

Emery County School District | Board of Education

The October 2008 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 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, Secondary Supervisor Gwen Callahan and Elementary Supervisor Jed Jensen.

Board Action Item #1: After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, members of the Board first considered the warrants as well as the minutes for the September 2008 Board meeting. A motion was made by Rue Ware to approve the warrants and minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sam Singleton and passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item #2: Superintendent Sitterud presented a recommendation to approve a resolution on No Child Left Behind. He explained that the American Association of School Administrators is requesting that all Boards of Education adopt the resolution, calling for a revision of NCLB to match the requirement level to the funding level. The resolution has been adopted by the Utah School Superintendent's Association. Marie Johnson motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Sam Singleton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Board Action Item #3: Mr. Black recommended that the Board approve a resolution to adopt pick-up elections with Utah Retirement Systems. This is something the District should have done back in the mid 1980's, but no evidence of formal action can be found in the minutes. URS is requesting official documentation of an adopting resolution for pick-up elections, and has recommended that if it cannot be found, that the current Board adopt a resolution to meet the requirement. Mr. Black explained that even though the District now participates in the Non-Contributory retirement system, there are still a handful of employees in the Contributory system, which is why the District still participates in some pick-up elections. Rue Ware motioned to adopt the resolution presented by Mr. Black with Sam Singleton seconding the motion. It passed favorably by a unanimous vote.

Reports Item #1: Principal Larry Davis thanked members of the Board for the confidence they have place in him and the privilege he feels it is to serve as Principal of Emery High School. He then reviewed the school's mission statement and desired results for student learning (DRSL's). Mr. Davis commented on his administrative goals as Principal of EHS, highlighting his ideas for school improvement. He next reviewed some of the demographic information pertinent to EHS.

Several noteworthy efforts were mentioned by Principal Davis. Highlights include the following: Emery High made AYP for the 2007-08 school year. The school now has an organized math club, organized by Josh White. The Student Council is active in organizing events and activities at the School. Seven students have recently been recognized as Academic All-State in fall sports. Students at EHS are taking 991 credits of concurrent enrollment this year. Several students have recently passed AP tests. The FFA program has impressed Mr. Davis and is off to a great start. Parent/Teacher conferences were held on September 24th with an encouraging turnout. Mr. Davis ended his report by thanking the Board for their support and for the opportunity to present some of his thoughts to them.

Board President Johansen extended her thanks to Principal Davis, adding that she appreciates hearing how his goals will help make a great school even better.

Reports Item #2: Superintendent Sitterud reported to the Board on multiple items, beginning with a discussion on the recently released AYP / UPASS scores. The District is very pleased with the results. Only one school did not make AYP, and this school missed only 1 out of 45 target areas. The District is one of just a few in the State that

Emery County School District | Board of Education

have not yet had a school on the school improvement program, which is something we can all be proud of. Mr. Sitterud then gave the Board an enrollment update. The October 1st number is 2,259, which is up several students from a month ago and puts the District at an almost identical enrollment as last year, which is good news. Lastly, he commented on a special session held recently by the Utah Legislature to discuss budget cuts due to lower than projected revenues in the State. Fortunately, public education has been held harmless this year, however, there is significant talk of budget cuts for the upcoming school year. One area that will change this year is that UBSC remediation will not be funded. The District will still go through with its program and commitments this year, but will not receive any funding from the State.

Reports Item #3: Mr. Black reported that the annual audit was recently completed and went well. He also mentioned that the District will be offering surplus items to the public in a sale at the Bus Garage / Maintenance Compound on October 11th.

Board President Johansen asked those attending if there were any who wished to make comments to the Board. Joel Hatch mentioned that she was representing the Economic Development Council and presented the Board with a request for the School District to start managing the summer camps that have been offered over the last few years. She stated that the Council will be meeting on October 28th and hopes to have a response from the Board by that time.

Superintendent Sitterud stated that he has had this discussion many times with other members of the Economic Development Council. If the School District were to take over management of the camps, it would have to hire at least a part-time person to do it. The School District does not currently have the personnel and resources to do something like this, and it would be especially hard to justify when the School District does not even have sufficient funding for summer remediation programs. He mentioned that he feels the summer camps are great opportunities, but should be managed by County Recreation or a private business. Mrs. Johansen thanked Mrs. Hatch for coming, mentioning that the Board would get back with them.

At 7:48 p.m., a motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to move to a closed meeting for a negotiations-related discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon reconvening to open meeting, at 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Rue Ware to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.