

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Bryce Valley High School

Board members present: Board President Ken Platt, Vice President Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox. Kay Englestead was not present for this meeting.

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 motions to move into a closed executive session. Cheryl Cox then proposed a motion to move into a closed executive meeting to discuss pending and imminent litigation. Gregg Christensen then seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was then called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Cheryl Cox, and Brian Bremner all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the closed executive meeting was held in a meeting room in the office of Bryce Valley High School.

Following the closed meeting Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to come out the closed executive 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, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 4-0 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?”

Jeff Brinkerhoff was going to present on some positive things that have happened at Bryce Valley High School. Ken wanted to save that item for later on the agenda as very few people were present at the beginning of the meeting. It was decided that the principal reports would become part of the agenda after the consent agenda and no longer listed under “What’s Right with Our Schools?”

Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes.

- **Consent Agenda Items**

- Approve February 2012 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approve February 2012 Financial Reports
- Item Specific Budget Changes – More money in the Legal Services.
- Approve Hiring Recommendations
 - Angeli T. Scheffer – PMS Para educator who will be paid \$9.16 per hour and will be paid out of Special Ed funds. She was hired to reduce the hours of other employees who have been working 28-29 hours per week.
 - Alice Torrey – Antimony Elementary School Substitute. She will be paid \$65 per day to substitute when needed.
- Letter of Resignation
 - Dean Harrison – Special Education teacher in the Escalante Area.

There was considerable discussion regarding billings that were listed as pool supplies that were not associated with the pool.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept the consent agenda with the provision to fix those items that were attributed to the pool that are not attributed to the pool. As part of the motion, he also authorized the District to pay the additional costs for the Attorney associated with the GRAMA request fees. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

- **School Reports**

Jeff Brinkerhoff discussed some positive things that have happened recently at Bryce Valley High School. He stated that BVHS has received a donation from Jerry LeFevre to be used specifically on reading books. This went with the goal to improve reading that the faculty had set early in the year. He discussed National Pi Day (3.14) or March 14 and what the school did on that day. He also stated that it has been a financially frustrating year with many unexpected repairs that drained their budget; he stated he appreciates the Superintendent and Lark's ability to get the money without a long wait and approval from the Board to fix these repairs.

- **Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

- **School Board Proposals – Comments - Reports**

Gregg Christensen reported that he spent a couple of hours at Escalante High School and is impressed with how hard the teachers work. UHSAA will hold a public hearing on March 21, 2012 to discuss the realignment of schools. He asked if anyone had input to please let him know, or they are also welcome to attend.

Cheryl Cox commented that she feels that the issue at BVHS with the bell/intercom systems needs to be fixed. Damon Brinkerhoff commented that the cost would be approximately \$3500 for Simplex to come down and assess the problem. Additional costs could be incurred. She also attended the Boulder Town Council for Superintendent Dalton to represent the School District and explain the "What Counts" program.

Ken Platt attended the Five County Association Steering meeting. He reported that progress is being made on Highway 14 and by June they hope to have a one lane road open at night. There is a link on www.utah.gov titled SR14 which has a camera that allows people to watch the work being done.

Brian Bremner commented that he wants openness about everything that is going on in the District so that when we say something people know that they can count on us to do what we say. He would also like to see some flexibility given with teacher supply budgets. His biggest concern is the proposal to move to classes at PES to split classes. He stated that the Community Council at PES had specifically set aside money to rehire and pay for a teacher. He thinks the decision should be made collectively and unified so that everyone feels their voice is heard. He asked that the superintendent meet with the faculty and the community council.

- **Superintendent's Report**

- **USBA Spring 2012 Regional Meeting Schedule**

On March 28th the USBA will be holding their spring regional meeting starting at 6:00 pm in Cedar City, at the Iron District Office. They will be discussing the legislative report and providing Board Training. Superintendent feels this meeting would be beneficial for all Board members to attend.

- **Panguitch Pool Update**

Superintendent attended the Panguitch City Council meeting when they received the response from the District relating to the \$700,000 request from the city. They asked members of the Council to meet with Ken Platt to discuss the pool. Ken has met with Mayor Talbot to discuss the pool issues. He expressed to her that the Board felt they would not have a problem with the City taking over the pool. The Board is concerned about the ventilation system issue. A study will be conducted from an outside source. Also, the City is looking at moving the pool to a new location. They would have to have a bond approved through the citizens in the City. They asked if the District would be willing to take on part of that payment.

Ken replied to Mayor Talbot that the District wants to get out of the pool business. With consideration to the fact that the City has an easement on the property options would have to be considered if in fact the pool was moved to a new location.

- **Fiscal Update**

The District is in the process of finalizing the contract with Alio. Training on the new FIS software will begin in May for the District Office with principals and school secretaries training in the summer.

- **Bond Update**

The Bonds sold on March 15th. They sold at approximately 2% interest. There will be a savings of approximately \$72,000 to tax payers because of the decrease in interest from 4% to 2%.

- **What Counts Update**

Superintendent Dalton was directed by the Board to attend all of the city councils in the District to inform them of the upcoming "What Counts" forum. So far, he has visited, Henrieville, Tropic, Bryce Canyon City, Escalante, Hatch, and Antimony. Cheryl Cox attended the Boulder City Council in his place. We have left messages with Cannonville's Mayor to contact us at the District Office because their City Council is held on the same day as Board meeting. The names that have been recommended by the cities have letters prepared for them. Goals will be set by this group that will direct the School District for the next three to five years. The meeting will be held on April 11th at Bryce Valley High School from 6-8pm.

- **Southwest Behavioral Contract**

The packet contained a copy of a bill from Southwest Behavior for \$2,000. Superintendent Dalton looked into this matter and found Garfield is the only School District paying the bill. Other districts have met with their county commissioners and said they could no longer pay the \$2,000 towards the county match. Superintendent Dalton has been in contact with Commissioner Leland Pollock who now sits on the Southwest Behavioral Board and explained the situation. Superintendent explained we were using our preventions money to help pay for a School Resource Officer. Commissioner Pollock assured Superintendent Dalton that Garfield County would pay that bill and not expect the District be responsible for it. Brian Bremner would like Superintendent Dalton to write a letter to thank them and also to have a document stating the agreement.

- **Summary of 2012 Legislative Session**

A 17 page summary was included in the Board packet.

- **Capital Projects – Damon Brinkerhoff**
 - **PHS Heating and Cooling Project – Lighting Project**

Damon reported on the progress of the PHS heating and cooling project. He has done a walk through with electrical contractors to do the lighting upgrade. In the last Board meeting it was passed to move forward with Rocky Mountain power lighting upgrade. The estimate for the labor was over \$10,000 so Superintendent asked Damon to do an additional walk through with vendors and electrical contractors.

- **BVES Fuels For Schools – Feasibility Study Update**

Alfred Foster expressed many concerns regarding the current system at BVES. He feels that the system is so old that even adding updates to this system may not be the best option. The Board stated that they are also concerned about these issues. The Board stated that they would continue with the Feasibility Study and ask them to progress quickly so that a decision can be made.

- **Discussion and Actions Items**
- **Re-Hiring of Para Educators for the 2012-2013 School Year**

Brian Bremner discussed how he felt that the District should attempt to re-hire the best Para Educators who have just received a letter that their position cannot be guaranteed next year. He was concerned about the employees worrying whether they would have a job next year, and he would like to see the District alleviate this worry as soon as possible. The Superintendent then discussed how difficult it is to hire at this point and some negative results that can happen from hiring too quickly. Brian Bremner proposed a motion to direct the Superintendent to immediately begin the hiring of Para Educators for next year. This motion died due to a lack of a second. Following some other discussion from Layne LeFevre, Phoebe Wiseman, Kathryn Pollock, and Superintendent Dalton and other public members about how this was going to be accomplished, Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to direct the Superintendent to begin advertising for the position on May 1st and allow the Principals to begin interviewing to hire beginning in June. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen and a vote was then called for. Brian Bremner expressed that most employees commit in their heart that they have a job for the next year. If he does votes against this item it is because he would like it to happen quicker. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Cheryl Cox, and all voted aye. Brian Bremner voted nay. The motion passed 3-1.

- **Reimburse Certification Expenses Including Tuitions for Employees that were Required to get Additional Endorsements as a Result of Involuntary Transfers**

Brian Bremner explained that he feels that it should be the responsibility of the District to reimburse fees that employees accrue due to extra responsibilities given to them by

the District. Only those fees that are a regular part of their licensure or additional classes that they may seek to attend will require them to pay. Brian Bremner made a motion to direct the Superintendent to develop a policy about reimbursing employees when involuntary transfers require additional certification. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Brian Bremner and Gregg Christensen voted aye. Cheryl Cox abstained and Ken Platt voted nay. The motion failed 2-1-1.

- **District Employees Salary Package for FY2012 or 2013**

Brian Bremner would like to give back a portion of the money the District has saved to the employees in a bonus. He recommended a bonus over a salary increase because a bonus does not carry forward. He feels this can be justified in a year where we are laying people off because the savings has been on the backs of the employees. He would like to take 1% of the approximate \$204,000 that was saved to give back as a bonus. Ken Platt would like to get through this Fiscal year and see where we are at with the budget. Cheryl Cox suggested using "Secure Rural Schools" money for something like a bonus, programs, and enhancement of programs. She also feels that this should be looked at after this Fiscal year. Gregg Christensen expressed he would have to abstain on the issue due to the fact that his wife is an employee of the District. Superintendent Dalton also agreed that money should go back to the employees after this Fiscal year and with the knowledge of the upcoming budget and money coming in such as the SRS money. He also stated that his priority will be to get steps and lanes for next year. No vote was taken on this item following the discussion.

- **Driver's Ed Program**

The Drivers Education program has been subsidized over the last few years. Superintendent Dalton asked the Board if they would like to increase the fee for Driver's Ed from \$100 to help with this shortfall. There was also some discussion about the \$7,634 that has been awarded to the District to purchase a vehicle, simulator, or driving range. Following these discussions Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to have the District write a letter to the USOE to have the \$7,634 set aside and added to the allocation next year which will hopefully allow the District to purchase a new vehicle next year. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed

4-0. Next, Cheryl Cox made a motion to increase the Driver's Education fee to \$150 for the 2012-2013 school year. The motion was seconded by Ken Platt and a vote was called for. Gregg Christensen then stated that he felt that the fee was too high and students are already asked to pay a lot in fees. A vote was then called for again. Ken Platt and Cheryl Cox voted aye and Gregg Christensen and Brian Bremner voted nay. The motion failed 2-2.

- **PHS Heating & Cooling Unit Bids**

Copies of three different bids were included in the Board packet. Lenza Wilson Electric-

\$11,170.00, Sparx Electric Inc. - \$18,800.00, ACM Electric - \$29,881.00

Cheryl Cox made a motion to accept the low bid from Lenza Wilson for \$11,170.00. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Also, included in the Board packet were three bids for the roof penetrations for the roof top units. The bids were: Broken Arrow \$18,957, Stout Roofing \$10,575, and Skyline Roofing, Inc. \$8,700. Gregg Christensen made a motion to accept the low bid from Skyline Roofing, Inc. for \$8,700. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

And finally, two bids for demo, framing, and patch work were included in the Board packet for the PHS mechanical upgrade. The two bids are from Legendary Home Builders at \$46,700 and Patriot Framing, Inc. for \$59,500. Gregg Christensen made a motion to accept the bid from Legendary Home Builders for \$46,700 and allow Alfred Foster to haul all of the scrap metal to be sold to help with their playground equipment upgrades. Brian Bremner seconded the motion and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

- **Trust Land Plans – PES, BVES**

Nick Reynolds and Layne LeFevre reported on the changes that were made to Panguitch Elementary and Bryce Valley Elementary Land Trust plans online. They assured the Board that their School Community Councils' were a part of their decisions. After some discussion on the matter, Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to accept the changes to the plans. This motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

- **PHS 150 Mile Contest Approval**

Panguitch High School made a request to approve a 150 mile trip to travel to Saint Joseph and West Ridge Academy for Baseball. Ken Platt stated that he felt this was excessive since this trip was actually 290 miles one way. Jeff Brinkerhoff reminded the Board that they don't like the teams to play on Tuesday nights and to be able to get practice games that are not on Tuesday nights they have to travel. Brian Bremner made a motion to accept the request due to fact that the teams are limited to who they can play. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion and a vote was called for. Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in aye. Ken Platt voted nay. The motion passed 3-1.

- **VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) – New Phone System**

Currently, the District has a 9 second minimum that will move to a 1 minute minimum from South Central Communications. Each dedicated phone line has a \$1.50 base fee plus \$0.17 per minute charge where there were no previous fees. We estimate that our long distance expense may double with these changes. We have two bids one from Jive Communication and Interface. We have asked South Central for a bid and we have not received one. Gerald will discuss these plans with the board; he would prefer to go with Jive Communications. We will need to come up with \$16,000; it will cost about \$3,965 after E-rate and an estimated monthly cost will be \$570 after E-rate. Justin Hatch was in the audience and explained some conflicts with the contract that they have with UEN that could affect some of these details. Gerald will talk to UEN and get specific details about the contract.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to direct the Superintendent and Gerald to look into other options for phone service and move forward to apply for the E-rate rebate. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

- **Business Administrator Contract**

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to table this item until next Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

- **Certified Policies**

Cheryl Cox feels like the policy is somewhat messy and convoluted. She would like it to come together so when changes are made it will be easier to read. Someone would have to take the secretarial responsibility to type it and get it in order. Ken Platt made a comment that it would take a full-time secretary to do it. Brian Bremner proposed a motion to table this item and have the Board give Superintendent their changes for each 20 pages that are reviewed per month, and at the end those changes will be compiled into a document that could be presented for reading once it has been reviewed in its entirety. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

- **Building Use Policy (2nd Reading)**

Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to table this item until the entire Board is present. As part of the motion she asked that the changes be made to the policy that was discussed in open meeting. After several comments from the public and Board members, this motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion, and Brian

Bremner abstained from voting. The motion passed 3-0-1.

- **Personnel**

The Board discussed two retirement options for employees who were looking at retiring. Superintendent explained the one time buy-out of 40%-42% of a person's salary. If an employee had 30 years of service this would give them 100% of their income when they retired from Utah Retirement System. One employee of the District is interested in this option. The Early Retirement payout would be: \$23,507. The employee would like to have this money applied toward insurance until they reached the age of 65. Another employee that is also interested in the Early Retirement plan would have a buyout of \$20,864. Both employees would retire from the District at the end of the current school year.

Gregg Christensen proposed a motion accept these Early Retirement buyouts upon receiving official letters from these employees. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

- **Board Business**

- **Set April 2012 School Board Meeting time, date, and location.**

The yearly schedule for Board Meetings has the next board meeting scheduled to be held on April 19, 2012 in Panguitch Utah at 5:00 P.M. The Board discussed this schedule, and decided to hold it at the scheduled time and location. If a closed meeting is going to be held on that date it will be scheduled to begin at 4:00 P.M.

- **Public Comments**

Cheryl LeFevre asked the Board about giving changes to the Superintendent regarding the Certified Policy. She was told to give any suggested changes to the Superintendent.

- **Executive Session (if needed)**

An Executive Session was not needed.

- **Adjournment**

Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to adjourn. Brian Bremner seconded the motion, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 P.M.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS
DURING PUBLIC MEETING**

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