

The April 2018 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at Cleveland Elementary School, was called to order at 6:00 PM by Board President Laurel Johansen. Other Board members present were Vice-President Tracey Johnson, Kenzi Guymon, Royd Hatt and Marie Johnson. Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present.

At 6:00 pm, Mrs. Johansen welcomed all in attendance and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Work Session

Mr. Black provided a summary of the financial impact to ECSD of the Legislative funding bills.

Superintendent Davis mentioned that in a meeting last week, State Superintendent Dickson shared some statistics from the 2018 legislative session: 169 education bills were introduced and 114 of those bills were passed. There was a total of \$268,000,000 in new approved funding for education, an amount equal to about an 8% overall increase. There are 20 new bills that will require the writing of new rules. Four new bills will establish new education programs. Three new bills will require annual reports. She also noted a distinct shift of emphasis away from WPU funding and toward programs.

Superintendent Davis then presented a review of District-relevant bills passed during the session. Some of the highlighted bills include:

- **HB132: Juvenile Justice Modifications**—Provides a two year reprieve during which school districts are able to refer Class C Misdemeanors to juvenile court. In the meantime, ECSD administrators will be working on solutions for handling juvenile justice situations once we are beyond this two year period.
- **HB233: Teacher Salary Supplement Revisions**—Provides salary supplements for qualifying teachers in the field of special education. Similar supplements are already in place for other difficult-to-staff curricular specialties such as math and science.
- **HB234: Compulsory Education Revisions**—Allows parents to check children out of school for illnesses that are either physical or mental. Further work on defining mental illness as it applies to this rule will need to be done.
- **HB293: Tax Rebalancing Revisions**—Equalization bill authorizing a new tax rate and which will provide additional funding to some school districts. ECSD will not receive additional funding. Details are still forthcoming of how this bill will impact school districts and property tax rates.
- **HJR20: Joint Resolution Submitting a Question to Voters**—Compromise with the “Our Schools Now” organization that results in presenting an opinion question to voters later in 2018 to determine whether voters support an increase in fuel tax rates for public education and roads.
- **SB194: Early Literacy Program**—Renames the K-3 reading program, while also raising the State competency goals from 40% to 60%. Instead of punishing low performing schools, provides funding and assistance to these schools and classes.

Regular Session (7:00 pm)

Presentations & Recognitions (B1-5): Superintendent Davis recognized the following students who were recently named Sterling Scholar category winners for the Utah Southeast Region: Elexis Dalton (World Languages), Abbie Huntington (Family & Consumer Science), Samantha Roberts (Mathematics).

Riata Christiansen was recognized for recently being named the President-Elect of the Utah Future Farmers of America Association.

The Emery High School girls basketball team was recognized for their recent accomplishment of winning the 3A state championship. Mr. Davis presented gift baskets to the coaches and Certificates of Achievement to each of the young women on the team. Megan Jensen was also recognized for being named the girls basketball 3A classification MVP.

Members of the Board expressed their congratulations to each of these outstanding students.

Vice-President Johnson gave a report on a recent stakeholder meeting held at USU-Eastern with USU President Noelle Cockett. President Cockett was very enthusiastic about CTE programs and providing pathways. She wants to work with high schools to create these pathways. Some of the pathways she specifically mentioned are elementary and secondary education, computer science, technology, and networking. She is focused on improving relationships between USU and the school districts. Vice-President Johnson was very impressed with President Cockett’s willingness to work with our school district.

Board Action Item (C1): Board members considered the warrants, minutes of the March 2018 meeting, and financial reports for March 2018. A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Tracey Johnson to approve the warrants, minutes and financial reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (C2): Superintendent Davis recommended to the Board that the following individuals be approved for the positions indicated:

Ted Gubler	Secondary Youth Mentor / Tracker	Emery School District
Kelsey Austin	Cheer Coach	Canyon View Middle School
Alexandrea Sherman	Track Coach	Canyon View Middle School
Lacey Faimalo	Assistant Drill Coach	Emery High School
Heather Stilson	Assistant Drill Coach	Emery High School
Shelby Bagley	Assistant Drill Coach	Emery High School

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

Board Action Item (C3): Superintendent Davis presented a set of proposed amendments to the teacher evaluation procedures. He explained that these amendments are the agreed-upon recommendations from a committee that met to discuss ways of simplifying the evaluation process. The proposed amendments have been vetted and approved by the Emery Education Association and members of the Administrative Council. Marie Johnson motioned to approve the proposed amendments as presented. Kenzi Guymon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Board Action Item (C4): Mr. Black presented a revision of Policy GDD—Support Staff Vacations & Holidays. He explained that the revision would align policy with how vacation leave is calculated and applied. He also proposed a retirement payout for unused vacation days, using the same formula that is used to calculate sick leave payouts. The policy revision also adds that year-round employees may choose to use their floating day on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Marie Johnson made a motion to approve the revised policy as recommended by Mr. Black. Royd Hatt seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Board Action Item (C5): A Landtrust revision was requested by Principal Yvonne Jensen of Canyon View Middle School. The revision would redistribute funding that had previously been allocated for fieldtrips, to pay for student rewards and incentives for academic accomplishments. Royd Hatt motioned to approve the revision. Kenzi Guymon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Report Item (D1): Principal Jerel Lofley thanked the Board of Education for their support. He indicated that SAGE testing has begun at Cleveland Elementary. He and the school faculty have been working with Assessment to Achievement (A2A) to set goals on how to improve teaching and student outcomes. He reported that Cleveland Elementary will offer a summer school program that will focus on reading and math instruction. President Johansen thanked Mr. Lofley for his report.

Report Item (D2): Mr. Black mentioned that the District has received preliminary figures from USBE so the budget process is beginning. He hopes to be ready for negotiations meetings by the end of the month, or perhaps early May. He added that a seminar about Medicare & Social Security was held earlier this month and was well attended by employees.

Report Item (D3): Superintendent Davis shared a report on the SAFE UT app with the Board. He explained that the app was rolled out at the beginning of the school year and connects students who are experiencing stress or danger with professional counselors and clinicians. The app also allows students to confidentially report other students they feel may be in need of assistance. The app is state-wide and state funded program. Mr. Davis reported that the app is working well and gives quick feedback to administrators. It is a valuable resource for both students and administrators.

Superintendent Davis indicated that graduation exercises are upcoming. It was decided that Royd Hatt and Kenzi Guymon will represent the Board at the Green River graduation. Laurel Johansen, Tracey Johnson and Marie Johnson will represent the Board at the Emery High graduation.

Superintendent Davis mentioned that the technology committee has approved scholarships to the Rural Schools Conference for two teachers and the administrator from each school. He is excited that ECSD will once again be well represented at the conference.

Public Comments (E): President Johansen invited Shawna Carroll to make a presentation to the Board. Mrs. Carroll thanked the Board for the opportunity to express concerns about the band programs her children are involved in. She discussed the importance of band programs for her children and the importance of music education for all kids. She provided handouts with information about student enrollments in band courses. She expressed her opinion that giving 6th grade students an option between chorus and band will have a long-term detrimental effect on the overall band programs. She encouraged the Board to consider additional options for music students and to not allow further cuts in the music offerings in our District.

Mrs. Johansen invited Secondary Supervisor Jed Jensen to address the concerns. Mr. Jensen noted that with the 6th grade students moving to middle schools, the feeling in administrative discussions was that it is important, when possible, to allow students and parents to have choices in educational offerings. There are very few electives at the middle school level so the elective of band and chorus allows for some choice. He indicated that there are parents who advocate for chorus, just as there are parents who advocate for band.

Superintendent Davis added that he is supportive of music programs in our schools. He noted that previous reductions in the music programs were not exclusive to music—they were District-wide reductions resulting from changes in enrollments and budgets.

Several members of the community respectfully voiced their support for the band programs and for music education in general. Suggestions included offering a jazz band or other offerings that may be more popular with students today, and holding a community instrument drive to provide more instruments in the schools. President Johansen mentioned that the Board of Education feels that music education is very important and they appreciate the support shown and comments that have been shared. It is her desire for administrators and music teachers to get together and brainstorm ideas to help the future direction of the program.

Closed Meeting (F): At 8:22 p.m., a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Kenzi Guymon to move to a closed meeting 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
- Tracey Johnson Aye
- McKenzi Guymon Aye
- Royd Hatt Aye
- Marie Johnson Aye

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 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 closed executive session was not recorded.

Laurel Johansen

The closed meeting was held in the Lunchroom at Cleveland Elementary School on Wednesday, April 11th, 2018, beginning at 8:35 pm. All Board members were in attendance as well as Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black. The closed meeting finished at 9:20 pm.

Adjournment (G): A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.