cliff Elementary and Kayce Fluckey of Green River High School updated the local board on programs and activities at their schools, highlighting social/emotional learning and literacy as priorities.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The Emery School Board will meet again on Jan. 8, 2020, at Huntington Elementary School. The work session is set to begin at 5:30 pm with the general session scheduled for 7 pm. Board members are also planning on attending the Utah School Boards Association Conference in Salt Lake City on Jan. 9-10-11.

BOARD APPROVES 3-YEAR CALENDAR: The board approved the following 3-year calendar after a recommendation from the Emery School District Calendar Committee. The new calendar goes into effect with the 2020-21 school year.

Calendar Event	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
New Teacher Training	Aug. 10-14	Aug. 9-13	Aug. 8-12
Safety Training & Adm. Co.	Monday, Aug. 17	Monday, Aug. 16	Monday, Aug. 15
School-Level Preparations	Aug. 17-21	Aug. 16-20	Aug. 15-19
Opening Institute & Teacher Professional Development	Thursday, Aug. 20	Thursday, Aug. 19	Thursday, Aug. 18
First Day of School	Tuesday, Aug. 25	Tuesday, Aug. 24	Tuesday, Aug. 23
First Day of Kindergarten	Monday, Aug. 31	Monday, Aug. 30	Monday, Aug. 29
Labor Day	Monday, Sept. 7	Monday, Sept. 6	Monday, Sept. 5
First Term Ends	Wed., Oct. 21- 41 days	Wed., Oct. 20- 41 days	Wed., Oct. 19- 41 days
Fall Break	Thurs./Fri.- Oct. 22-23*	Thurs./Fri.- Oct. 21-22*	Thurs./Fri.- Oct. 20-21*
No School For Students Full-Day PD for Teachers	PLC- Monday, Oct. 26	PLC- Monday, Oct. 25	PLC- Monday, Oct. 24
Thanksgiving Break	Thurs./Fri.- Nov. 26-27 Wed., Nov. 25- Min. Day	Thurs./Fri.- Nov. 25-26 Wed., Nov. 24- Min. Day	Thurs.,Fri.- Nov. 24-25 Wed., Nov. 23- Min. Day
Second Term Ends	Wed., Dec. 23- 41 days	Wed., Dec. 22- 41 days	Thursday, Dec. 22- 42 days
Holiday Break	Thurs., Dec. 24-Jan. 1 Min. Day Wed., Dec. 23	Thurs., Dec. 23-Dec. 31 Min. Day Wed., Dec. 22	Friday, Dec. 23-Jan. 2 Min. Day Thurs., Dec. 22
No School For Students Full-Day PD for Teachers	(PLC- Mon., Jan. 4)	(PLC- Mon., Jan. 3)	(PLC- Tues., Jan. 3)
School Resumes	Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021	Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022	Wed., Jan. 4, 2023
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, Jan. 18	Monday, Jan. 17	Monday, Jan. 16
Presidents' Day	Monday, Feb. 15	Monday, Feb. 21	Monday, Feb. 20
Third Term Ends- 47 Days	Friday, March 12- 48 days	Friday, March 11- 48 days	Friday, March 10- 47 days
No School For Students Full-Day PD for Teachers	Monday, March 15	Monday, March 14	Monday, March 13
Spring Break	April 5-9	April 4-8	April 3-7
Fourth Term Ends	Friday, May 28- 50 days**	Friday, May 27- 50 days**	Friday, May 26- 50 days**
No School For Students Full-Day PD for Teachers			
Total Days	180 Days	180 Days	180 Days

*Adjust if necessary to coincide with the Utah General Deer Hunt... **Emergency Make-up Day (Snow Day) if necessary.

Midterm Early Out PLC Days... 2020-21: Sept. 21, first term; Nov. 23, second term; Feb. 8, third term; April 26, fourth term. 2021-22: Sept. 20, first term; Nov. 22, second term; Feb. 7, third term; April 25, fourth term. 2022-23: Sept. 19, first term; Nov. 21, second term; Feb. 6, third term; April 24, fourth term.



State's superintendents meet at Governor's Mansion

SALT LAKE CITY: Governor Gary Herbert hosted the Utah Superintendents Association at the Governor's Mansion on Monday, Dec. 2, in a breakfast meeting which also included members of his staff, and leadership from the Utah State Board of Education and the Utah School Boards Association.

Of primary interest among the superintendents at the meeting was the governor's position and recommendation on tax reform. Governor Herbert indicated that he is waiting to see what recommendations come from the legislative committee studying tax reform before he takes a formal

position.

However, the governor told the educators that without the support of the education community, any proposed changes to the constitutional income tax earmark for public and higher education will likely not pass.

One concern that the governor voiced related to the income tax earmark is that it "ties the hands of the legislature" when it comes to funding a wide range of state programs. Furthermore, he said that Utah is the only state that has such an earmark and that it potentially hampers the state's ability to get the best deals on

loans. "Earmarks take money off the table," he said.

Responding to a question about increasing pay for teachers, the governor said that he is not happy about being the 51st state in teacher salary, but added that he believes the teacher shortage is more of a "crisis" and finding a solution to that is of greater concern.

The governor implied that legislators are looking for local taxing entities, including school boards, to utilize their taxing authority to support funding needs while relying less on state funding sources.

Emery schools earn praise for use of Trust funding

The Utah State Board of Education and the Office of the School Children's Trust have recognized Emery District schools for their use of Trust Lands funding as allocated for annual distribution.

Lands Trust funds are sent to schools each year for use by the schools specifically for that year. However, it is not uncommon for schools to have "carryover" at the end of a fiscal year. The USBE monitors such carryover and cautions districts when the amount is excessive.

In recognizing the appropriate use of funding in the Emery District, program director Natalie Gordon wrote the following to Superintendent Davis, "Thank you and the excellent district staff for reducing schools with more than 20 percent carryover in the district from two in FY19 to zero in FY20. Emery District also reduced the number of schools with greater than 20 percent carryover for two years or more from two schools last year to none this year."

Director Gordon noted that this is "substantial progress" for the district. Superintendent Davis added that this is a tribute to School Community Councils for their planning and execution of Lands Trust budgets."



Steven Gordon, shown above during his days of coaching, is now principal at Emery High and a member of the UHSAA Board of Trustees.

Emery High principal named to UHSAA Board of Trustees

Rod Cuff, executive director of the Utah High School Activities Association, has announced that Emery High Principal Steven Gordon has been named to that organization's Board of Trustees.

In making the announcement Director Cuff said, "This particular appointment is a very pleasant and rewarding one. The fellowship of other committee members and the fulfillment of the work involved outweighs the time, effort and pressure associated with the assignment."

The UHSAA Board of Trustees is a policy making body. The BOT is composed of school board members, district superintendents, principals, a charter school representative, a private school representative, and a member of the Utah State Board of Education.

In making the announcement to the Emery Board of Education, Superintendent Davis noted that "This is a very prestigious assignment for Mr. Gordon, and one that will give our school district and other rural districts a voice."

Principal Gordon is in his fourth year as principal of Emery High School. Prior to that, he served as assistant principal and teacher at the school. He has also been one of the most successful coaches in the history of the school, winning several state championships as head coach with baseball and girls' basketball.

**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:



Dec. 9: Table of Six (social services)
Meeting, noon, Carbon Courthouse

Dec. 10: Administrative Council
Meeting, 8:30 am, Ferron Senior Cen-
ter... District Technology Committee
Meeting, 3:30 pm, district office

Dec. 17: Systems of Care (social services) Meeting, 10 am, Price

Holiday Schedule: Friday, Dec. 20, minimum day... No school

Dec. 23-Jan. 1... School resumes Thursday, Jan. 2

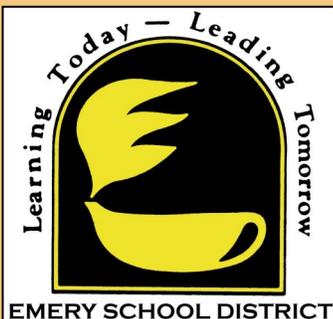
For information specific to schools in our district, go to the dis-
trict website at emeryschools.org, refer to the “Schools”
dropdown menu, and chose a specific school website. Once at
the site, choose the “calendar” option.

**Emery County School
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STICKY NOTES:



Change in District Office Business Hours: The Emery School District Office has maintained 8 am to 5 pm business hours during the school year for generations. However, times have changed and the need to adjust these office hours to meet the needs of district schools, employees, and stakeholders has become apparent. Starting in January 2020, the district office business hours will be 7:30 am to 4 pm. District office staff will have a 30-minute lunch break. These new business hours will be in line with employee contract starting and ending times as well as those schools who start before 8 am. While the new hours will eliminate the “dead” time from 4-5 pm, the district office will continue to honor requests for post-office hour meetings and classes, background checks, deliveries, etc.