

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday, May 16, 2013
Bryce Valley High School

Board members present: Board President Ken Platt, Vice President Cheryl Cox, Mike Savage, Melaney Draper (arrived minutes after the start time), 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.

2. Executive Session

Myron Cottam made a motion to go into a closed executive session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Mike Savage seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, and Mike Savage voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Mike Savage made a motion to come out of the closed executive session. Melaney Draper seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Melaney Draper voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Welcome

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Savage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Changes

Myron Cottam made a motion to change the agenda so that the public comment section would be moved to be heard at this time. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Melaney Draper voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Public Comment

Ken Platt reminded the public to come to the microphone and state their name for the minutes. He also reminded them that there would be a three minute time limit.

Cary Deccio stated that he is in support of the golf program. He would be willing to help if there were transportation cost issues. He also expressed his support for Mr. Suggett.

Stacie Mathews stated that she wanted to be on the agenda. Ken Platt reminded her that this is a Board Meeting held in public not a public meeting solely for comment. She expressed her support for Mr. Suggett. She said, "We need him, our children need him."

Bob Ott stated that he was here as a taxpayer of the County. He expressed his support for Mr. Suggett.

Mera Loy Ott expressed her support for Mr. Suggett. She stated she would love to see him stay in the school.

Janette Pollock is a junior at BVHS. She stated that she did not learn anything with the first science teacher she had, but she has learned so much from Mr. Suggett. She stated he is more than a teacher, he is a friend.

Edith Garcia is a junior at BVHS. She expressed her support for Mr. Suggett. She stated that Mr. Suggett challenges the students.

Joe Hughes expressed his support for Mr. Suggett.

Jana Williams stated that she had been a para at BVHS for six years. She expressed her support for Mr. Suggett. She said she learned so much while she was helping students in Mr. Suggett's class.

Brady Syrett stated that he was here in behalf of his daughter who is the Student Body President at BVHS. He stated his daughter loved Mr. Suggett and she tested highest in science. He expressed his support for Mr. Suggett also.

Susan Mitchell is a senior at BVHS. She stated that Mr. Suggett helped her pass classes. She expressed her support for Mr. Suggett.

Ramona Morieli stated that she didn't know what kind of teacher Mr. Suggett was, but she supported him.

Shane Thompson stated that Mr. Suggett has a very good way of teaching and he supports him.

Bailey Mathews stated that they needed a new principal and school board before they needed a new science teacher.

Joshua Rose stated that he has always loved high school. He said he has learned so much and has been inspired by Mr. Suggett. He expressed his support for Mr. Suggett.

Tanya Davidson said she did not learn science at all at her previous school. She has learned so much from Mr. Suggett and expressed her support for him.

Teresa Deccio said that Mr. Suggett has reached out to her children and taught them that no matter what their race was or where they are from they can be successful. He has a great ability to bring out the best in the students.

Mike Savage expressed thanks to those who came to the meeting to voice their opinions. He stated that it has not been an easy decision for the Board. He said that there is a lot of misinformation that has circulated about this decision. He said the easiest thing would be to stand up and tell every reason why the decision was made, but the Board is legally bound not to state those reasons and it is not in the best interest of Mr. Suggett. He said that the Board has to make the best decision that they can with the information that they are given. He reminded the public that this has been on the Board agenda and has been discussed since the January meeting. After reviewing all of the information that the Board still felt that the decision that was made was the correct one. The Board will do their very best to fill the position with the very best person and will be held accountable for the decision.

4. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approve April 2013 Board Meeting Minutes**
- B. Approve April 2013 Financial Reports**
- C. Approve Hiring Recommendations**

Melaney Draper made a motion to accept the consent agenda. 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.

5. Reports

A. Board Reports

Mike Savage did not have a report.

Myron Cottam is on the Evaluation Committee for the District and he attended a meeting with Mrs. Suggett and a parent, Cassie Lyman and Superintendent

Dalton. This is a requirement from the State and will be implemented this coming school year.

Cheryl Cox did not have a report.

Ken Platt has been elected to represent five districts for Utah School Boards Association. He wanted the public to know that the District does not pay for the expense for him to go to those meetings, the USBA pays for those expenses. He also said that USBA is now on Facebook and encouraged everyone to “like” them. The Leadership Academy is coming up on September 5-7 and he encourages at least two Board members to attend. Also, on August 9-10 is the delegate assembly.

Melaney Draper attended the Constitution Bowl that was held at PHS. Students from Bryce Valley and Panguitch competed. She said the students were very intelligent regarding the Constitution. She also complimented Bryce Valley on hosting the track meet and said it went very well.

B. Recognition of Service, Debra Pollock, PHS/PMS

A plaque was given in recognition to Mrs. Pollock that read, “Debra Pollock in appreciation for 33 years of dedicated service to the students of Panguitch High and the employees of Garfield County School District.” She also received a \$100 gift certificate to Amazon.com. Mrs. Pollock was unable to attend the Board meeting so the plaque and gift will be presented to her at Panguitch High School Graduation.

C. Superintendent’s Report

1. GCSD Teacher Evaluation Plan

Superintendent Dalton provided a copy of the Garfield School District Teacher Evaluation Plan. A copy was attached to Board Docs. The committee is comprised of parents, teachers, and administrators. Superintendent Dalton invited anyone that would like to be on the committee to participate

2. FCCLA National Recognition Teresa Thompson, BVHS

Superintendent Dalton read a letter sent to Brent Judd, the CTE Director for Garfield School District that recognized Teresa Thompson as a Master Adviser for FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America). She will also receive recognition at a National Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN this summer.

3. Capital Projects Update

A copy of the anticipated schedule for Bryce Valley Elementary HVAC project was given to the Board and attached to Board Docs. A copy of the Five Year Capital Project Budget was also discussed and reviewed. A copy was attached to Board Docs. The bids for the BVE project will be opened on May 30, 2013 at 3:00 pm.

4. Utah State Office of Education Resolutions

Two Resolutions from the Utah State Office of Education were given to the Board. One referred to the Core Standards regarding math and English. The other Resolution was regarding the security and sharing of confidential student and teacher data in the State of Utah.

6. Board Action Items

A. GCSD Model Policy Update D Section

The Board had previously requested that the D policies be posted on the District website for another 60 days for public and/or employee input. Superintendent Dalton reported that there had been no public or employee comments or suggestions made to the District. Ken Platt encourages the staff and public to look at these policies and give input regarding these policies that will be adopted in the June Board meeting.

B. GCSD Local Policy BYOD Proposed June Adoption

In June of 2012, the School Board passed the BYOD policy for students. Gerald Talbot, District Technology Director, requested the Board consider adopting a BYOD policy for District employees. Changes were made to the policy by the Board and it was on the District website for employee or public comment. Gerald Talbot explained that this allows the District to know who is on the network and what they are doing.

C. PHS and BVHS FCCLA

Teresa Thompson and Tammi Bennett explained FCCLA (Family Career community leaders of America) is an affiliated program that students must pay to participate in each year. Five students from Bryce Valley High and 11 students from Panguitch High will be attending the National Leadership Competition in Nashville, TN. They asked the Board for some financial assistance to help with the expenses of the trip.

Myron Cottam made a motion to give each student attending the National Competition \$600 each. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Melaney Draper, and Mike Savage all voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Dalton reported that the District would share travel costs with Kane and Washington to transport them to the airport.

D. Panguitch Stake & Panguitch City – Rachelle Holbrook

Rachelle Holbrook is a representative from the Panguitch Stake of the LDS Church as a Preparedness Coordinator. She would like to hold the preparedness fair at Panguitch High School on September 7, 2013. This event would be co-sponsored with Panguitch City, Panguitch Stake, and Garfield School District.

Myron Cottam made a motion to go forward with co-sponsoring this event. 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.

E. School Safety Plans

Copies of each of the school safety plans were presented to the Board. Copies were also attached to Board Docs.

Melaney Draper made a motion to table this item for one more month to give the schools 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.

F. Letter of Resignation

The District received the resignation of Stacie Mathews, a para from Bryce Valley High School.

Melaney Draper made a motion to accept the letter of resignation. 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. Superintendent Contract

Myron Cottam made a motion to renew Superintendent Dalton's Contract. 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.

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 GCSD 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.

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. A copy of the wish lists from each of the schools was also included. The money collected would go toward providing some of these needs.

8. Board Business

A. Set June 2013 School Board Meeting

The Board meeting for the June meeting will be held in Panguitch, Utah on June 13, 2013 beginning at 4:00PM.

A budget work meeting will be held on June 11, 2013 at 10:00AM at the District Office.

Melaney Draper made a motion to move the Board meeting from June 20 to June 13, 2013 at 4:00 pm.

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.

9. Future Board Items

The Board discussed adding the Trust Lands approvals to the next agenda. They also reviewed the graduation dates and decided who would attend each commencement.

10. Public Comments

Mera Loy Ott said she feels that the decision that the Board made regarding Mr. Suggett is wrong. She said, tear it up, and start over again.

Dawson Johnson senior at Bryce Valley High School stated that he appreciated the support for FCCLA and other extracurricular activities. He was a State elected representative of FCCLA. He did not agree with the decision the Board made regarding Mr. Suggett.

Gayle Pollock congratulated Mrs. Pollock publicly for her service at Panguitch High School. He also commended the students for coming to Board meeting to voice their opinions. He criticized the Board for starting their Board meeting at 4:00PM. He felt that the Board did not want to listen to what the public had to say regarding Mr. Suggett. He said he appreciated the service of the Board, but felt they were wrong on this issue.

Jim Porter is a representative with the UEA association and works with the Garfield Education Association. He was in attendance in support of Mr. Suggett. He suggested that Mr. Suggett did not know what he was being accused of. He gave a statement of accusations against Mr. Suggett. He stated that Mr. Suggett had never been given an answer of the intentions of the Board regarding renewal of his contract.

Superintendent Dalton responded to Mr. Porter and let him know that the intention of the Board was given to Mr. Porter at the previous Board meeting regarding Mr. Suggett.

Roy Suggett thanked those who were present in support of him. He said he was never given the opportunity to speak. He said he was never given an answer as to why his contract was not being renewed. He referred to an incident regarding being drunk at an activity and responded he should have been fired a long time ago if that were true. He said he worked harder and longer than most of the people in the room.

Ken Platt assured the public that the supposed accusation against Mr. Suggett regarding being drunk has absolutely nothing to do with the Board's decision.

Eric Jessen said he considered Mr. and Mrs. Suggett friends of his. He said they felt it was unfair though to throw the Superintendent and Principal down. He said they are put in these positions of trust and we have to trust they are making decisions they feel are best. He said he stands up for the Superintendent as well as the Principal. An ecclesiastical leader told him, "There are some things that haven't been said and some things that will never be known. But, if you can't trust some of those people and understand then you will never know." He said he doesn't feel that everyone knows the whole story.

11. Adjournment

Melaney Draper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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.

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.