

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 17, 2011
Escalante High School

Board members present: Board President Ken Platt, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox. Board Vice-President Gregg Christensen was not present at the beginning of the meeting. Gregg Christensen is out of town and will be joining the meeting to participate telephonically.

Interim Superintendent Maloy Dodds and Business Administrator Lark Reynolds were also present.

BOARD MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Board President Ken Platt called the meeting to order. Susan Shurtz was the only member of the public who was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to move into executive session to discuss possible pending litigation and collective bargaining. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead. A roll call vote was called for. Ken Platt, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. The motion passed 4-0.

Board President Ken Platt asked Susan Shurtz if she would mind being excused from the room so the board could hold executive session there since Mr. Gregg Christensen would be joining telephonically and the exact time was unknown.

Gregg Christensen telephoned in during the executive session.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to move from executive session to regular open meeting at 6:04 p.m. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. President Platt called for a roll call vote. Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, Kay Englestead, Gregg Christensen and Ken Platt voted aye. The motion passed 5-0.

Welcome

Board President Ken Platt extended a welcome to all who were present. People were in attendance at the start of the regular meeting following the executive session.

Pledge of Allegiance

Cheryl Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

“What’s Right with Our Schools?”

This item was skipped on the agenda.

Agenda Changes

- Items 5-K, 5-L, and 5-M below were added. The board needed to discuss the 2011-2012 school calendar, retirement payout for former employee, and the Panguitch pool.
- Business Administrator Lark Reynolds introduced Alex Buxton with Zions Bank noting he was present for the obligation bond later on the agenda.

At this point in the meeting a discussion ensued concerning the superintendent’s report in the February minutes, combining the two schools in Escalante. President Platt asked for some follow-up for next month. It was stated in the February meeting the two buildings would need to be physically separated in order to receive the necessarily small schools funding, however this statement may be inaccurate. Lark interjected he believed it relates to two grade levels not the physical structure. Cheryl Cox noted that is what was stated during the February meeting.

Interim Superintendent Dodds asked EHS Principal Chris Christensen to comment. Mr. Christensen noted last year Superintendent Janice Hatch asked him to check into the possibility of combining the two schools. He noted it would be possible but there would need to be changes made with particular emphasis on the separation of restroom facilities being made to ensure elementary students are separate from secondary students, and there is not a playground area or playground equipment for the elementary students.

President Platt directed Interim Superintendent Dodds to gather input from the Escalante teachers concerning this item and bring to meeting next month. President Platt noted there would not be a decision made next month, but would look at the financial aspect. President Platt also noted Mr. Bremner’s request for information relating to tenure was not ignored. Annie emailed information rather than listing this topic on the agenda. The meeting time change had not been clarified and was posted for 6:00 p.m. rather than 5:00 p.m. The meeting time change will begin in April. President Platt contacted Debbie Pollock to apologize.

Comments concerning the pool: Lark received information just as he was preparing to leave for board meeting. Damon called explaining additional leaks in the drain pipes had been discovered. This is an additional \$5,000.00 expense. Lark noted the Board had voted on a certain amount of funds to be put towards the pool. A decision needs to be made to continue with further repairs and expense or to close it.

The discussion turned back to the meeting minutes. The August 19, 2010 minutes were accepted. Kay Englestead commented he noticed when he was at the pool while the plumbing was being redone one large pump was replaced with one large pump rather than three smaller pumps as was noted in the minutes. It was decided to continue the discussion regarding the pool later during the meeting.

1. Consent Agenda Items

A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes.

B. Approve February 2011 Financial Reports

C. Approve March Hiring Recommendations

- i. Allen Larson – BVHS Temporary Custodian. Due to Danny Brinkerhoff's injuries Mr. Larson will replace Danny Brinkerhoff until he is able to return to work, and will work up to 40 hours per week. He will be paid \$15.75 an hour from the General Fund, the Maintenance Function.
- ii. Pauline Hansen sent in a letter of resignation. She has been Paraprofessional at Bryce Valley High School.

The Board noted one change that they wanted to the minutes-location was Panguitch High School. Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to accept the consent agenda with the change to the February minutes, the August 2010 minutes were approved, and approving the new hires as long as they successfully pass a background check. The motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, and Kay Englestead all voted aye. Brian Bremner voted present as he was unable to review everything. Gregg Christensen abstained as he did not receive the financial reports. The motion passed 3-1-1.

After Colene Gardner's comment, which are noted below, Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept Evonne Roundy as a lunch substitute, subject to her passing a background check. She will be paid at the beginning hourly rate of a lunch worker for her time, which is on an as needed basis. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comments

Colene Gardner, the Boulder Elementary School Head Teacher, presented two letters of recommendations she has written to get some volunteer, and substitute help. Evonne Roundy subbed in the food service department. America Holladay was approved last month as a student volunteer. No background check is required for her.

Ryan Cottam commented on how much the pool is costing as well as consolidating the Escalante Schools. President Platt and Interim Superintendent Dodds assured Mr.

Cottam there would be a hearing, community input and much research if the two schools were to be consolidated.

There was one other agenda change. The general obligation bond portion of the agenda was moved to this point in the meeting in order not to keep Mr. Buxton late as he will be traveling to Salt Lake City after the board meeting. Mr. Buxton presented information to the board concerning the refinancing of the bonds. Please see item below.

3. School Board Proposals – Comments

Brian Bremner inquired regarding Ed Net classes current status. A parent group representative had asked if Ed Net would be available and will high school students be able to obtain an associates' degree while in high school? Interim Superintendent Dodds will research this item. Gary Bennett shared information regarding the Ed net program when asked.

President Platt commented on the USBA Spring Regional Meetings that are coming up, dates and locations to attend. Board training has been added at the request of boards. He discussed possible scholarships the District could pursue through the South West Applied Technology College, and fee schedules will remain the same for secondary schools. South West Applied Technology offered three scholarships per high school in the region last year. Ken has spoken with Kaye Lynn Neilson and Cheryl LeFevre concerning the begin date for a superintendent. They suggested that if the begin date is June 30; applicants who have retired may be unable to apply.

4. Superintendent's Report

- A.** The Superintendent discussed the trainings he attended with Ken at the USBA workshop-panel discussion from boards. He discussed work meetings, board evaluations, board relationships, and board members visiting schools.
- B.** Discussed with Richard Stowell having USBA combine the two Policy Manuals at no cost, or retired USBA board member Steve Peterson would do the project for \$10,000.00. The Board discussed this with input from Kaye Lynn Neilson. She inquired if there is a reason it cannot be done in-house, teachers could do it with board members during the summer? It was decided to direct the Superintendent to seek USBA's help in compiling the Board Policy Manuals into one manual. Kay Englestead noted he had checked the minutes when the motion was made to accept the USBA Policy Manual not their services. Brian Bremner noted a committee had been put together earlier and only three policies had been completed. He also noted the District has no money and should let the USBA do it. Interim Superintendent Dodds asked for, and was given direction to check with USBA on the time frame to complete the compilation of the two manuals.

- C. The Superintendent noted he needed to correct information in the email concerning the surplus money. He discussed options with the Fund Balance that has been built up on the Debt Service Fund. Business Administrator Lark Reynolds noted permission from the state school board would need to be obtained to make any transfers and the funds would have to go into capital.
- D. The Superintendent discussed the Secure Rural Schools funding. He reported where that is at in the legislative process in Washington D.C. as it is federal funds.
- E. The Superintendent also discussed that at administrators meeting the principals had discussed a few things relating to half days on Fridays. Kaye Lynn Neilson noted they only thing teachers had been instructed to do, was to be in the classroom ½ hour before school and ½ hour after school. She and Gary Bennett both commented that Garfield has over the state required 990 hours. BVHS Principal Jeff Brinkerhoff at this time noted that this had been discussed and principals were to take it back to their faculties for input and bring back to the administrators meeting.

President Platt noted he had attended that administrators meeting and a BVHS faculty meeting. He noted it was discussed that there is greater student absenteeism on Fridays due to sporting events. Coach Eric Jessen interjected games are played on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, so student absenteeism is not as heavy on Fridays as it used to be.

5. Discussion and Actions Items

A. PHS, BVHS, and EHS 2011 Track Schedules/ Request to add Page AZ

After some discussion regarding the Page contest, Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept the proposed track schedules as presented including Page. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead. A vote was called for. Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. Ken Platt voted present. The motion passed 4-0-1.

B. BVHS UHSAA Over 150 Mile Contest for BYU Track Invitational

After a brief discussion about the forms and mileage, Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept BVHS request. As part of his motion he approved the trip for the other schools if they submit the UHSAA approved form. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2011 Golf Schedule

Kay Englestead proposed a motion to accept the proposed golf schedule for the District Schools. This motion was seconded by Brian Bremner. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. It was noted that all three high schools travel together and coaches volunteer their services except for PHS. Principal Rember wrote a grant which she pays her coaches from.

Following the vote the Board addressed that this program is paid for from grant funding which will not be available next year. It was discussed that the Board does not intend continuing to fund the golf program unless the money can be found and built into the budget for next year.

D. 2011 Cross Country Schedule

Cheryl Cox proposed a motion to accept the schedule that was proposed. The schedule was for Valley High School, but Ken Platt pointed out that this schedule was for each school in the region as they attend each of the events and the schedule was put together by Valley High school this year. This motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

E. PHS 2011 Volleyball Schedule

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept the proposed volleyball schedule for the 2011 calendar year for sports, and which will be part of the 2011-2012 District fiscal year. This motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted the EHS and BVHS volleyball schedules are not yet complete and will be submitted later for approval.

F. Comprehensive Guidance Review

Gary Bennett presented to the Board what is required for this Comprehensive Guidance Review. He noted evaluations are required. He shared he had been tracking student grade point averages and found a drop occurred during the second quarter and then increased during the third and again the fourth quarters. Teachers schedule appointments to meet parent's schedules. After some discussion Brian Bremner proposed a motion to approve the program and sign the document Mr. Bennett presented. This motion was seconded by Cheryl Cox. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Brian Bremner, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. Gregg Christensen abstained from voting as he did not have the document in front of him to review. The motion passed 4-0-1.

Cheryl Cox noted the Board will want counselors to report in the fall concerning the data projects that are due in June.

G. BVHS Proposal to begin a Wrestling Program

A discussion ensued concerning this item. There were comments from Bryce Valley High School staff members and board members. Principal Brinkerhoff has conducted research to begin a schedule with favorable results. He has checked into the purchase or having a used mat given to the school, and locating a proper place to store it. Carlon Johnson who is currently a bus driver has committed to coach the program. Other individuals have offered to assist with the coaching. Principal Brinkerhoff noted they would join Escalante on the bus to save travel costs. EHS Principal Chris Christensen noted they could join Panguitch High School in dual meets and it would benefit both BVHS and EHS to have two teams. There are no Title IV concerns. A young lady is interested in participating in the program. Girls are allowed to participate. There are at this time 17 students interested in participating. It was noted, "We are here for the kids." Some students are just not basketball players or interested in basketball. The cost factor was discussed. Principal Brinkerhoff has contacted UHSAA depending on the decision at this board meeting. Following this discussion Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to authorize Jeff Brinkerhoff to begin organizing a wrestling team and program for Bryce Valley High School. This motion was seconded by Kay Englestead. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Kay Englestead, and Cheryl Cox all voted aye. Brian Bremner voted nay. The motion passed 4-1.

H. General Obligation Bonds

This item was actually discussed earlier during the meeting as Alex Buxton needed to travel back to Salt Lake City. Alex Buxton from Zions Bank discussed the option of recalling the 2001 Bonds and refinancing them at a lower rate. Richard Chamberlain, Chamberlain Associates, in Richfield will be the attorney to draft the bond resolution. The same attorney assisted in the original bond. The Board did not take any action on this item as a special meeting is going to be held tomorrow to decide if the Board is willing to accept the parameters resolution that would allow the Board to pursue refinancing the bonds. The special board meeting will be held tomorrow Friday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m. at the District Office. President Platt asked if anyone had any comments. There were none.

I. Counselor Stipend Pay

Brian Bremner made a motion to take a five minute break, noting the board meeting had already been in session for four hours. Kay Englestead seconded the motion. All agreed. There was not an official vote.

The Board reconvened into regular meeting.

Interim Superintendent Dodds asked Lark Reynolds to address this item. He mentioned the email that had been sent out addressing how counselors are paid and two of the current counselors are part time. (See attachment) Lark Reynolds did not have all information when he built the budget. He noted the total dollar amount to pay Eric Jessen and Chris Christensen for counselor duties will be \$6,236.00 this includes benefits. After much discussion Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to pay all counselors for the 20 additional days counselors work. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Cheryl Cox, Gregg Christensen, Kay Englestead and Ken Platt voted aye. Brian Bremner voted nay. The vote passed 4-1.

J. Budget in Process

Business Administrator Lark Reynolds presented the preliminary FY12 budget with a few estimates and prior to receiving state income allotments. This is an information item only. No action was necessary. The estimated shortfall at this date is approximately \$687,027.00. (See attachment) There was a somewhat heated and lengthy discussion in relationship to individual's jobs may be on the line, jobs being talked about in public places, budget being broken out, when budget items are due, when an employee must be notified of non-renewal, etc.

Lark is estimating an even greater deficit in the general fund. Updates will be sent to board members as received. He noted we need to come up with some creative ways to cut costs district wide. It was determined a work meeting was needed. They decided to meet Tuesday, April 5, 3:00 p.m. at the district office after administrators meeting. The Board also needs to meet to view superintendent applications. It was decided to view applications the same day. It was noted GEA would like to have a representative serve on the screening committee. Mr. Bremner cannot meet until later in the afternoon. It was decided to invite someone from each community to assist in the application screening process. Those who can will meet at 1:00 p.m. to begin viewing the applications. Board members need to get a name of someone in the community to Maloy and he will contact them and invite them to assist.

K. 2011-2012 School Calendar

President Platt explained the calendar: 180 contact days, 183 teacher contract days, and two flex days. Flex days are used as snow days or tournament days, etc. If the flex days are not needed each school may decide to use at spring break or at their discretion. Kay Englestead proposed a motion to accept the calendar. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

L. Retirement Payout for Former Employee

There was discussion and it was decided to address this item in open meeting rather than in executive session. Kay Englestead excused himself due to the fact this item relates to him. Lark Reynolds advised the Board there is a signed copy of the contract making it an official document. Lark handed out a worksheet. President Platt read the contract aloud. (See attachment) Mr. Bremner noted that since budget cuts are being made, should board members continue to receive health insurance? There was discussion concerning deals that had been made and possible interpretations.

Ryan Cottam inquired that now Mr. Englestead is an elected official, should he receive the payout?

Brian Bremner noted since there is a signed document, a previous board agreed to pay him and this board is obligated. Interim Superintendent Dodds excused himself and left for a short time. (Mr. Dodds is a relative of Mr. Englestead)

There was a brief pause changing the tape.

The Board asked Mr. Englestead if he would accept the lump sum of \$4,800.00 and forfeit the other due to the budget situation. During more discussion it was suggested to table this item until next month giving Mr. Gregg Christensen an opportunity to view the documents in order to make an informed decision.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Brian Bremner and Gregg Christensen voted aye. Kay Englestead abstained from the vote. The vote passed 4-1.

M. Panguitch Pool

The Board discussed what has happened to the pool including:

- Board gave fairly specific instructions/RFP for Design Build
- No one has signed a contract/Have bids
- Who is managing the project
- Bonded Contractor, Liability Insurance
- Jackhammer work loosened tile
- Drain retested, does not hold at present
- More funds needed, do not know how much more is needed (Possibly \$5,000.00)
- Check with Panguitch City – will they pay the full \$15,000.00 they authorized
- Get a firm dollar amount of what is needed
- The more work that is completed, more problems are found
- Need to know the dollar amount to repair drain
- District and city receive frequent calls concerning pool status
- Plastering has not been done yet
- Is it documented who did the pressure test and when was pool was pressurized

Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to hire a contractor by the hour to determine where the leak is and how much it will cost to repair. No more funds will be expended until this information has been obtained. Brian Bremner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Cheryl Cox and Brian Bremner voted aye. Kay Englestead abstained. Vote passed 4-0-1.

N. Discuss Proposal of a Teacher to Retire

This discussion took place after the Comprehensive Guidance Review. Interim Superintendent Maloy Dodds advised the Board David Pollock had sent him a letter announcing his official retirement. The letter includes a request to pay health insurance for his wife for eight months until she turns age 65. She is a paraprofessional and a current employee of the district. Brian Bremner noted this item is not on the agenda. Mr. Dodds has the letter at the district office. It was noted it could possibly fall under the budget process or retirement payout for a former employee. BVHS Principal Jeff Brinkerhoff noted they are in the process of building the class schedule for next year, and language arts is a very important core class that needs to be covered.

President Platt asked for someone to make a motion for this item to be part of the agenda tonight.

Kay Englestead made a motion to have this item be part of the agenda at this meeting tonight. Roll call vote: Ken Platt, Kay Englestead and Cheryl Cox voted aye. Brian Bremner and Gregg Christensen voted nay. Voted passed 3-2. There was discussion whether or not this item qualified for an executive session item. They moved to the BVHS proposal to begin a wrestling program.

There was argumentative discussion between board members relating to what constitutes a reason to go into an executive session? Lark noted during training an attorney recommended any time an individual is mentioned by name to do so in executive session. Mr. Bremner had a difference of opinion which came from the auditor report.

The Board moved to set meeting date in order not to detain public community members.

More discussion after the public comment portion of the meeting took place.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to accept Dave Pollock's proposal. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion with discussion on the motion. No vote was taken. The board went directly to discussion of what had been proposed. Lark Reynolds suggested to at least explore options. Lark Reynolds did not want to discuss health issues and other items in public relating to the proposal.

Brian Bremner withdrew his motion the way he stated it.

Brian Bremner restated the motion to authorize Superintendent Dodds to negotiate with Dave Pollock to work out something regarding trading his severance pay for insurance payments and work out an appropriate deal not to exceed what he proposed. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Board Business

A. Set April 2011 School Board Meeting time, date, and location.

The April 2011 board meeting is scheduled to be held at Bryce Valley High School on Thursday, April 21, 2011. The board meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Gregg Christensen made a motion to hold the April 21, 2011 regular board meeting in Tropic at Bryce Valley High School beginning at 5:00 p.m. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. All voted aye. The voted passed unanimously.

7. Public Comments

Mandy Barnson inquired concerning combining the schools in Escalante. She arrived late to the meeting and missed the discussion.

Interim Superintendent Dodds explained it is no longer an option to combine the schools in Escalante.

Brent Griffin commented in regards to the effect government actions have had on the area, teachers, combining schools-restroom facilities, etc.

Shane Young added if something is done to our schools it would influence him to leave the area. There is a great elementary school in Escalante. People will leave.

President Platt offered an apology to the public that remained in the audience having to wait until 12:15 a.m. to participate in the public comment section of the meeting.

The discussion moved to Dave Pollock's proposal at this time.

8. Executive Session

There was no need for another executive session.

Adjournment

Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to adjourn. Brian Bremner seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Brian Bremner, Cheryl Cox, Gregg Christensen and Kay Englestead all 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 Annie Eldredge at 676-8821 at least three days prior to the meeting.