

# Emery County School District | Board of Education

The December 2008 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Ferron Elementary School, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Vice-President Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson, Sam Singleton and Rue Ware. Superintendent Kirk Sitterud was present as was Business Administrator Jared Black.

## WORKING SESSION

**Independent Auditor's Report:** Kay Kimball of Kimball and Roberts presented the auditor's report for fiscal year 2008. Mr. Roberts mentioned his appreciation to the staff of the School District for their cooperation in preparing for and completing the audit. Mr. Roberts reported that the only findings were immaterial and have been addressed. Consequently, he was able to report a clean opinion on the financial statements of the School District.

Mr. Kimball then reviewed various portions of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, explaining the different sections of the report to the Board of Education. Mr. Black thanked Mr. Kimball for performing a good audit and mentioned that special recognition should be given to Jackie Allred, District Accounting Specialist, who was the major contributor to the report. Board President Johansen thanked Mr. Kimball for reporting the audit to the Board, then adjourned the meeting until the beginning of the regular session.

## REGULAR SESSION

At 7:00 pm, after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, President Johansen invited Commissioner Drew Sitterud and Mayor Neal Peacock to address the Board. Both expressed their appreciation to the School Board for the donation of land and money that helped make possible the construction of the new pool. Both also mentioned that they are committed to making sure the pool is available to the schools in the County. President Johansen thanked Commissioner Sitterud and Mayor Peacock for their efforts in making the swimming pool a reality.

President Johansen next presented outgoing Board Member Rue Ware with a service plaque, recognizing him for his 8 years of service as a member of the School District Board of Education. Mrs. Johansen thanked Mr. Ware for the expertise and knowledge he brought to the Board, mentioning how much Mr. Ware cares about students, the community, and the School District. Mr. Ware mentioned his appreciation for the other School Board members, and for the opportunity he had to serve on the School Board. Other members of the Board also expressed their appreciation to Mr. Ware.

**Board Action Item #1:** Members of the Board first considered the warrants as well as the minutes for the November 2008 Board meeting. A motion was made by Rue Ware to approve the warrants as well as the minutes for the November 2008 Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Royd Hatt and passed by unanimous vote.

**Board Action Item #2:** Board President Johansen mentioned that Kay Kimball of Kimball & Roberts had presented the Independent Auditor's Report for 2007 to the Board of Education during a working session prior to the regular meeting. Mrs. Johnson motioned to accept the report. Royd Hatt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item #3:** Principal Garth Johnson of San Rafael Junior High was invited to present a proposal for a combined junior high Christmas dance. Principal Johnson explained that, if approved, this would allow the two junior high schools to have two dances during the year, one at each school. Both schools like to have non-

competitive opportunities for the students to get together and the prior dances have never been problematic. After discussing transportation and other issues, Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the request for a junior high Christmas dance. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

**Board Action Item #4:** A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the monthly meeting calendar for School Board Meetings in 2009. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this calendar is attached as part of the official minutes.

**Board Action Item #5:** Superintendent Sitterud recommended to the Board that the following persons be approved for the extracurricular positions indicated:

*Reed Fehlberg: Assistant Wrestling Coach Emery High*

A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the recommendation as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item #6:** Superintendent Sitterud presented the following policy recommendations to the Board:

Revised Policies for Approval:

-  JICJ: Electronic Communication Device Use by Students
-  GDI: Support Staff Probation and Tenure
-  GCJ: Professional Staff Classifications
-  GDO: Support Staff Evaluation
-  GDA: Support Staff Positions and Classifications
-  GCQ: Orderly Dismissal Policy – Professional Staff
-  GDQ: Orderly Dismissal Policy – Support Staff
-  ADF: Student Wellness
-  JJIB: Interscholastic Athletics

New Policies for Approval:

-  GBEE: Electronic Communication Device Use by Employees
-  JICFA: Bullying and Hazing
-  EFE: Food Sales and Vending Machines in Schools

Language Revision: Change the term “contract” to “annual employment period” in support staff policies.

Mr. Sitterud briefly discussed each policy under consideration, explaining that the proposed policy changes would bring the District’s policies in line with new State Board rules, existing State laws, or to match changes in evaluation procedures. He added that the language revision would allow him to update any support staff policies still using the term “contract” so that he doesn’t have to bring each one to the Board for approval.

Rue Ware made a motion to approve the policy recommendations are presented. Royd Hatt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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**Board Action Item #7:** Superintendent Sitterud presented to the Board a revised comprehensive evaluation program. He explained that in the process of revising the evaluation program, he sought and received input from Principals, District and School staff, the Licensed and Support Staff Associations and School Community Councils. Based on the input he received, the program remains very similar to what it has been in the past with a few minor changes, which he then reviewed with the Board. Marie Johnson made a motion to accept the revised evaluation program as presented. Sam Singleton seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Reports Item #1:** Principal Brian Dawes welcomed the Board of Education to Ferron Elementary School and proceeded to report on several items. The School was pleased to make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) and has recently started an SRA reading intervention program for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. Mr. Dawes expressed his appreciation to his staff, including new teachers Alicia Burr and Audrey Winn. He reported that the new Elementary Psychologist, Amy Bell, is a tremendous resource to his school. He added that the peer tutoring program with San Rafael Junior High is a great program and he appreciates the support he receives from San Rafael.

President Johansen thanked Principal Dawes for his report, also asking him, on behalf of the Board, to thank his staff for their excellence.

**Reports Item #2:** Superintendent Sitterud reported that Governor Huntsman is about to release his budget recommendations, which will reportedly encourage the Legislature to hold public education harmless. What this likely means is that he wants to minimize the impact on public education, but that there will in fact be some budget cuts to public education. It is likely that some of the programs passed this last year by the Legislature will be cut this year. There is also a possibility that the WPU (Weighted Pupil Unit) will be cut, which would have an impact on all Districts, but particularly Districts like ours that have little or no growth. Fortunately, Utah is in a better position than most other states, but it will still be a tough year because of the economy.

**Reports Item #3:** Mr. Black had nothing to report.

At 8:00 p.m., a motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Royd Hatt to move to a closed meeting for a personnel-related discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:50 p.m., upon reconvening to open meeting, a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.