

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday, January 17, 2013

Escalante High School

Board members present: Board President Ken Platt, Vice President, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam.

Superintendent Ben Dalton and Business Administrator Kevin Orton were present.

BOARD MEETING

1. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Ken Platt called the meeting to order. There were seven members of the public present.

Welcome

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Myron Cottam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ken Platt reviewed the Board Goals that were set by the previous Board members. He explained how the community “What Counts” meetings played a major part in setting the Board goals.

2. Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes.

3. Consent Agenda Items

A. Approve November and December 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

B. Approve Hiring Recommendations

Ken Platt explained how the Board looks at the hiring documentation and authorization.

Cheryl Cox made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Myron Cottam seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Public Comment

Ken Platt and Cheryl Cox explained that there would be a sign-up sheet for anyone from the public that would like to make a comment to the Board. There were no public comments at this time.

5. Reports

A. Board Reports

Cheryl Cox attended a meeting with SWATC. She again expressed that she would like to see how the District could benefit more from their services. She attended the USBA Conference.

Ken Platt attended the USBA Conference. He remarked about an email regarding a community council training on January 24th. He would like to encourage at least one member from each council to attend.

Mike Savage was appointed to be on the UHSAA Board at the USBA Conference. He will meet with them next Thursday.

Melaney Draper remarked about the session she attended at the USBA Conference that allows parents to access teachers and their wiki sites with lesson plans and ideas to implement the core.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Governor Herbert's Budget

Governor Herbert rolled out his budget proposal for consideration in the 2013 Legislative Session. The full document can be found at http://utah.gov/governor/docs/budget/2014_Recommendation_Book.pdf

A summary for public and higher education was given to the Board.

2. Rural Schools Study

Rural school principals and superintendents tend to believe that smaller school and classroom environments provide more personal student attention, thus bolstering graduation and core-subject learning. Some of the data that Utah Foundation analyzed in this evaluation justifies these opinions. While rural students are thriving in the basic curriculum and are not dropping out of school, they are not being offered the educational breadth or the depth of

advanced courses that non-rural students are which may be suppressing college enrollment rates.

However, rural principals and superintendents believe that these sources of funding are at risk. Further, they feel that financial constraints are preventing rural students from reaching excellence.

3. **Joint Legislative Committee Information**
Superintendent Dalton shared the Committee Meeting Schedule.
4. **Debra Roberts – New State School Board Rep**
Debra Roberts is the new State School Board Representative for Garfield County School District.
5. **Memorandum for Child Nutrition Programs**
USDA has announced flexibility meeting the maximum grains and meat/meat alternates as pertaining to the new Food Based Menu Planning system for the remainder of SY 2012-13. The announcement was sent out as bulletin NSLP 58-2012 to School Food Authorities (SFAs). The Child Nutrition Department is providing ongoing training and assistance to help SFAs implement the new food based meal pattern. We encourage representatives from all SFAs to attend the annual Winter Conference to learn more about program changes and updates as well as learn best practices from others throughout the state to best implement the new meal pattern. A copy of the bulletin on grain and meat/meat alternate maximums is available on the USOE website at <http://schools.utah.gov/cnp/DOCS/Bulletins/NSLP/2012/NSLP-58-12.aspx>
6. **Garfield School District Regents Scholarship Information**
Superintendent Dalton showed the Board that six students from Garfield School District received the Regents' Scholarship last year. The Utah Legislature created the Regents' Scholarship in 2008 to encourage Utah high school students to prepare for college academically and financially by taking a core course of study during grades 9-12 and saving for college.
7. **K-16 Meeting Update**
Superintendent Dalton attended a K-16 alliance meeting in Cedar City on November 9, 2012 to discuss the problems associated with offering TICE classes in the District.
8. **Prosperity 2020**
Utah business and community leaders have organized a movement—Prosperity 2020—to advance educational investment and innovation. Our vision is that Utah's educated and trained workforce will propel Utah to enduring prosperity, improved quality of life and the strongest economy in the nation.

Our goal is to raise the bar for students of all ages. We want 90 percent of elementary students to achieve math and reading proficiency. And two-thirds of Utahns should achieve postsecondary training by 2020. Why? Because a national study on America's workforce needs shows that is what Utah employers will require to maintain a vibrant and competitive workforce. We also want our metropolitan area to rank in the top twenty for concentration of science and engineering occupations.

9. Teacher/Parent/Student Survey

The surveys are being administered by the Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC) on behalf of the USOE in response to House Bill 149. House Bill 149 requires that students (in third grade and older) evaluate their teachers, schools, and administrators, that teachers evaluate their schools and administrators, and that parents evaluate their children's' teachers, schools and administrators as well as themselves in an online survey format. The surveys will be conducted in all pilot schools every January and May, beginning January 2013 and ending May 2015.

10. Federal Funding Update on Sequestration

Superintendent Dalton provided a summary to the Board of the Federal Funding Sequestration and the effects it will have on education.

11. Graduation Requirement Update from USOE

The USOE is currently discussing changing the graduation requirements for all students in the state. The Garfield County School Board will need to discuss the graduation requirements on the state and district level in the next few months because of changes in the 10 period day. One point that Superintendent Dalton discussed was part of the "High Quality Grading and Reporting Practices" which stated, "No use of attendance or citizenship points to obtain an academic grade.

6. Action Items

A. Approve November/December Financial Reports

Kevin Orton explained the reports from Alio that are generated each check run in accounts payable. The new Board members asked questions regarding funds and accounts. Ken Platt asked that each Board member carefully review these reports to help have a check and balance on the District level for accounts payable. The technology budget was discussed. Superintendent Dalton explained that there was a carryover of approximately \$22,000 from FY 12 that was not added to the technology budget in Alio. With this amount and a grant of \$33,000 that Gerald

Talbot secured, the technology budget should actually reflect approximately 155,000.

Cheryl Cox made a motion to approve the November and December financial reports. Mike Savage seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Elections for Board President and Vice-President

Ken Platt read the rules from the book "Coming to Order" regarding elections for President and Vice President. Mike Savage nominated Ken Platt as Board President. The Business Administrator, Kevin Orton, cast a unanimous vote. Mike Savage nominated Cheryl Cox as Vice President and Myron seconded the motion. Kevin Orton again cast a unanimous vote. Ken Platt explained that a training is provided by USBA for the President and Vice on Saturday, February 23, 2013 beginning at 8:30 AM. Ken Platt stated that he felt it was well worth the time to attend the training provided.

C. Gilbert & Stewart Audit Report (moved up on the agenda)

James Gilbert explained the Audit from FY12. Each Board member received a copy of the complete Audit. They also received copies of a letter from the State of Utah recognizing the Audit was complete and a letter from Gilbert & Stewart explaining the Audit process. The Board and Superintendent asked questions throughout the presentation which Mr. Gilbert answered. The District received a high rating with few findings and recommendations.

Superintendent Dalton explained the fund balance that shows on the Audit report and where those funds are allocated. \$510,000 is the amount that is not already committed to other expenses and is ongoing money.

D. Bryce Valley Elementary Feasibility Study

Carl Higgins presented to the Board regarding the feasibility study at Bryce Valley Elementary. He explained the savings at Panguitch High School since the boiler was removed and roof-top units were installed. He projects bigger savings next year considering part of last year included the costs of the boiler and pool. He would recommend that the Board move forward with the roof top units.

A copy of the feasibility study, the roof top unit information, and Panguitch High School cost analysis was provided for each of the Board members.

Myron Cottam made a motion to move forward with the rooftop units and issuing RFP's. Melaney Draper seconded the motion.

A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board also gave a directive to come back with the costs of window replacement at Bryce Valley Elementary.

E. USBA Model Policy Update

The USBA has revised policy FE, new policy GI and revised policy AG. The new policy GI responds to the concerns raised regarding the ASVAB testing by the Armed Services. The FE is an update to the FERPA notice to make parents aware of Federal law requiring directory type information provided to the military recruiters. As a reminder, black print comes from the USBA handbook; blue print comes from the old Garfield District handbook; and red print is new language to bring it up to date, make it more legal, or clarify intent. A copy of each of the updated policies was given to the Board. The policies will be posted on the District web page for public review. The Board will review them for discussion, decisions, and future approval on the new policies.

F. GCSD Local Policy

Three new District Policies were presented for the Board to review: GCSD Salary Step Placement, Video Surveillance Policy, and GCSD Protocol for On-Premise Interviews. There was discussion on the years of experience that will be accepted by the District. Cheryl Cox asked Superintendent Dalton to get a copy of the policy on accepting credits earned prior to employment for the board to review and also get information from other districts regarding their policies for accepting credits. These policies will be posted on the District web page for public review. The Board will review them also for discussion, decisions, and future approval on the policies.

Cheryl Cox made a motion to approve the "Protocol for On-Premise Interviews" policy only so that the form could immediately be available for the schools. Melaney Draper seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

G. Escalante High School Trust Lands Plan

The Escalante High School Community Council decided to make some changes to their original plan. They would like to hire an additional 10 hour para educator. This change has been approved by the school Community Council. A copy of Escalante High School's trust land plan for the 2012-2013 school year was given to the Board. Eugene King reported to the Board the changes that were being proposed.

Myron Cottam made a motion to accept the changes to the Trustlands Plan. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

H. District Sound System

In the November School Board meeting, the purchase of a District sound system was discussed. Superintendent Dalton asked Gerald Talbot, the Technology Director, to provide additional information related to this topic. A copy of the discussion from the November Board minutes along with an email from Gerald with suggestions on the system was given to the Board. There was quite a bit of discussion to decide if each school should have its own system and have a Board sound system separate. The Board directed Superintendent Dalton to contact Audio Enhancement to see if they would provide information and suggestions for the sound systems.

I. Teacher Contracts

Superintendent Dalton attached a sample of the teacher contracts for the 2012-2013 school year to the Board packet. The contracts have been reviewed by the teachers. They have signed and returned the contracts to the District. Cheryl Cox suggested changing the dates so that there was a larger margin of time of receiving intent and the District giving notice. Superintendent suggested changing the date on the District's letter of intent.

Cheryl Cox made a motion to accept the teacher contracts for the current year. Mike savage seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

J. Home School Request

An affidavit and exemption certificate for a home school student in Cannonville was presented to the Board for acceptance.

Myron Cottam made a motion to accept the home school affidavit. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

7. Board Discussion Items

A. UCAS Information

A UCAS power point was attached to the Board packet explaining UCAS and how the point system is derived. The law required that 350 points be used for achievement (300 for CRT and 50 for DWA) and 350 points for growth with an additional 200 points for college and career readiness. The committee decided to keep the point totals (as recommended by the Center) the same for the non-12th grade report and the 12th grade report. It was also determined to keep the total number of points the same for schools with a DWA score and schools without a DWA score and to have growth equal to proficiency. This resulted in the total of 600 with 300 for both growth and achievement and 150 for college and career readiness factored into achievement to keep the 12th and non-12th totals the same. This decision was made to facilitate comparable scores between schools. A report for each school was also included in the Board packet. Superintendent Dalton explained the reports and information given on each.

B. Teacher Compensation Survey Results

The District participated in a teacher compensation survey with 22 other districts in the State of Utah. An average was calculated from the salary schedule for a teacher with one year, 10 years, 20 years, and 30 years' experience. Insurance information was also provided for health insurance and dental with the percentages paid by the employee and the employer for each district. A summary for each district can be found in the survey. The District ranked 6th when compared to the other 22 districts in total core compensation for teachers.

C. EES Title 1 Recognition Letter

Superintendent Dalton attached a letter from the USOE recognizing Escalante Elementary as a "High Performing Title I School". In a previous School Board meeting he was directed by the Board to write a letter to Escalante Elementary congratulating them on their accomplishments. Superintendent Dalton attended a faculty meeting at EES and read the letter to the faculty.

D. Local Tax Rate Information

Five tax rates were consolidated in FY 12 they include Recreation, Transportation, Board Approved, K-3 Reading, and 10% Additional Other. All five of these rates were combined into the Board Local Levy .0025 max. The GCSD rate is .00195 which accounts for \$1,088,235. If the Board chose to increase taxes to the max of .0025 it would generate approximately \$306,936 and must be decided before June 2013.

E. Voted and Board Leeway

In June of 2014 one debt service bond will mature and in June of 2015 and additional debt service bond will mature. Superintendent Dalton emailed David Roberts at the USOE to pose a few questions relating to options available to the District. His response was included in the Board packet.

A copy of the Utah code for "Voted Local Levy" can be found at: <http://le.utah.gov/code/TITLE53A/htm/53A17a013300.htm>

Mike Savage felt that it would be intuitive to at least sell one bond for \$600,000, the amount that will go away with the SRS funding. Superintendent Dalton requested a list from all of the administrators showing five items that they would like/need in their schools if there was no money limit.

F. Garfield County School District Board Handbook

In the new School Board Member training in December, Alpine School District discussed their Board Handbook. Ken, Myron, and Mike asked for a copy of the Alpine School District Board Handbook. It was included as an attachment to the Board packet. A copy of the GCSD code of conduct for Board members was also included. Ken Platt suggested using the handbook as an example for creating a handbook for the District.

Cheryl Cox made a motion to hold a work meeting prior to the next Board meeting to spend time going over the handbook to review for creating a handbook for GCSD. Mike Savage seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

G. Payroll/Insurance Monthly cost for GCSD

The November payroll for GCSD was \$336,764 and the insurance payment was \$98,424. The insurance amount does include TDA Dental paid by the employee totaling \$4,084. The Gold Advantage

shows employees who buy up from Silver to Gold. The District only pays the Silver Advantage Rate for these employees. The Retired Gold Advantage is a retired employee who buys up to Gold and the District only pays for the Retired Silver Advantage coverage.

To summarize $\$336,764 + \$98,424 = \$435,188$ to make payroll for the month of November. School was in session for 19 days in November so the cost per day was \$22,904. Also as a side note, in the month of May, we process the payroll for June, July and Aug, so the required cash on hand is \$1.2 million.

H. AmeriGas Information

Superintendent Dalton explained that they found AmeriGas was charging \$3 a gallon at Escalante High School. Amerigas gave a refund to the District. There have been some problems with a large tank at Bryce Valley High School that was leaking. Marilyn Twitchell prepared a letter for the Board explaining that AmeriGas was charging the District \$6,000 to remove the tank even though the tank belongs to AmeriGas. The District asked if this was part of the contract and they were told it was, but AmeriGas has still not given the District a copy of the contract. The Board directed Superintendent to contact Amerigas to produce a contract between them and the District. If they cannot produce a contract the Board may choose to use a different provider.

I. Review GSCD Per Diem Rates

Superintendent Dalton reviewed rates that are used in different areas. Myron Cottam and Ken Platt asked Superintendent Dalton to get the USOE rates and bring them to the next Board meeting.

J. Legislative Day on the Hill Agenda

An agenda was provided for the Board members if they would like to attend the Legislative Day on the Hill. It will be held January 31, 2013. Ken Platt stated that he may be interested in going. The Board decided the St. George Legislative meeting is a better opportunity.

8. Personnel

After the Executive Session, Melaney Draper made a motion to accept the new hires. Mike Savage seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt,

Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

9. Board Business

A. Set February 2013 School Board Meeting

The Board meeting for the February meeting will be held in Tropic, Utah on February 21, 2013. A work meeting will begin at 4:00PM.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

11. Executive Session

Myron Cottam made a motion to go into a closed executive session to discuss the character of an individual, professional competence of an individual, and possible pending or imminent litigation. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

At the conclusion of the closed session, Myron Cottam made a motion to come out of the closed executive session and return to the open public session. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. A vote was called for.

A motion was made after the Executive Session regarding a new hire, please see item #8.

12. Adjournment

Cheryl Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melaney Draper seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper, and Myron Cottam voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

**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.