



Monday, Jan. 13, 2020

Just So You Know

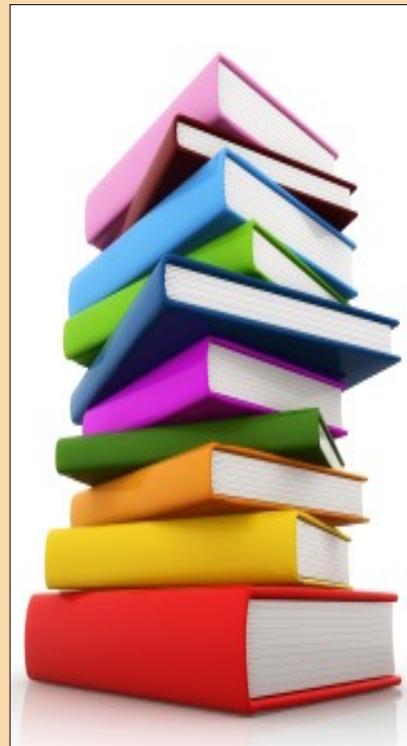
What lies ahead in 2020 for Emery District:

TAXATION AND PUBLIC ED: The Utah Legislature gets underway Jan. 27, and runs through March 12. Of great interest for public education is what legislators will do with the income tax earmark. Also, petitions are currently being circulated calling for a referendum to repeal new tax laws approved in special session in December that will raise taxes on food, gas and some services while lowering income tax. Should the necessary number of signatures be collected by the deadline, the matter will go to voters in November.

2020-2021 STAFFING: The Emery Board of Education has made early and accurate kindergarten registration a priority for the 20-21 school year. Such data is essential to staffing for the next school year. Also factoring into next school year's staffing will be legislative action involving public ed as well as employee retirements and resignations. The district office requests those planning on retiring or resigning from the district at the end of the current school year to submit letters to the superintendent as soon as possible.

SCHOOL GRADES: The Utah State Board of Education has informed school districts that letter grades for Utah public schools will not be issued, at least not at this time, because of the issues related to the 2018-19 RISE testing. However, test data and other factors that constitute the school-grading formula are posted on each school's dashboard which can be found at the USBA website.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE: The Emery District Facilities Committee is now active and working on a thorough review of district facility needs and priorities. Most recently, committee members toured schools and other district facilities to see first hand the challenges the district is facing when it comes to infrastructure. Such needs will be evaluated by the committee which will ultimately make recommendations to the Emery Board of Education with respect to remodeling and new construction. As the process continues, public hearings will be held to allow for additional input on district needs, priorities, and associated costs. The next meeting of the Facilities Committee will be held on Jan. 21, 2020, at 3:30 pm at the district office.



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 Jan. 8, Summary Notes

Board Meeting held at Huntington Elementary School

Board Handbook: The Board reviewed the latest draft of the proposed Board Handbook. Several changes were recommended and adopted. The final draft will go into effect when published on the district website in the near future. The handbook outlines board meeting protocol as well as procedures related to board responsibilities and expectations.

Approved for Employment: Emily Huntington, Emery High School special education aide; Bethany Gardner, Book Cliff Elementary special education aide; and Bailey Johnson, Book Cliff preschool aide/assistant teacher. These are part-time positions.

Vaping Amendments to the District Smoking, Vaping, and Tobacco Use by Students Policy (JICG): After reviewing the amended Tobacco-Use Policy to include references to vaping, the board approved the amendments, and the policy became effective immediately. The amendments add vaping and possession of vaping products and paraphernalia to the policy. In addition, the amended policy allows school officials to confiscate and destroy vaping products and paraphernalia or turn such items over to law enforcement when properly confiscated. The policy was also updated to note that tobacco products are not legal for purchase and possession by anyone under the age of 21.

Athletic Schedules Approved: 2020 schedules for Emery High baseball and boys' soccer were approved by the Board. It was noted that the baseball schedule includes an out-of-state trip to Mesquite, Nev. for a tournament in early March which would require Board approval. In approving the two schedules, the Board also approved the out-of-state baseball trip.

Auto Competition Trip Approved: Emery High auto instructor Chandler Peacock asked permission to take six students to Hobbs, NM for a competition, leaving Monday, Feb. 3, and returning Saturday Feb. 8. USU-E will provide transportation, and the instructor will be the chaperone. All six students are male students. The annual competition to Hobbs has been imbedded in the auto program and was again approved by the Board.

Update on Use of Surplus Lands Trust Funds: Huntington Elementary Principal Jody Carter updated the Board on a carryover from the school's 2018-19 Lands Trust budget in the amount of \$8,517, plus some unused amounts in other Lands Trust categories. The principal indicated that the school's Community Council has authorized the purchase of four Smart TVs to start replacing older Smartboards. The cost of each TV is \$2,700. The total would be \$10,800.

Board Approves Purchase of Two New Buses: After a presentation by Emery Transportation Department Supervisor Roger Swenson, the Board approved the purchase of two new school buses for the 2020-21 school year. One of the buses will service Emery students attending the Castle Valley Center in Price while the other will be used for activity trips. Also, a one-year-old bus that is currently in use primarily for Emery High activity trips, will be transferred to Green River for similar use next school year. *(Continued on the next page)*

Summary Notes *(Continued from previous page)*

Principal's Report: Huntington Elementary Principal Jody Carter gave a report to the Board on activities at her school. She recognized the new teachers and staff members at the school and expressed appreciation for the dedicated volunteers who are proving to be valuable to the students and teachers. The school is using Lexia for language arts this year, and Principal Carter indicated that the program is making a positive difference. The Bronco Pride Program continues to be successful in recognizing students for good behavior, acts of kindness, and academic progress. A new social/emotional program is in place while character education is provided via monthly "Me-to-We" themes. The school had an emergency evacuation in October due to a nearby gas leak. The principal said that the event proved to be the school's reunification drill for the year. She said that staff, students, and parents responded very well to the emergency. Regarding professional development for faculty, the principal said several trainings have taken place. Two teachers, Emily Mills and Dani Tuttle, attended the Solution Tree PLC Conference in October. Teacher Tiffany Cowley and student Cameron Hansen spoke to the Board about their experiences with the highly successful robotics program.

Community Council Reports: The Emery School Board members agreed going into the new school year to attend School Community Council Meetings in their precincts. At the January Board Meeting, Board members further agreed to offer brief summary reports of the meetings they attend.

Request for Full-Time AD: Emery High School Principal Steven Gordon made a request for a full-time district athletic director. Citing the increasing number of Utah High School Activities Association programs, regulations, and "paperwork," the principal said it is difficult for a part-time AD to keep up with the demands of the position. He said that a full-time district AD could work with all secondary schools in the Emery District on extracurricular scheduling, hiring, transportation, and policy/procedure. Mr. Gordon acknowledged that the district has a great number of personnel needs in the 10 schools it serves, but added that the majority of students at Emery High are engaged in UHSAA programs and such needs should not be overlooked. The Board took the request under advisement.

Superintendent's Report: Emery County Library Supervisor Desiree Malley has reported that local libraries have been funded for the current fiscal year and will maintain their service hours. A recent meeting with the supervisor and the Emery School District Administrative Council involved a discussion regarding ways county libraries can facilitate district needs. It was suggested that expanding hours to include evenings would help students who do not have the technology at home to complete school projects. The supervisor reported that the county is adding 24-hour service at the Orangeville and Green River Libraries through a program known as iHubs which will make technology available during non-traditional hours. Funding for the program comes from a grant and will be in place as a pilot program for the next few years.

Additional Board Meeting Scheduled: The Board has scheduled a meeting for Friday, Jan. 17, at 9 am at the district office for the purpose of planning for the replacement of superintendent Larry W. Davis who will be retiring at the end of the current school year. The discussion will be in closed meeting as it pertains to personnel.

Emery Graduation Rate above state average

SALT LAKE CITY: Data released by the Utah State Board of education indicates that the Emery School District Graduation Rate for 2019 is above the state and national average. The district came in at 92.7 percent while the state average for the same year is 87.4.

However, the district average is slightly below the graduation rate from 2018 which was at 93.2, a decline of .5 percent. Utah, on the other hand, saw an increase in the graduation rate from 2018 to 2019, representing the seventh straight years of graduation improvement.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson said of the report, "Students who don't graduate from high school are less likely to make a living wage, move on to post-secondary education opportunities, or be civically engaged." She added, "Therefore, high school graduation rates are something we monitor and promote. We are proud of the efforts of our educators in helping more stu-

dents graduate and applaud those who reached the 100 percent mark." Fourteen schools in Utah included in the report recorded a 100 percent graduation rate.

Regarding the Emery School District, Emery High School graduated 150 students last year for a 94.7 graduation rate which is .4 percent higher than the previous year. Green River graduated 11 students which is approximately an 80 percent rate. Small schools are counted differently than larger schools.

Emery Superintendent Larry W. Davis said of the report, "Getting students through our system and to the point of graduation from high school is an essential component of our mission. It is also important that a high school diploma is symbolic of the skills and experiences our students have attained that will support them as they transition to the next phase of their lives."

How to avoid slips, trips and falls

Winter weather is a major contributor to slip, trip, and fall injuries. Such injuries, and even death from such injuries, are on the increase. However, there are ways to avoid these painful realities.

When walking on ice and snow, here are some simple tips:

Take the safest route to your destination and make the time for it. Try to avoid slippery sur-

faces, don't rush, and use handrails along the way where possible.

Don't use your smartphone while walking— it's distracting!

Walk deliberately. Bending your knees a little and taking slow, short steps, increases traction and lowers the odds of falling. If you have to walk on slippery surfaces, also remember to keep your center of balance under you.

Wear boots or other slip-resistant footwear.

Look out for "black ice." Dew, fog or water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces and form an extra-thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that can look like a wet spot on the pavement. It often

shows up early in the morning, or in areas that are shaded from the sun.

Use caution when getting in and out of vehicles, and use the vehicle for support.

When entering a building, remove as much snow and water from your boots as you can and watch for wet and slippery floors.

Avoid carrying items. Keep hands empty so arms are free to move for stabilization. If you must carry items, use backpacks if possible.

When walking on steps, always use the hand railings and plant your feet firmly on each step.

Slick spots should be reported and taken care of immediately.

State population trends and the impact on Emery District

In a report released by the National Center for Health Statistics regarding final birth data for 2018, Utah's fertility rate continues to decline as it has for the past 11 years.

In addition, for the first time, Utah's fertility rate "dropped below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman." That rate now stands at 2.03 births per woman. Three states now have higher fertility rates than Utah. They are South Dakota,

North Dakota, and Nebraska.

In an article written by Natalie Gochnour of the University of Utah and published in the Deseret News, "The most telling difference (in fertility rate decline) will be in Utah's public education system, which has for years struggled with large class sizes and lowest-in-the-nation per pupil funding. Fewer births means fewer kindergarteners in five years. The cumulative impact of fewer children

will do more to increase per pupil spending in Utah's public schools than any lobbying group or politician."

In another report, this one from the University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, it is noted that only two counties in Utah have had a decline in population in the last decade, 2010-2019. They are Wayne and Emery Counties. The fastest growing county in the state is Utah.



Christmas Around the World at Cleveland Elementary

**Emery School District
Mission Statement:**

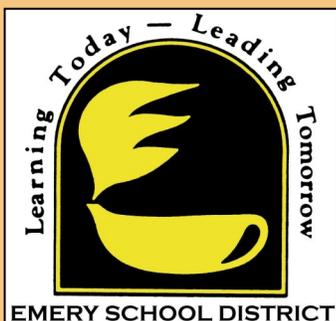
***“The mission of the
Emery County
School District is to
provide a compre-
hensive education
that will prepare
students to take a
proactive and re-
sponsible role in an
ever-changing
world.”***

**Emery County School
District**

PO Box 120
120 N. Main Street
Huntington, Utah
84528

Phone: 435-687-9846
Fax: 435-687-9849

Website: emeryschools.org



District Calendar:



Tuesday, Jan. 14: Governor’s Education Summit, Salt Lake City

Wednesday, Jan. 15: Capital Outlay Tour and school site visits

Thursday, Jan. 16: SESC Board of Directors’ Meeting, Grand District Office

Friday, Jan. 17: School Board Meeting, 9 am, district office

Monday, Jan. 20: MLK Day, No School

Tuesday, Jan. 21: Digital Teaching and Learning Grant Team Meeting, 9 am, DO... URSA Board of Directors Meeting, Juab DO... Facilities Committee Meeting, 3:30 pm, DO

Jan. 23-24: Computer Science Grant training, San Juan School District Office, Blanding

Jan. 27: 2020 Utah Legislature begins and continues through March 12

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.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: The Board will meet Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Cleveland Elementary at 6:30 pm for a work session and 7 pm for regular board meeting.