

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday, April 18, 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 and several members of the public.

BOARD MEETING

1. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Ken Platt called the meeting to order. There were several 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.

2. Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes.

3. Consent Agenda Items

A. Approve March 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

B. Approve Hiring Recommendations

Myron Cottam made a motion to accept the consent agenda. 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.

4. Public Comment

Ken Platt explained that there would be a sign-up sheet for anyone from the public that would like to make a comment to the Board and each person would be given a couple of minutes to give their comments.

Stacie Mathews – She is an employee at BVHS. She said she has a personal interest with Mr. Suggett because he helped her child when no one else would. She asked that Mr. Suggett stay not only for the students, but for the parents also. She feels he should be able to continue teaching at BVHS.

Bailey Mathews – She is a student at BVHS and expressed that Mr. Suggett helped her when no one else would. She stated, “He is a good teacher who cares about the students.”

Michelle Syrett – She is a student at BVHS and said that she likes the way Mr. Suggett teaches and he is fun. If she could have more science classes from him she would.

Jacob Pollock – He gave the Board some signed petitions. He is a senior at BVHS. He said during his high school career he has had three science teachers. He expressed that Mr. Suggett kept him interested in the classes and even though he didn’t need a science credit during his senior year he still took a science class from Mr. Suggett. He said that he teaches how science affects us today.

Jim Porter – He is the UEA representative for the GEA and asked to be heard at the end of the meeting.

Ken Platt reminded the public that the Board is not always able to disclose information regarding personnel and decisions that are made. Sometimes the Board receives information that legally cannot be shared with the public.

5. Reports

A. Board Reports

Mike Savage was unable to attend the UHSAA Board meeting due to the conflict with Regular Board Meeting; Principal Rod Quarnberg attended in his place. He attended the Panguitch Elementary staff meeting where he received a prioritized list of needs from the school.

Cheryl Cox attended a meeting with SWATC. She said that counselors asked her if she would request more services to Garfield School District. She said the timing was very good and they are working to do some online courses that may be shared between Beaver and Kane also. They recently passed their accreditation with a perfect evaluation by the team. She also recently visited Boulder Elementary, Escalante Elementary and Escalante High to visit with them about their needs as the District gets ready to prepare the budget.

Ken Platt asked for a prioritized list of needs for the school from Bryce Valley Elementary and shared those ideas with the Board. He also attended the Sterling Scholar banquet night. He expressed that all students that participated were winners by just being there.

Melaney Draper also shared a prioritized list of needs from Panguitch High School.

Myron Cottam shared the prioritized list of items from Escalante High School.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. District UPIPS Audit Update

The audit was completed at the District. The results will be published and available for the staff and public as well.

2. Educator Evaluation Timeline

Links were provided to the Board on Board Docs to explain the timeline and process of the evaluation timeline process. A meeting will be held on May 2, 2013.

3. GCSD Online Student Survey & Teacher Meeting Update

A survey was sent out to all of the students that are participating in the online classes. Superintendent feels that this does give class offerings that would not be available otherwise.

4. CTE Pathways

Superintendent Dalton provided links on Board Docs to show the CTE pathways that are currently being worked on within the District.

6. Board Action Items

A. GCSD Local Policy-Proposed April Adoption

Three policies were up for adoption: Search and Seizure, Searching Students, and Interrogations and Searches. They have been on the Board Agenda for three months to be reviewed and discussed. All policies are posted on the District website and the public and staff is welcome to give input.

Cheryl Cox made a motion to accept these policies as written.

Melaney Draper seconded the motion.

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

B. Health Insurance Interlocal Agreement

The agreement allows the Garfield School District to participate in the PEHP insurance pool with the other districts listed in the contract to be able to purchase health insurance at a lower rate.

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

A few employees asked if the District would take the time to look at other options that may be available in the future.

C. GCSD Model Policy Update D Section

There has been no input from employees on the D policies to date. There are several policies listed and they are available on the District website and also listed on Board Docs.

Cheryl Cox made a motion to extend the time for these policies to be reviewed until June Board meeting. Myron Cottam seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Melaney Draper, Myron Cottam, and Mike Savage all voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

D. GCSD Local Policy BYOD Proposed June Adoption

In June of 2012, the School Board passed the BYOD policy for students. Gerald Talbot, the Technology Director, has asked if the School Board would consider adopting a BYOD policy for District employees. A copy of this policy was attached on Board Docs. It will be available on the District website and adopted in June.

E. Letter of Resignation

The Board received three letters of resignation from Eric Jessen, Tammy Jessen, and Debra Pollock.

Myron Cottam made a motion to accept the letters of resignation with a thank you letter to the employees. Mike Savage seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Melaney Draper, Myron Cottam, and Mike Savage all voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

F. Trust Land Plans

Myron Cottam made a motion to table this item for one more month to give the school more time to get their plans finalized and submitted. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. A vote was called

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

G. Transportation

At the March Board meeting several parents expressed concern about bus routes not being provided for students. The State will only reimburse the District for routes that are the “most direct public route,” and that they “avoid whenever possible, bus stops on dead-end roads.” Bus routes also must demonstrate that they are “reasonably cost effective related to other feasible alternatives.” These requirements are set forth in State Administrative Rule R277-600-6. This letter from the State and other letters from parents were included on Board Docs.

Myron Cottam made a motion to follow the State regulations and to continue to operate as is at present with an evaluation to the route next fall. Mike Savage seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Melaney Draper, Myron Cottam, and Mike Savage all voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

H. GCSD School Calendar for 2013-2014

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

I. Panguitch City Pool Contract

Superintendent provided a copy of the contract with Panguitch City regarding the pool and a copy was also attached to Board Docs. Panguitch City wanted item #10 taken out but the legal counsel for the District suggested leaving #10 with modifications.

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

J. Contest Approval

Two requests came to the Board PHS baseball and EHS volleyball. Myron Cottam made a motion to approve the two requests for over 150 miles. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. Melaney Draper stated that she still felt uncomfortable with approving a 300 mile on-way trip for a volleyball game.

K. Fall 2013 Sports Schedules

Melaney Draper made a motion to accept the 2013 Fall Sports Schedule. Myron Cottam seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Melaney Draper, Myron Cottam, and Mike Savage all voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

L. Math Textbook Purchase of "Go Math"

The District has considered purchasing a new math program for the past two years. Last year a textbook committee reviewed mathematics textbooks that aligned with the Utah Common Core. At that time, "Go Math" was considered but no consensus was achieved by the committee. Mrs. Allen tested the materials for the District and would recommend the program. The Elementary teachers were provided with samples of the program and asked for feedback. The only feedback I have received was from Mrs. Durfey and Mrs. Cloud, both of these teachers would recommend the program. The bid is for six years and would account for a 5% growth in all classes totaling 522 elementary students.

Melaney Draper made a motion to purchase the "Go Math" program for \$46,939. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Melaney Draper, Myron Cottam, and Mike Savage all voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

M. VOIP PBX Quote

The district would like to purchase 125 VOIP phones for the 2013-2014 school year. Gerald submitted the proposal through the ERATE system which requires a competitive process to qualify for ERATE funding. The federal ERATE program would cover approximately 70% of the cost associated with the new phone system. The South Central bid is \$18,000 for a one time purchase and \$2,970 per month which would total \$53,640 per year. The District currently pays approximately \$2,800-\$3,000 per month for the current service. The contract with South Central would be for 3 years.

The new system will allow the District to provide the following services:

- 1- Every teacher will have a phone in their classroom.
- 2- Every teacher will have a voice mail system.
- 3- All calls in the district will be a four digit extension with no long distance charges.

4- All calls can be answered at one central location and transferred anywhere in the district.

5- Students can use the classroom phone to call home.

6- Secretaries can communicate between classes individually.

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

N. Superintendent's Contract

Superintendent Dalton's contract will expire on June 30, 2013. He would like to renew his contract with the same verbiage minus the addendum to the contract. A copy of the contract was attached to Board Docs. The Board will discuss the contract in an executive session in the future.

7. Board Discussion Items

A. 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 GCSO rate is .00195 which accounts for \$1,088,235. If the Board choose to increase taxes to the max of .0025 it would generate approximately \$306,936. Ken Platt stated this money could allow the District to purchase some of the priority list items of each school. The Board would have to go through a Truth in Taxation.

Cheryl Cox made a motion to move forward with the voted and board leeway and going forward with a Truth in Taxation.

Melaney Draper seconded the motion. Ken Platt reminded the public that they would not pass this without the input from the public. Mike Savage asked for information to be put on the District website so that the public could have input on what they would like to see in the schools. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Melaney Draper, Myron Cottam, and Mike Savage all voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Voted and Board Leeway

In June of 2014 one debt service bond will end and in June of 2015 and additional debt service bond will mature. A copy of the Estimated Assessed Valuations FY12 was included on Board Docs.

C. SWATC Fee Schedule

Cheryl Cox requested that a copy of the FY 2014 Southwest Applied Technology College fee schedule be attached to Board Docs. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and reported that high school fees will remain the same for the upcoming year.

D. Responses to Audit Issues

The Board President must sign the Audit Responses and so that they can be submitted to the State. A copy of the responses was attached to Board Docs. Mike Savage commented that schools that are far from a bank have the option to be able to mail a deposit so that it fell within the three day time period.

E. Board Members Appointed to Budget Committee

At the suggestion of the Board, two members will be part of a budget committee. Mike Savage and Myron Cottam will serve on the Budget Committee. Superintendent Dalton was directed to set up a time for the committee to meet.

F. Graduation for Adult Ed Inmates

The date for the Adult Education Graduation Ceremony for the inmates will be held on May 18, 2013 at 11:00am. Melaney Draper and Mike Savage will both plan on attending.

8. Board Business

A. Set May 2013 School Board Meeting

The Board meeting for the May meeting will be held in Tropic, Utah on May 16, 2013.

10. Public Comment

Jim Porter addressed the subject of the position that the Board had put Mr. Suggestt in. He is a representative for Utah Education Association as a Field Rep. Garfield is one of his assignments. He has been with working with UEA since 1972. He gave the Board some information, evaluations that have been completed on Mr. Suggestt during his five years in the District. He stated that he felt Mr. Suggestt is a master teacher. He feels he is being released for cause. He stated that he understands the non-renewal law. Mr. Porter gave a description of job assignments and duties of Mr. Suggestt. He asked, "Why would anyone want to work in Garfield School District?" Mr. Porter stated that there were rumors that Mr. Suggestt had done something wrong. Ken Platt responded that he had not heard of any rumors.

Monica Taylor expressed her support and appreciation for Mrs. Suggestt and Mr. Suggestt. She does not feel that the District will be able to get a teacher as great as Mr. Suggestt.

Jean Hall expressed her support for Mr. Suggett. She asked why we would let a teacher go that is so qualified. She feels it is a big mistake if Mr. Suggett is let go. Kayelynn Neilson expressed her support for Mr. Suggett and said that he did not want to teach some classes because he felt he was not qualified. She said that he spends a lot of time after school hours preparing for his classes.

Camille Shakespeare expressed her support for Mrs. Suggett and Mr. Suggett as well. She asked the Board to rethink their decision.

Cheryl LeFevre said that Mr. Suggett would not be able to teach again. She said some people should not be able to teach children, but Mr. Suggett is not one of those people. She said he has been teaching for 32 years. She asked the Board to please think about their decision.

Jeff Carter asked why they could not state the reason that Mr. Suggett would not be teaching next year. Ken Platt responded that there is information that the Board has that is not public information. Cheryl Cox stated that these decisions are not made without a lot of consideration. She said that all of these comments would be considered and the Board would reevaluate the decision that has been made. Mike Savage said that he would like to also re-address the issue in light of the public comments and support.

11. Personnel

There were no personnel items at this time.

12. Adjournment

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

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.