

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

November 15, 2011  
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 was present at the 4:30 start time as a closed meeting was scheduled at that time. Ken then asked for a motion to move into an executive session. Brian Bremner proposed a motion to move into an executive session to discuss the real estate, particularly declaration of prices and such that may jeopardize the District's position. Ken asked if he also wanted to go into an executive session to discuss the character of individual. Brian said he was not willing to discuss that because he felt it was illegal because it was not based on character nor was it an organized group for collective bargaining. Kay Englestead then seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was then called for. Gregg Christensen, Cheryl Cox, Brian Bremner, and Kay Englestead all voted in favor of the motion. Ken Platt voted nay. The motion passed 4-1, and the closed meeting was then held.

Following the closed meeting Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to come out the closed meeting into an open meeting. The motion was seconded by Brian Bremner, 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 5-0.

**Welcome**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Gregg Christensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**“What’s Right with Our Schools?”**

This item was not presented at this Board meeting.

## Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes.

### 1. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approve October 2011 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve October 2011 Financial Reports
- C. Approve November 2011 Hiring Recommendations

All of the people on the new hire list have been finger printed and have had a background check preformed. Results of the background checks are pending.

<u>New Hires</u>				Hours		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Replacing</u>	<u>Per Week</u>	<u>Rate</u>	
Halie Sawyer	Asst. Girls BB	PHS	(Principal letter in packet)			
Kamrie Brinkerhoff	SPED para	BVHS	(Reducing para hours to 19)	19.75	\$9.16	

Kay asked for a change to be made to the minutes indicating that he withdrew his second to the motion rather than his motion. The Board then asked a few questions about the financials. The District Staff will look into the questions with regards to when checks are posted to the register. Cheryl Cox also asked why there were bills being paid on the pool when it is closed. Damon Brinkerhoff commented that it is to prevent algae and frozen pipes. Ken Platt had questions regarding Bridgerland ATC which will be directed to Brent Judd. He also commented on mileage being paid and Lark addressed this matter. Ken Platt called for a motion. Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to approve the consent agenda with the change from Kay Englestead on the minutes. Brian Bremner seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed 5-0.

### 2. Public Comments

Callie Bird - commented on concerns about the dress code at Escalante High School and that she feels some kids are singled out. Superintendent Dalton asked if she had discussed this with the Administrator at the High School and she replied "yes". She feels that her concerns are not being addressed. Brian Bremner asked if Superintendent would go to the school and address these issues with the administration and teachers.

Kim Talbot- expressed concerns regarding her son who has ADD and issues that she has had with a teacher. Superintendent Dalton was again directed to meet with the administration to clear up these concerns.

Chance Stewart – questions about building use policy. He is concerned about the cost of use because his wife rents one of the schools in Bryce Valley. He feels that most of the groups that use the building would be willing to clean up to help cut costs. He said his

wife feels that \$75.00 would be a fair price. He also mentioned having a cleaning deposit that would not be returned if the group did not clean up.

Coleen Gardner – Head Teacher at Boulder Elementary asked if there could be an activity bus again in Boulder. Cheryl Cox commented that she feels it has had an impact on whether kids participate or not. Superintendent explained that those runs would not be reimbursed.

Nephi Noyes – explained that his son’s bank account had been hacked into and he needed to keep his phone on so that a Federal Investigator could communicate with him. The phone was taken away during school. Nephi stated that they need that phone back. Ken Platt stated that if they let the Administration know about the issue he feels they would understand the circumstances. Nephi also stated he is concerned about his son being required to have a camera for a class. He feels that the students should be given the equipment needed to complete assignments that are given. Superintendent Dalton will address these concerns with the school administrator.

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

Kay Englestead – He had the opportunity to go to the meeting with State Lieutenant Governor Gregg Bell at the District Office. He felt the presentation by the Superintendent was very informative and expressed the issues of the District.

Ken Platt – received a call from Carolyn White. She is running for the position of USBA second Vice-President. She would like the support of the Board at the USBA Conference. He stated that he would support her and asked the Board if they also would support her also. He also attended a meeting with Superintendent Dalton and a GEA representative to visit with Senator Osmond. Senator Osmond is looking to sponsor a bill of “Orderly Termination” for teachers. Ken feels that the Senator was there for input and that he did not already have his mind made up about the bill.

Cheryl Cox – no news to report.

Brian Bremner – Suggested that the Board packet be put on a screen for the public during Board meeting. Brian and Kay attended a class in one of the schools and stated that in spite of the problems that are going on within the District there are many great things going on in the classrooms. It makes him crazy that the Board is approving checks that have already been cashed. He feels like they should be approved before they are sent. He asked if an administrator had been contacted to go to USBA Conference in January. Superintendent stated that Nick Reynolds had been asked.

Gregg Christensen-He was approached by an individual who asked why there was not a flag flying at the school (EHS). The individual said he was told that there was not money in the District to buy flags. Eugene King explained that the reason was because the rope needed to be replaced. He has since replaced the rope.

#### **4. Superintendent's Report**

##### **A. Grading Schools**

The State Legislature passed a law that would give a letter grade to all schools within the state.

##### **B. Utah State Board of Education**

Discuss FY 2013 Budget Increase. Superintendent had a handout of the State Board's priorities.

##### **C. Teacher Salary Supplement Program (TSSP)**

Superintendent Dalton explained this is an opportunity for math and science teachers to receive additional state funds to supplement their earnings from the District.

##### **D. EDNET Upgrade at PHS**

UEN has agreed to donate some equipment to PHS for EdNet classes.

##### **E. Governor's Education Excellence Commission Handout**

##### **F. New Bus**

We have the new bus; it was paid for out of ARRA funding, the cost was approximately \$105,000. If we wouldn't have spent this money we would have lost it. Superintendent Dalton is meeting with Annie Eldredge to review the current fleet of busses and assignments in the District. We can use this new bus as a travel bus if needed.

##### **G. State Trust Land Computers**

Gerald drove to Nephi to pick up surplus computers for the District. We have 40 additional computers and 50 flat screen monitors.

##### **H. Meeting with Panguitch City – November 22 at 5:00PM**

This will be a public meeting to discuss the pool with the Panguitch City Council.

##### **I. URS Audit**

Superintendent Dalton explained that we have been randomly selected. The date also falls on the same day as the scheduled Board Meeting in December.

##### **J. USBA Jan 12-14**

Ken Platt, Kay Englestead, Cheryl Cox, Lark Reynolds and Superintendent Dalton will be attending. Nick Reynolds has been asked to go as an Administrator representative.

#### **5. Discussion and Actions Items**

##### **A. Electronic Devices**

Superintendent Dalton discussed the changes made to the electronic device policy. Brian Bremner then asked some questions about the policy, and if it permitted people to be excellent. The Board then discussed what they felt should be changed in the policy to allow electronic devices in the classroom as long as it does not disrupt the classroom environment. After the discussion on the item, Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to accept this as the second reading of the policy, and to have the changes proposed made to the policy when it is brought back for a 3rd reading. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen, and a vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. Brian Bremner voted nay, and the motion passed 4-1.

##### **B. USBA August 30, 2011 updates – Head Injury Policy – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

Kay Englestead made a motion to accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the Head Injury Policy. Brian Bremner seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **C. USBA August 30, 2011 updates**

Brian pointed out how the words “per week” needed to be added after 30 hours in the policy. Brian then proposed a motion to accept the 2nd reading of the DHA policy with the noted change. The motion was then seconded by Cheryl Cox 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.

#### **D. Over Time Policy**

Cheryl Cox asked for verification on the actual day the week started. Lark Reynolds explained that at 12:00 midnight on Friday it would actually be considered Saturday. Cheryl Cox made a motion to accept the policy. Gregg seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **E. Building Rental Policy**

The Board discussed the options of what they feel is a reasonable rate to charge. They also discussed having a cleaning deposit for using the building. They would like to have a definition of “community education” as far as activities held within the buildings. Superintendent presented a Building Rental Policy for first reading. Ken then directed the Superintendent to come up with another policy that would have three different categories. First a community use with no fees, second a small commercial enterprise that beneficial to the community for a low fee, and a large commercial enterprise that has a higher rate. There were some additional discussion on the matter, and following this discussion Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to table the reading of this policy for the time being. 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 and the motion passed 5-0.

#### **F. UCA-Utah Consolidated Application**

Lark Reynolds presented a power point to explain details of the UCA report. The Board requested this information at the last meeting. This was an informational item and no motion was needed.

### **G. Lark Reynolds BA Contract**

Ken asked for verification about the dates on the contract. Lark stated that he had worked over a year before a contract had been signed. The dates reflected when the contract was signed. Following a brief discussion Brian Bremner proposed a motion to renew a contract with Lark, and to have the Board form a committee consisting of two Board Members and the Superintendent who will negotiate terms of a new contract with Lark as well as give him a performance review.

Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed 5-0.

In discussion after the motion Ken expressed he would like to be on the committee to discuss the contract for negotiation purposes and asked another Board member to participate; Kay Englestead will also be on the committee. Lark asked for his performance evaluation to be conducted by USBA. The Board agreed that they would like an evaluation from USBA and also from the Board itself.

### **H. Winter Sports Schedule**

Copies of the schedules were provided and it was noted that most schools have their schedules on their school websites. PHS girls' basketball requested permission to participate in an out of state game in Mesquite, NV. Brian Bremner expressed concerns at the number of games that had been scheduled on Tuesday nights. Gregg Christensen also expressed concern about the number of Tuesday night games. He asked why we have games between teams within the District that are scheduled on Tuesday nights.

Kay proposed a motion to approve the schedules with the recommendation to the schools within the District to try to change the games that have been scheduled on Tuesday night. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen and Kay Englestead all voted aye. Brian Bremer voted nay and Cheryl Cox abstained. Motion passes 3-1-1

Later in the meeting it was noted that the Board needed to approve Panguitch High Schools out of state trip to Mesquite for a tournament. Kay said that he thought this had been voted on in a past meeting. Brian Bremner then proposed a motion to approve or re-approve the trip just in case. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead, and a vote was called for. Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. Ken Platt voted nay, and the motion passed 4-1.

### **I. Necessary Existing Small School**

Brian Bremner presented information regarding NESS funds. Lark Reynolds also provided information on costs per student in each building. He also presented information on where funding comes from and what the numbers mean and represent. Brian Bremner and Cheryl Cox discussed how we need to dispel rumors regarding schools closing in our District. Cheryl commented that it hurts the communities when families look to relocate to our areas and hear rumors that the schools may be closing. This was an informational item and no motion was made.

### **J. Academic Program and Budget**

Brian suggested that we have the Superintendent develop two plans. What can we afford and what do we want? Give us the best that we can afford right now. We need to go to the public and let them know what they will get over several years. Superintendent Dalton stated that he had already met with Escalante Elementary and Escalante High School to discuss ways to make improvements within the schools. He will meet with each faculty and ask questions such as: What do they need in their schools to be successful? What programs would they like to see come into their schools? The District needs to do things with the money we already have instead of going through 'truth-in-taxation' to raise more money for programs and other classes that may be offered. We need to do what we can with what we have already. Brian suggested that Community Councils also be involved in making these decisions. A Curriculum Director would usually be taking on these issues to make these improvements. Cheryl Cox asked how we decide which programs are appropriate for what is going on within the workforce. We need to keep pace with the opportunities that our students are offered. The community, parents and students need to have a say in which programs are offered. Cheryl would like to look at the option of using community members who would be willing to step in and benefit the schools and their programs.

## **6. Capital Projects**

### **A. PHS HVAC Update**

Damon met with Cade Crofts and Carl Higginson to draft plans and to decide where the units will be placed and that will be submitted to Olsen & Peterson for review.

### **B. Antimony Elementary Update**

Concrete is being replaced that was supposed to be finished four years ago. This will be approximately \$7500.

### **C. Panguitch Elementary Sidewalk Update**

Damon presented a bid on the project for a sidewalk around the new extension of the building. Given the timing of the year, Brian Bremner suggested that the District advertise this in the Spectrum so that it can be finished when the weather warms up.

### **D. District Update on Maintenance Items**

Other items were also discussed such as bids on automatic door openers and where they are needed, the walking track at Escalante Elementary, and a sprinkler issue at Escalante Elementary. Damon will have an update at the next Board meeting on these items.

## **7. Board Business**

### **A. Set December 2011 School Board Meeting**

Ken asked the Board to try to avoid scheduling the meeting on the dates of the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of December. Ken asked if the Board could forego the meeting for December after which the Board discussed whether they should hold a December Board meeting and if there were any items that needed to be taken care of before January. The Board made the decision to hold the next Board meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Bryce Valley

Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to cancel the December meeting and schedule the next meeting on January 19, 2012.

Brian Bremner seconded the motion

Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed 5-0.

Brian commented that we would like to stick to the location schedule if possible.

#### **8. Public Comments**

No public comments were made at this time.

#### **9. Executive Session (if needed)**

There was no executive session needed.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Gregg Christensen. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed 5-0.

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

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.