

# Emery County School District | Board of Education

The January 2017 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Canyon View Junior High School, was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Vice-President Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson and recently elected members Kenzi Guymon and Tracey Johnson. Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

At 7:00 pm, Mrs. Johansen welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board Action Item (B1):** Mr. Black administered the Oath of Office to re-elected board member Laurel Johansen and recently elected board members Kenzi Guymon and Tracey Johnson. Those in attendance expressed their congratulations.

**Board Action Item (B2):** Laurel Johansen was re-elected to a two year term as Board President by unanimous vote following a motion by Marie Johnson and a second by Royd Hatt. Tracey Johnson was elected to a two year term as Board Vice-President by unanimous vote following a motion by Kenzi Guymon and a second by Marie Johnson.

**Board Action Item (B3):** Marie Johnson made a motion to reappoint Jared Black as the Business Administrator of the School District for a two year term. Laurel Johansen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (B4):** Board members considered the warrants, minutes of the December 2016 meeting, and financial reports for December 2016. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Kenzi Guymon to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (B5):** Superintendent Davis recommended to the Board that the following individual be approved for the position indicated:

*Dawnette Gordon:*

*School Secretary*

*Huntington Elementary School*

Royd Hatt motioned to approve the hiring recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Marie Johnson and passed unanimously. All approvals are subject to the completion and review of a background check.

**Board Action Item (B6):** Ashley Jensen presented a proposal to take three students from the Emery Youth Coalition to Washington DC to attend the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America conference. The dates of travel would be February 6-10. The conference provides evidence-based training to students on how to prevent drug, alcohol, and tobacco use in the schools and community. Travel costs would be provided by Four Corners. The students would also be asked to raise a combined \$500 toward the trip. This is the same conference attended last year by 5 EHS students.

The students are expected to share what they have learned with rest of the Youth Coalition at EHS and to implement strategies for substance prevention. This was very successful last year. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the trip. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Black presented a request from the Green River High FACS program to travel into Colorado to deliver baby blankets to the NICU at the hospital in Grand Junction. Mrs. Suarez and six students would be traveling. The students are making the blankets as part of their curriculum. There would be no overnight travel as the plan is to

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leave at 3:00 pm and return at 9:00 pm. Royd Hatt made a motion to approve the out-of-state travel as explained. Marie Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (B7):** Principal Yvonne Jensen presented a proposal from teacher David Bird for students from Canyon View Junior High to attend the UMEA Honors Choir event. The trip would require an overnight stay. It is anticipated that the trip would involve 8 students from Canyon View. It is unknown if students from San Rafael would also be participating. The trip would be made in coordination with Emery High students and chaperones who will be attending the high school event. Four chaperones in total will be with the students. The dates are January 27-28. Marie Johnson motioned to approve the travel request as presented, with the stipulation that two chaperones, one male and one female, be with the junior high students during the entire trip. Tracey Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Board Action Item (B8):** Principal Yvonne Jensen requested that the Board consider a reevaluation of the number and types of competitions allowed for junior high (and in the future, middle school) students. In particular, she feels that there are occasional opportunities for additional games that would not require major additional travel, and she asked if some flexibility could be considered. She also indicated that other schools from neighboring Counties often contact Canyon View to schedule games, but the answer is always no because Canyon View cannot agree to home/home arrangements. Coach John Nielson also spoke this issue. Members of the Board requested the current schedule for Canyon View and indicated that they would look into the questions that have been brought up. A motion was not made.

**Board Action Item (B9):** Mr. Black presented a job description for a newly created position in the District, the Technology Field Technician. He indicated that he is requesting approval of the job description only, not approval to hire someone. The job description was developed primarily by Technology Supervisor Doug Johnson. The recommended wage level of grade 9 has been determined following a salary survey of comparable districts. Member Marie Johnson made a motion to approve the job description as presented. Royd Hatt seconded the motion. Member Tracey Johnson abstained from voting. The motion passed with four affirmative votes and one abstention.

**Report Item (C1):** Principal Yvonne Jensen thanked the Board for having their meeting at Canyon View and welcomed them to the school. She discussed the Cougar Pride program, where each teacher gives recognition to three students per day. Changes have been made to the lunch probation program so that students receive tutoring and assistance. A general lunch tutoring program has also been implemented for students who cannot stay after school. The faculty are committed to helping each student succeed.

Mrs. Jensen mentioned that the athletic programs at Canyon View have been successful this year. The faculty and staff have identified reading as a school-wide area of emphasis. They have decided to focus on reading in the learning strategies class. Various strategies are being used based on the needs of students in each classroom. Principal Jensen thanked the faculty and staff at Canyon View for the care they have for students. President Johansen thanked Principal Jensen for her report.

**Report Item (C2):** Mr. Black provided a copy of the recently completed review of the Child Nutrition Program by USBE. He complimented the CNP staff throughout the District for their efforts.

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**Report Item (C3):** Superintendent Davis mentioned that in his visits to schools, he is seeing high-quality teaching happening across the District. He is excited about the efforts he sees being made in all of our schools. He recognized the recent passing of Patricia Quarnberg, a former teacher at Book Cliff Elementary. He also recognized the retirement of Gayle McDonald who has worked as the Huntington Elementary secretary for many years. He updated the Board on the status of the 6<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade transition, indicating that the transition is on schedule. He would like to send a letter to employees requesting notification from those who are intending to resign or retire this year. He mentioned that this will allow staffing decisions to be made by the end of February.

Superintendent Davis explained that schools will be receiving approximately 30% higher funding in the Landtrust program next school year. This is due to the passing of Initiative B during the recent election and will be a very good thing for our schools and students. He also reviewed the upcoming legislative session, providing Board members with important dates and an overview of his intended participation in the session.

Superintendent Davis talked briefly about the technology grant, indicating that the funding is being held up by certain legislators. It is his hope that the funding will be released shortly. He mentioned that he is working on a recognition program that can be used to reward any and all District stakeholders. He is also working on a State of the District report. President Johansen thanked Superintendent Davis for his report.

**Public Comments (D):** No public comments were made.

**Closed Meeting (E):** At 8:00 pm., a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to move to a closed meeting for the purpose of holding a strategy session to discuss pending litigation, and for the purpose of discussion related to the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Member voting on this motion was as follows:

- Laurel Johansen           Aye
- Royd Hatt                    Aye
- Kenzi Guymon            Aye
- Marie Johnson             Aye
- Tracey Johnson            Aye

The closed meeting was held in the library at Canyon View Junior High School on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, beginning at 8:15 pm. All five Board members were present for the closed meeting, as were Superintendent Larry Davis, Business Administrator Jared Black, Secondary Supervisor Jed Jensen and Elementary Supervisor Ralph Worthen. A recording of the portion of the closed meeting related to the strategy session to discuss pending litigation was made and will be kept on file by the District. A recording was not made of the portion of the closed meeting related to discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

## **Certification of Closed Executive Session (Utah Code 52-4-206)**

I, Laurel Johansen, President of the Emery County School District Board of Education, certify and swear that the sole purpose of the unrecorded portion of the above closed executive session was to review and discuss the character and professional competence of individuals. Under the code referenced above, a closed executive session discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual is

exempt from recording requirements and therefore, this portion of the closed executive session was not recorded.

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Laurel Johansen

The closed meeting finished at 8:55 pm.

A brief follow-up discussion was held by the Board of Education related to athletic trips at the junior high school. The current schedule of games for Canyon View was provided to the members of the Board. It was determined that Superintendent Larry Davis would research the matter and develop a proposal for the February board meeting.

**Adjournment (F):** A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Marie Johnson to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.