

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Bryce Valley 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 was present at the 4:00PM start time as an executive meeting was scheduled at that time. Ken then asked for motions to move into an executive session. Brian Bremner then proposed a motion to move into a closed meeting to discuss the character and competence of an individual(s), pending and imminent litigation, and strategy session regarding collective bargaining. Gregg Christensen 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 aye. The motion passed unanimously and the executive meeting was held in an office at Bryce Valley High School.

Following the executive session, Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to come out the closed meeting into an open meeting. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox, 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 Bryce Valley High School Auditorium.

Welcome

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Platt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

“What’s Right with Our Schools?”

Kaye Lynn Nielson commented on the professional development day on Monday, January 16, 2012. She stated it was very positive and beneficial.

Recognition of Retirees

- Betty Ann Rember – PHS Principal, 10 years of service
- David Pollock – BVHS Language Arts Teacher, 28 years of service
- Kathryn Shakespeare – BVES Secretary, 29 years of service

Each retiree was given a plaque and a \$100 gift card in appreciation of their service.

Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes.

Ken Platt announced there were copies of the agenda for the public.

1. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approve November 2011 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve November and December 2011 Financial Reports

Ken Platt stated that each time the Board approves New Hires it should be understood that if a background check does not come back positive the approval is null and void. Following some questions on the financials, Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to accept the minutes and the financial statements. The 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.

- C. Approve December 2011 and January 2012 Hiring Recommendations

<u>New Hires</u>				Hours	
Name	Position	School	Replacing	Per Week	Rate
Catherine E. Dahl	Substitute	Boulder	NA		Sub
Stephanie Steed	Volunteer	EHS-GBB	NA	NA	NA
Lisa McEwen	Breakfast	PES	Charlene Ancira	10	\$10.07
Pennie Stewart	FFA Asst. Adv	BVHS	NA		\$1,500 Stipend
Phyllis Suggett	ELL	District	Grant Position		\$4,000 Stipend
Kathy Shakespeare	Para	BVES	Billy Jo Sudweeks	19	\$9.16
Robin Gibbs	Para	AES	Anja Lowe	17	\$9.16
Lesla Taylor	Substitute	PES/PMS/PHS			Sub

Cheryl Cox commented she would like to see the Hiring Authorization Form completed on all new hires. She also indicated that she would not vote to approve new hires in the future if the process and hiring authorization forms are not complete. Superintendent stated that starting with the February Board meeting the Board will be given the hiring process paperwork that is currently in place for each new hire in their Board packets. Ken asked why the food service workers pay was almost a \$1 more than that of Para's. Lark and Superintendent Dalton explained that they are on different salary schedules and that each year that is a negotiated item with GSEA.

Following this discussion Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept the new hires recommendations pending clean background checks. 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.

2. E-Rate, Child Internet Protection Act, Technology Needs – Gerald Talbot

Gerald Talbot presented the following topics to the School Board that was informational items only.

- Children’s Internet Protection Act – Gerald explained that this is a Federal law and states that we need to have filtering and firewalls on our internet to protect children from viewing things that they should not. It is also required to apply for E-Rate. Brian asked that the proposed Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) be given to Board before the next Board meeting and on the agenda.
- E-Rate – Gerald explained that this is a refund that we qualify for based on our entity and census data for telephone service and other qualifying expenses. He mentioned that he would be preparing a report to receive the E-Rate refund or revenue. As part of this item Gerald also addressed the District goal of updating the current telephone system to a VOIP (voice over internet phone) system. He stated that the current system is old and that South Central would love to have us get off of that system and onto something updated.
- Technology Needs – Gerald presented a three year plan to the Board for what he would like to do with District technology budgets. He stated that in order to keep up with the rapid pace of technology his budget would need to increase. Brian asked if the money could come from the Capital Projects fund and Lark responded that it did indeed come from Capital Projects.

3. Gilbert & Stewart Audit Review

The District received an “Unqualified Opinion”; which is a clean opinion or the highest opinion that can be received. The Auditors gave a detailed report of the FY11 Audit explaining certain components of the accounting and budgeting process. They stated that the law to allow Districts to use Capital Projects funds during lean times was the approach taken to transfer monies into the General Fund. There was a lot of discussion concerning the GASB rule concerning the District’s retirement plan. Several options were given as to how the District could meet these requirements. One concern is the segregation of duties which is a concern that will always be present in the District due to the size of the District and the number of duties each person fulfills. Several schools did not provide the monthly reports that were requested by the District for auditing purposes; it was recommended that all schools submit these reports each month. Also, schools need to make sure they are making deposits every three days. The Auditors also covered the findings of the Audit.

There have been substantial improvements across the board. The Auditors also acknowledged the fact that the current FISCAL system of the District would soon be replaced and they offered to help in any way they were needed.

Brian Bremner made a motion to recognize and accept this year's Audit report. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion 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.

Brian asked that Lark produce the accrual report for the early retirement program that will enable the District to track the past six years. Superintendent thanked Lark for the hard work that he has put forth to get the District to this point.

4. Capital Projects

A. Hughes Construction Management Services – Kendall Smith

Kay Englestead asked what the time frame of the heating system was and when it would be finished. Cade Crofts answered that the plans are complete and project should be finished within three months. Kendall Smith of Hughes Construction Management stated that Damon wants to follow the USOE process for procurement guidelines and they hold a State contract to facilitate State Agencies such as the District to meet those requirements and that is why they become involved. They insisted that Olsen & Peterson become involved to design the project. They will make sure all forms and regulations are met and turned in to the State on time. They work on an hourly rate through the State contract. They answered the RFP and were selected by the District.

B. Olsen & Peterson Consulting Engineers – Paul Laird, Mitch Tervort

Brian is frustrated and would like better communication between the consultants and the District. Brian also feels that the District has not received anything yet for the money that has already been paid. Paul Laird of Olsen & Peterson Consulting Engineers stated that they have never met with a Board before in all of the Districts that they have worked in and they wished they had known that the Board would like communication directly from them. Usually they communicate through the District Maintenance Director.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

6. School Board Proposals – Comments - Reports

Kay Englestead attended the USBA Conference. He commented on the tracks at the high schools and how they are in need of repair as he talked to a vendor at the USBA conference. He would like further discussion about this in a future board meeting.

Cheryl Cox attended the USBA conference. She commented on how she was impressed with the Master Boards Award. It is a process that a board can go through to become a

better board. The information is online and the required training is available on the site. She suggested that the Board hold a work meeting to determine the direction the Board would like to take on the training. She also stated the “What Counts” training would help facilitate the required training and that it would benefit the Board.

Ken Platt asked all Board members to review Master Board Award Pamphlet that Cheryl commented on and then the Board would discuss which items they would like to address or change. Ken then commented on the Legislative Luncheon that SEDC hosted in St. George. He was glad that he was able to meet with State Legislators and Senators. Ken also attended the Five County Association of Governments and commented that Highway 14 would not be opened until July or August. He also attended the monthly SWATC meeting. He has been selected to represent Region XI on the USBA Board of Directors. He was elected to this position by school board members from other districts. He commented that the USBA conference was very good with great training. He shared the site for the online open meeting training: <http://usbapowerup.com/>

7. Superintendent’s Report

A work meeting was set for February 1, 2012, 5:00-6:00 pm at the District Office to discuss the online training and “What Counts”.

A. TNT Auction

The Board packet contained a copy of the District car sales with TNT Auction. TNT charged us 5% to host the web page for the auctions. Superintendent Dalton asked Gerald to set up an online auction for District surplus items. He currently has a working online auction for the GCSD. Anyone can bid on the items posted.

B. FY11 USHE Concurrent Enrollment Appropriation

Last year Garfield County School District only had about 30 college credits issued to students in our District. This year we should reach 207 college credits earned by our students and six college credits earned by adults in our community.

C. Explore/Plan Test Profile Summary Reports

Superintendent Dalton discussed the results of the Explore and Plan test for Panguitch High, Escalante High, and Bryce Valley High Schools.

D. Estimation of Federal Fund Impacts for FY13

A list from the Utah State Board of Education of projected cuts to Federal Funds was provided in the Board packet.

E. Business Administrator Evaluation Tool

A copy of the evaluation tool Kane recently used to evaluate their Business Administrator was included in the Board packet. Cheryl would like to see what the Utah School Boards Association has to offer for evaluation tools as well.

F. Northwest Accreditation Summary

Copies of Northwest accreditation for the high schools were included in the Board packets. All District high schools are accredited with Northwest. The District was recently told Northwest would be changed to AdvancedED. A few adjustments will come with this change for future accreditation requirements.

G. Community Council District Training – Paula Plant

Tracy Johnson from Bryce Valley arranged to have Paula Plant from the USOE travel to Tropic and provide training to all District Community Council members. Superintendent attended the training and requested the administrators have any changes in the school Trust Land plans available for the Board's approval in February.

H. Necessary Existing Small Schools Funding Update

A copy of Pat Wilson's (Sevier's Business Administrator), power point on NESS funding was included in the Board packet. The original talk from the state was to adjust the formula. The last discussion from the State was to adopt one of three proposals for the formula adjustment. The only school that may be affected would be Bryce Valley Elementary; if they drop the number to qualify from 160 students to 140 the school may not qualify. Superintendent Dalton is confident we will receive NESS funding next year. All schools in the District are NESS except Panguitch Elementary. The NESS funding is about 1.8 million to the District. The proposals may change with the upcoming legislative session.

I. Secure Rural Schools

The Board received an email with the last update from Robert Weidner; a lobbyist in Washington who works for Garfield County. As of today, it has not been reallocated for next year. A bill to reallocate was passed by the Senate but stopped in the House. This is a 'wait and see game' with the Federal Government. The money we received this year was about \$670,000; this will have a major impact when we adopt a new budget for next year. We must get to a point in the District where we are not so dependent on this money in the future.

J. GCSD Teacher Development Day Report

Superintendent Dalton planned and organized the District teacher training on January 16th at Bryce Valley High School. The training was presented by teachers within the District. Sol Garcia from Utah Risk Management provided training to all of the administrators in the District on effective teacher evaluations and orderly termination.

K. Utah School Board Association Meeting Summary

Some important items from the USBA training in Salt Lake City are: We must involve the communities more if we want to make changes in the schools. The 5 S's are important. 1- Stop bad mouthing one another in public, 2- Shift attention from negative to positive. If you focus on negative it will win. 3- Share something about what you are doing. 4- Sustain- once you start, keep it up, 5- Start now.

L. Adult Education Program

Thanks to Curtis Barney's grant from the USOE Adult Education program we are now able to provide a way for individuals to achieve their high school diploma from their own home. This can be done anywhere in the District. Superintendent Dalton has been working with SWATC to set up CDL training for adults in our communities. SWATC stated that they only need three people to have the instructor travel here to teach the class. We currently have two people enrolled in the Adult Education High School completion program and expect to have many more in the future.

M. Certified Employee Handbook

From previous discussion on District policy, Superintendent Dalton has seen a need to update the Certified Employee Handbook for GCSD. It was last updated in 2000. All of the policies in the District relating to the Certified Employees have been compiled. Each Board member received a copy of the proposed changes. A copy of the changes has also been emailed to Utah Risk Management. GEA has been given a copy for their review. This process will take several Board meetings to complete; the goal is to have the policy in place by August of this year.

8. Discussion and Actions Items

A. Electronic Devices

The major change to the Electronic Devices Policy was that the students would be allowed to use electronic devices during passing times. Brian Bremner then proposed a motion to table adopting this policy and as part of the motion he proposed that the District allow electronic devices until a final policy is adopted as long as they don't break the law. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead. Following this there was some discussion on the item. Superintendent Dalton asked what prevailing law was cited in Brian's motion. Brian talked about illegal actions, pornography, etc. Cheryl Cox then asked why the Board does not just adopt the Policy as presented as an interim policy until the changes are made that the Board wants. Brian then called for a question on the motion. Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Kay Englestead voted in favor of the motion. Ken Platt and Cheryl Cox voted nay. The motion passed 3-2. However, following the vote the board continued to discuss the issue and Kay Englestead then proposed that the old policy as well as the motion that was just passed be rescinded and

that the Board adopt the Electronic Devices Policy that was presented as the interim policy until the Board makes the changes they would like to the policy. The intent of this motion was to rescind the old policy that the Board felt was out of date and needed to be changed. This motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox. Brian Bremner noted how this action does follow parliamentary procedure as Kay was on the prevailing side of the motion earlier. A vote was then called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead voted in favor of the motion. Brian Bremner voted nay, and Gregg Christensen abstained from voting. The motion passed 3-1-1.

B. USBA August 30, 2011 Updates

After a brief discussion, Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to accept the 3rd reading of the USBA Policy updates as the final reading which now becomes Board Policy. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye and the motion passed 5-0.

C. Building Rental Policy

Cheryl Cox suggested a change to the wording to community instead of city for recreation use. There was discussion from many board members, and even public questions about what is in the Building Rental Policy, and what they felt needed to be changed. Superintendent Dalton suggested that each person or group that uses the buildings should have a sponsor to insure that they are covered with liability insurance. Gregg suggested that when large groups use the buildings it should be a negotiated amount. Following this discussion Brian Bremner proposed a motion to table this policy until next board meeting. Superintendent was given direction as to which items some members felt like needed to be changed. 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.

D. Bond Refinancing

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to direct the Superintendent and Business Administrator to initiate the process to refinance the bonds that the preliminary numbers project would save the public roughly \$74,000. 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.

9. Board Business

A. Set February 2012 School Board Meeting time, date, and location.

The February Board Meeting was scheduled to be held at Escalante High School on Thursday, February 16, 2012. The tentative schedule is to hold a closed executive

session beginning at 4 P.M. if needed, and to have the Board Meeting begin at 5:00 P.M. The Board agreed to meet at the place and time according to the schedule that was adopted earlier.

10. Public Comments

Cheryl LeFevre commented that she really does not like the consequences for bringing their cell phones. She really likes what we have now. She feels that suspension is too harsh. Superintendent Dalton responded that he is trying to get some consistency throughout the District.

11. Executive Session (if needed)

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to move into a closed session to discuss collective bargaining strategies; particularly as it relates to the budget, schedules and staffing. This motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox 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.

Before moving into the closed meeting the Board said that it would not make any motions coming out of the closed executive session.

Following the closed session Brian Bremner proposed a motion to move out of the closed executive session into an open meeting. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen 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.

12. 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 10:30 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 three days prior to the meeting.