

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Thursday, February 16, 2012  
Escalante High School

Board members present: Board President Ken Platt, Vice President Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox.

Superintendent Ben Dalton and Business Administrator Lark Reynolds were also present.

**BOARD MEETING**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Board President Ken Platt called the meeting to order. Nobody from the public was present at the 4:00 start time as a closed meeting was scheduled at that time. Ken then asked for a motion to move into a closed executive session. Kay Englestead then proposed a motion to move into a closed executive meeting to discuss character and competence of an individual, pending and imminent litigation, and strategy session regarding collective bargaining. Cheryl Cox then seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was then called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Cheryl Cox, Brian Bremner, and Kay Englestead all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the closed executive meeting was held in the music room at Escalante High School.

Following the closed meeting Brian Bremner proposed a motion to come out the closed meeting into an open meeting. The motion was seconded by Kay Englestead, and a roll call vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0 and the open meeting resumed in the Escalante High School music room.

**Welcome**

Board President Ken Platt extended a welcome to all who were present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Cheryl Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**“What’s Right with Our Schools?”**

There was no presentation at this meeting.

### **Agenda Changes**

1. GRAMA request will be added after the Consent Agenda.

### **1. Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Approve January 2012 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve January 2012 Financial Reports
- C. Item Specific Budget Changes
- D. Approve Hiring Recommendations
  - i. Donna Adams – Substitute at Antimony Elementary School. She will be paid \$65 a day for substituting.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept the consent agenda as proposed. As part of the motion he also authorized the District to increase the three specific items that were over the Board adopted Budget; this includes a \$40 Rental increase for School Trust Lands, approximately \$12,500 in unemployment expenses, and finally a \$85,204 increase to the CTE Budget to take care of the carryover from last year and make the budget break even. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

### **2. GRAMA Request**

Brian Bremner made the motion to provide the requested information regarding the Justin Baugh lawsuit that have been approved by the District's attorney as GRAMA eligible and declare that material that he declared protected as protected. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. . Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

### **3. Bond Resolution – Alex Buxton**

Alex Buxton presented the potential savings if the School Board were to refinance the current 2002 General Obligation Bonds. He gave a brief explanation and explained these Bonds will have a AAA rating through the State which is only available to school districts. Kay Englestead proposed a motion to adopt a Resolution Authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Utah School Bond Guaranty Program) of the Board of Education of Garfield County School District, Garfield County, Utah to refund the outstanding General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2002. As part of his motion he authorized Board President Ken Platt, and Business Administrator Lark Reynolds to sign all the necessary documents related to this transaction. This motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

#### **4. Pickleball Presentation – Craig Sorensen**

Sue Bassett introduced Craig Sorensen to the Board. He presented an outline and gave a presentation regarding the proposal to construct a Pickleball Court on Escalante Elementary School property. They are currently looking for Grants and support from the community to do this. Melanie Boon has offered to write the grants. The estimated cost of the project is between \$40,000 and \$50,000 and will not impact use for tennis. Following the discussion Brian Bremner proposed a motion allow the community to move forward and see if they could come up with the sufficient funding to build a Pickleball Court on District property. As part of his motion he added that the District would put in \$500 from the Capital Projects fund balance to help the community in the process. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

#### **5. Wrestling Mat BVHS – Carlon Johnson**

Carlon Johnson related to the Board the success of the Bryce Valley team this year. He stated that the students who had participated had also seen improvement in their grades. He anticipates 15 boys being in the program next year. The cost will be approximately \$14,000. There was a motion by Brian Bremner to have a wrestling mat for BVHS added to the FY13 budget as a separate line item so that the Board could decide at that date if they had enough money to purchase a mat or not. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

#### **6. Public Comments**

Cathy Fletcher of Cannonville voiced her concerns regarding the District being able to meet the needs of children with disabilities on their Individual Education Plans (IEP's) if paraeducators get cut in hours. Superintendent assured her that each IEP will met and services for those students would not be cut.

Cheryl LeFevre presented a letter to the Board from the parents in the Bryce Valley area requesting two Kindergarten sessions for the students coming into the District next year. They anticipate 30 students in this class.

#### **7. School Board Proposals – Comments - Reports**

Brian Bremner attended the National Prayer Breakfast via radio. As was stated in the speech, he also stated that the Board is fallible. It is the personal effort and expertise of the employees and particularly the teachers that really makes this District; that is where instruction takes place. He had the opportunity to visit Tammi Bennett's class and was rejuvenated by her expertise and her great skill and what she did to engage each student.

He also visited Shannon Hatch's class and after only five minutes he was very impressed and amazed at the teaching techniques. He also mentioned visits to Roy Suggett, Phyllis Suggett and Escalante Elementary. He stated, "We as a Board need to make sure that we have the very best teachers in the classroom." He appreciates the efforts of those teachers that are nothing short of exceptional and great serving in the District.

Kay Englestead talked about how impressed he was as he attended the recent basketball games. He recognized that Bryce Valley and Panguitch High Schools and their communities came together to support a citizen in Bryce Valley. He appreciated their efforts and their recognition that there are more important things than the battles we have on the courts.

Gregg Christensen mentioned what has been discussed at his recent UHSAA meetings. Realignment is a big topic and there is a public hearing on March 22, 2012. There is a possibility of reclassification to six classes.

Cheryl commented on the "What Counts" program and having the community input. She is excited to gather community members from across the District to brainstorm and give input to the Board for future goals. Each Board member will gather three to five names each from their communities so that letters can be sent to them.

Ken also commented on his visits with Superintendent Dalton to various towns to discuss a community input for the "What Counts" program.

## **8. Superintendent's Report**

### **A. Alio FIS Contract Update**

The original cost for the program was estimated at \$48,653, working with other districts on the RFP lowers the cost to \$22,533 for this year. The ongoing cost will be approximately \$5,824 each year. SEDC will host the servers for the program. The District will work with Kane District to split the server cost; the cost for the servers will be an additional \$11,000. We have budgeted \$100,000 for this project, so we will have some additional money in capital we could use this fiscal year. One possible use of this capital money would be the Rocky Mountain power incentives relighting project at PHS.

### **B. Community Involvement "What Counts" Program**

Superintendent explained that the District would like to develop a 3-5 year goal plan. As a District we understand that in order to be successful in our schools we need buy in from our communities. Superintendent accepted the

names that the Board members had gathered and will compile the letters for the Board members to give to the community members.

**C. Dynamic Structures**

The contract with Dynamic Structures for \$1,200 to do the structural engineering on the PHS project has been signed and is included in the packet.

**D. Fuels for Schools Contract**

The Board discussed this contract and gave direction to move forward with the feasibility study for this project. The Department of Agriculture and Foods will pay up to \$35,000 for the study. Gregg made the motion to go forward with the feasibility study and accept the \$35,000 grant from the State to pay for it. Brian seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**E. US Department of the Interior**

The Board packet included a letter from the US Department of Interior reminding the District that if a change in ownership takes place with the property listed in the letter it must go through the process as stated in the letter. This would apply if we ever sold the property to a third party. The District would not be able to sub lease this property.

**F. Curriculum Scheduling (Common Core Math)**

Following a brief discussion, the Superintendent discussed how he would like to see all teachers attend the common core training. Cheryl Cox suggested teachers get together following the training to share the information with one another. Brian Bremner proposed a motion to allow the District teachers to attend the common core this year similar to what happened last year. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**G. Panguitch City Request for pool funding**

The District received a letter from Panguitch City requesting \$700,000 to release the District out of the Panguitch City Contract for the pool. Brian Bremner felt the letter was too antagonistic. Gregg Christensen then proposed a motion to submit the letter to Panguitch City that was prepared by Attorney

Patrick Tanner of Burbidge & White, to Panguitch City. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, and Cheryl Cox voted aye. Brian Bremner and Kay Englestead voted nay. The motion passed 3-2.

#### **H. District Calendar 2012-2013**

Two calendars are now created; one will be very similar to the current calendar. The second calendar will have fewer days out and a later start date. If a group would like to propose a calendar they would need to complete their own calendar and have 50 District employees sign the calendar to be considered. We will then place all of the school calendars online for employees to vote.

#### **I. Health Insurance Retirement Options**

Our health insurance advisors, Mercer & Co, advised that we look into a HRA (Health Reimbursement Account). This would be a vehicle that would provide incentive for early retirees that could provide health expenses and insurance tax free. The Board directed Superintendent and Lark to look further into these options.

### **9. Capital Projects – Damon Brinkerhoff**

#### **A. Update on Automatic Doors**

The automatic doors which were one of three priorities of the Board's capital project list are installed and working.

#### **B. Utah K-12 Public School Construction Approved Project Delivery Methods**

The Board packet contained three options with approved descriptions of delivery methods for public school construction projects.

### **10. Discussion and Actions Items**

#### **A. Crofts Bid Contract PHS Project**

Kay Englestead proposed a motion to direct the Superintendent to accept and sign the Contract that was presented to the Board to award the bid to Crofts Heating and Air, Inc. for \$249,835.00. This motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

## **B. PHS Electrical Project – Rocky Mountain Power**

The packet contained a document called UT Retro. It is bid to replace the lighting at PHS with Rocky Mountain Power incentives. The cost for the project is \$33,290 with \$4,839 of incentives from RMP. The total cost would be \$28,450; the yearly savings would be \$7,376 with project payback of 3.9 years. This would be a great project to move forward on with the savings from the FIS purchase, it could be done in this fiscal year. Brian expressed he supported projects such as this where we spend Capital Money now that will help us save money in the future.

Following this discussion Brian proposed a motion to direct the District to move forward with this project for PHS. He also suggested the District look into seeing if an audit could be performed at other locations in our District to save some future money. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

## **C. Fiscal Contract with Alio - Lark**

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to award the RFP to Alio and move forward with implementing the new Financial Information System. As part of the motion they also accepted entering into an agreement with SEDC to host the servers needed to run the system. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

## **D. Trust Land Plans**

The packet contained a copy of each school's 2011-2012 Trust Land Plan. The Principals have adjusted their plans to align with goals from the Community Councils.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept the Trust Land Plans from each of the schools. Kay Englestead seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. Gregg Christensen voted nay. The motion passed 4-1. Gregg explained that he cannot approve Panguitch Elementary School's plan because \$72,000 was approved for salary and benefits to be paid to an employee and they are not doing that. Superintendent explained that the money had been built into the plan in case it was needed to pay for a teacher. But, because it was not needed this year it

would be a carryover to the next year. The school would have to explain this carryover to the State. Lark also brought up the issue that other schools are paying money above the Districts current salary schedules. Cheryl Cox said she would like to kick this school out also to disapprove at this time. Ken Platt called for motion to rescind the previous motion. Cheryl Cox made the motion to rescind the motion and Ken Platt seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. Gregg Christensen abstained. The motion passed 4-0-1. Cheryl Cox then proposed a motion to accept all of the plans except Panguitch Elementary and Bryce Valley Elementary School's plans. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Cheryl Cox also expressed that she would like to see all of the plans, as well as Community Council meeting dates and minutes, on the District web site. Each of the schools sign off that they put their plan, as well as Community Council meeting dates and minutes on the web and she would like all of them to be in a central location.

#### **E. Certified Policies**

Kay Englestead suggested changing the approval from Superintendent to "Building Administrator" when an employee is going to be absent. Cheryl Cox also suggested that wording be changed to "current evaluation tool" instead of listing the actual tool. Gregg Christensen suggested that the wording be changed from "once every three years" to "once every year" for teacher evaluations.

Following a discussion on this matter Gregg Christensen proposed motion to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the first 20 pages of the certified handbook with the changes that were noted. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. Brian Bremner abstained from voting as he felt that he did not read them carefully enough to vote. The motion passed 4-0-1.

#### **F. Amendment to Special Lease Trust Lands Agreement**

Kay Englestead proposed a motion to accept the Special Lease Trust Lands agreement as was proposed. This motion was seconded by Brian Bremner and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.



### **G. Surplus Property**

The District obtained a trailer/building from SEDC at no charge that is currently housed in the District parking lot. It was going to be used as a computer lab, but that no longer is an option. Brian Bremner proposed a motion to declare that property surplus and advertise it with a minimum bid of \$1,000. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. Ken Platt then asked the size of the property and was told by Damon Brinkerhoff that it was approximately 70'x12'. He feels that the starting bid should be a lot higher than the suggested \$1,000, but the Board felt the property was not in great shape. A vote was called for. Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye and Ken Platt voted nay. The motion passed 4-1.

### **H. Golf Program**

In the past the program has been paid for out of a grant that was written by Panguitch High School. The grant money is now depleted. Eugene King stated that each school will come up with \$700 each and students will pay for the green fees. The schools all attend the meets together so they are splitting the cost of the bus, drivers and fuel. The Board is supportive of the schools raising the \$700 for this program to continue.

### **I. Building Rental Policy (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

The Board gave Superintendent several changes and suggestions. Brian Bremner motioned to table this policy until changes had been made. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

### **J. VOIP Phone System Bids**

Voice Over Internet Phones: Two quotes were included in the Board packet; one from Jive Education and one from Interface. The phones will be available in each classroom and give parents access to connect to teachers, plus provide added safety measures to their classrooms. The Board gave their approval for the Superintendent to move forward with this project.

## **11. Board Business**

The Board made a decision to add a Personnel Item to inform those who may be affected by cuts would get sufficient notification of these decisions. Kay Englestead

made a motion to add an Agenda Item, "Personnel Issues". Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

#### **A. Personnel Issues**

Cheryl Cox made the motion to direct the Superintendent to contact those people that may be affected about the potential budget cut for the upcoming year. Ken Platt seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion; Brian Bremner feels that the suggested cuts do not put the best people in the classrooms. He feels that the Board has the responsibility to do this. Gregg Christensen is concerned about the potential cut at Escalante Elementary and how the school will function. A vote was called for. Ken Platt and Cheryl Cox voted aye, Gregg Christensen and Brian Bremner voted nay, Kay Englestead abstained. The motion failed to pass with a vote of 2-2-1. Ken Platt reminded the Board that the deadline is coming soon. Superintendent also reminded the Board that previously a March 15<sup>th</sup> date had been set and that the Board had expressed a desire to let those people know as soon as possible. A new motion was proposed by Gregg Christensen to direct the Superintendent to contact all paraprofessionals and those provisional teachers that would be affected by the cuts. Kay Englestead seconded the motion. Brian Bremner complimented the Superintendent on a tremendous job of handling a difficult situation. All the Board members agreed and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. Brian Bremner voted nay. The motion passed 4-1.

#### **B. Set March 2012 School Board Meeting time, date, and location.**

The yearly schedule for Board Meetings has the next board meeting scheduled to be held on March 15, 2012 in Tropic Utah at 5:00 P.M. The Board discussed this schedule, and decided to go ahead and hold it on the scheduled time and location. If a closed meeting is going to be held on that date it may be scheduled to begin at 4:00 P.M.

### **12. Public Comments**

Jodi Reeder from Boulder commented on the school at Boulder. She feels that the students are not getting all that they need. She reported that they currently have 12 children in their local preschool. Superintendent Dalton thanked her for getting

donations and books into the student's hands. Brian Bremner asked if the District could look into locating a Smart Board for Boulder Elementary.

### **13. Executive Session**

No closed meeting was needed as this time.

### **14. Adjournment**

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to adjourn. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion; no vote was needed as everyone seemed to be in agreement. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 P.M.

### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS**

In compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and service) during this meeting should notify LyNese Miller at 676-8821 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.