

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 20, 2010
Bryce Valley High School

Board members present: Board President Ken Platt, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen, and Brian Bremner. Vice President Ted Chidester was available via telephone conferencing.

Superintendent Janice Hatch and Business Administrator Lark Reynolds were also present.

BOARD MEETING

Welcome

Board President Ken Platt opened the meeting and indicated that he was open to motions to move into an executive session. Gladys LeFevre proposed a motion to move into an executive session to discuss collective bargaining, personnel, and pending litigation. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was then called for. Ken Platt, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen, and Ted Chidester voted to move into an executive session. Brian Bremner was not present at the beginning of the meeting, but arrived shortly after the beginning of the executive session. Therefore, the vote was unanimous for the four who were present. The executive session was held in a conference room of Bryce Valley High School.

Following the executive session Gladys LeFevre proposed a motion to reconvene in regular meeting. Gregg Christensen seconded the motion. President Platt called for a roll call vote. Gladys LeFevre, Ted Chidester, Gregg Christensen, and Ken Platt voted aye. Brian Bremner abstained from voting as he was not present for the beginning of executive session. The Motion passed 4-0-1.

Call Meeting to Order

Board President Ken Platt called the meeting to order. President Platt introduced Bryce Valley High and Panguitch High Schools FCCLA groups.

BVHS/PHS FCCLA Presentation at 5:00

1. Bryce Valley High School advisor, Teresa Thompson introduced the group. She and Panguitch High School advisor, Tammi Bennett offered details and explanation of the program. There was interaction with the Board members. Various students attended the meeting to present their projects to the Board. The Board members were very pleased with the efforts of the FCCLA program. President Platt thanked them for attending and sharing their projects.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Ken Platt led the pledge of allegiance.

Open Forum to Discuss Improving Education of Students

Gladys LeFevre asked Superintendent Hatch about the Virtual Field Trip. Superintendent Hatch commented it was very successful. There was discussion regarding the virtual field trip and how beneficial it was.

Agenda Changes

There were three agenda changes which included adding Escalante Heritage Center, discussion of the last Furlough Day and closing the buildings on Fridays, and budget hearing dates. These items will be added to the "Discussion and Action Items" section of the meeting. Superintendent Hatch thanked Shirley Chidester for her help with the board meeting minutes.

1. Consent Agenda Items

- A.** Approve February 18, 2010 Board Minutes.
- B.** Approve April 2010 Financials.
- C.** Approve May 2010 Hiring Recommendations
 - i. Panguitch High School Summer Ag – Jarvis Pace. He will be paid \$20 per hour for 360 hours. This translates to \$7,200 in gross wages that will be paid from CTE funds.
 - ii. Panguitch Pool Lifeguards: Trichelle Armstrong, Colton Henrie, Maryn Mooney, and Sydnee Palmer. They will be paid \$7.25 an hour from the Non K-12 Fund.
 - iii. Panguitch Area Sub Bus Driver - Natali Schoppe. She will be paid the beginning bus driver wage of \$17.13 an hour which is step one, lane one for bus drivers.

At this point there was discussion regarding pay to lifeguards and maintenance of the pool. Garfield County School District is responsible for maintenance of the pool and pays all lifeguard costs. The District paid for books and instruction for lifeguards to obtain certification. The lifeguards will work to pay the cost of the books and cost of training certification. Debbie Pollock inquired regarding supervision of the lifeguards. The discussion included use of pool during winter months, the cost of parties, open swim, morning lap swim, summer swimming lessons, boiler, swimming pool in Cedar being redone and the possibility of getting parts from that location. Another topic discussed was Panguitch City donating all the costs of the wrestling room as part of the agreement the District has with Panguitch City. Superintendent Hatch noted \$6,000.00 annually is the cost of the wrestling room.

Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to accept the consent agenda with the changes to the minutes. Changes to the February minutes include: 1) pg #2, paragraph 4 "Unknown" is Gayle Pollock, 2) pg.4 Mr. Bremner said GEA presented. He thought it was the Health Insurance Deductable. He wanted credit given to GEA for being willing to not have the deductible reimbursed. President Platt corrected Mr. Bremner. The health insurance deductible was on the March meeting agenda at President Platt's request, 3) Escalante Heritage Center item – Jerry Roundy needs to be changed to Jerry Brown. The motion was seconded by Gladys LeFevre. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen, and Brian Bremner all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

President Platt announced there was a need to return to executive session for personnel issues. Mr. Bremner questioned what items needed to be discussed and reasons the Board should convene in an executive session. There was more discussion which included the training board members had received from Burbidge and White in regards to this issue. Gregg Christensen made the motion to convene in an executive session for an individual's competence, negotiations, and personnel issues. Gladys LeFevre seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called for. Ken Platt, Gregg Christensen, Ted Chidester and Gladys LeFevre voted aye. Brian Bremner voted undecided. The motion passed 4-0-1.

2. Public Comments

A. There were no public comments.

3. School Board Proposals - Comments

Brian Bremner asked about three things: 1) financial changes and student attendance with the cancellation of the bus route in Boulder, 2) how the students in our district score on the ACT Tests, 3) pay for bus drivers waiting time. Mr. Bremner suggested checking the figures to verify if money was saved by cutting the Boulder Route or not.

Gladys LeFevre commented on how excited she is about two students from Bryce Valley High School who received Southwest Technology Center Scholarships. Gregg Christensen gave no report.

Ted Chidester commented he is planning to attend the UHSAA meeting next month. Mr. Chidester asked Mr. Christensen if he is planning to take it over in August. Mr. Christensen responded he is planning to do so.

President Platt asked Brian Bremner if he would accept an assignment to talk to a media representative, Amy Stewart, from Deseret News regarding the budget for next year. Mr. Bremner accepted the assignment. He noted he would be out of state the following week and he would not be available to attend graduation ceremonies. President Platt noted graduation assignments would be discussed later on the agenda.

4. Program Reports

The Board expressed appreciation for the reports.

5. Superintendent's Report

- A.** 4-Day Week was approved for Boulder Elementary. Garfield School District was approved to utilize the four day week for two years.
- B.** Discussed the I-3 Development Grant. This grant will fund the Explore, PLAN, and the ACT Growth Models and other things. It is a very big federal grant.
- C.** Race to the Top. Notification regarding funding should be received in approximately three months. The focus is 1) principal training, 2) teacher instructional training and 3) funding the growth model.
- D.** Update on the Title II A Audit. It is complete and submitted. We passed the audit.
- E.** All of our Title I schools have highly qualified educators that meet the highly qualified status. We had one teacher in a Title I School who had not yet met the highly qualified status. She took the Praxis and passed with a 180. The level on that Praxis is a 150. She did well. We do not have all of our high school teachers highly qualified. Superintendent Hatch will identify things we are doing to improve that situation next year in the Utah Consolidated Plan. An interactive discussion between board members and the public ensued regarding endorsements, lanes, professional development, etc. Mr. Bremner inquired concerning endorsements and how they show on the salary schedule. Superintendent Janice Hatch explained an endorsement is earned by the number of credit hours and there is an MS degree and a +50 degree on the salary schedule. President Platt called on an unidentified male (whom I believe to be Kevin Moore.) He asked a question concerning highly qualified status and inquired if it changes curriculum. Superintendent Hatch explained it is how well a teacher teaches the core and the quality of instruction. She noted many teachers choose to go back and get more training. Debbie Pollock spoke, relating a prior board requested teachers go back and get more schooling. Teachers who are paid at a master's level went back and got more schooling. Superintendent Hatch noted she supports paying for lanes and professional development. She mentioned the professional development has been greatly cut in our district.
- F.** Principal Evaluations. Superintendent Hatch spent time in all the schools and enjoyed her time there. Superintendent Hatch asked Antimony Elementary Head-Teacher Julie Allen, who was present, to expound concerning Antimony Elementary students receiving awards for their artwork that will be on next year's copy of the Miners Coalition Calendar. Mrs. Allen elaborated on a few points: 1) the school gets \$200.00 for a science class; 2) it was a statewide contest for the "Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program," 3) two fourth grade young ladies from Antimony Elementary were winners.
- G.** Superintendent Hatch reminded board members of the Legislative Steak Fry June 9, 5:00 p.m. at the Cedar Mountain Cabin. SEDC has requested an R.S.V.P.

Supt. Hatch asked board members to let her or Annie know if they planned to attend. SEDC pays for the dinner. Annie did email the information to board members. Gladys LeFevre and Ken Platt plan to attend, Gregg Christensen will be in New York, Brian Bremner will check his schedule. Ted Chidester will be unable to attend due to his health condition. Superintendent Hatch will attend.

- H. Graduation assignments: President Ken Platt will attend all three; Gladys LeFevre will attend Escalante May 27 and Bryce Valley May 25; Gregg Christensen will attend Escalante and Panguitch, Brian Bremner will be out of town, and Superintendent Hatch will attend all three graduation exercises. Saturday, May 22, 2010 is the Adult Education Program Graduation. Superintendent Hatch and Ken Platt will attend. Ted Chidester is unsure if he will be able to attend any. Gladys LeFevre noted she would also attend the Panguitch High School ceremony if Ted Chidester is unable to attend.
- I. Superintendent Hatch praised the staffs of all the schools. They are making due despite significant challenges created with the budget cuts.

President Platt noted the program reports had been skipped and asked if anyone would like to address anything the reports contained. There were no comments. Board members expressed appreciation for the reports.

6. Discussion and Action Items

A. High Schools "Pay to Play" Fee Increased Proposal

The Board discussed the "Pay to Play" Fee for Garfield County secondary schools. They were presented a comparison of Garfield School District Fees with those of Wayne, Milford, and Valley High Schools. The principals from Bryce Valley, Escalante, and Panguitch High Schools presented a letter proposing to increase the fee to \$50 per sport with no cap. Superintendent Hatch noted this came from administrator concerns. Brian Bremner asked for detailed budgets of the student activity accounts, if coaches had been talked to, and noted he wanted to see where the funds are being spent.

President Platt asked BVHS Principal Earl Slack to elaborate on this topic. Principal Slack told those present that funds generated go right back into uniforms. Funds are generated through fundraisers, donations and ticket sales. BVHS received a \$2,000.00 donation this year which was used to pay officials. Principal Slack noted Piute High School is given \$6,000.00 from the Piute Board to go towards the pay to play. Brian Bremner noted he wanted to see the numbers and budgets. President Platt reminded everyone this is not a new item. He expressed his thoughts were to authorize it.

There was discussion concerning Quick Books, fee waivers, etc. Comments were exchanged between the board members and those in the audience.

Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to accept the proposal from the secondary principals to increase the "Pay to Play" fee to \$50 with no cap. Gladys LeFevre seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, and Gregg Christensen voted aye. Brian Bremner voted nay. He expressed his opinion that he cannot identify what this increase will do as a detailed budget from the Student Activities Fund has not yet been presented. The motion passed 4-1.

B. Increase Equipment Budget by \$25,000

At this point in the meeting there was a discussion in regards to the budget hearing. Superintendent Janice Hatch reminded the Board they needed to set a time, date and location for the budget hearing. Mr. Bremner had questions. Superintendent Hatch responded to his inquiry concerning state statute by making him aware that the tentative budget must be filed by a district administrator for public inspection 15 days prior to the budget hearing when it would be adopted and Garfield School District's would be posted on-line. She also informed the Board the budget in prior years was not coded in alignment with the state code and staff has currently changed codes to align with the audit requirements and with state fiscal codes. There was an exchange of comments concerning when, where and what time the hearing should take place. Superintendent Hatch thanked Mr. Bremner for e-mailing Utah Code 53-A-19 which relates to requirements for budget hearings. She shared this code with all board members via e-mail.

There was considerable discussion concerning the time, date and location of the budget hearing at this point in the meeting. See 7-B for motion and details.

Superintendent Hatch asked Business Administrator Lark Reynolds to address this issue. Lark Reynolds presented information concerning equipment, custodians, sweepers, etc. The Board discussed whether they were willing to increase the equipment budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. There was a lengthy discussion. There were many comments from the public concerning this issue. Gladys LeFevre proposed a motion to increase the equipment budget in the capital projects fund by \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Brian Bremner. A vote was then called for. Gladys LeFevre and Gregg Christensen voted aye. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, and Brian Bremner voted nay. The motion failed 2-3.

C. Utah Retirement System Employees – Rehired within the District Policy

Board President Ken Platt mentioned this is not a district policy, but changes to the Utah Retirement System. Business Administrator Lark Reynolds noted that a general consensus was needed and a district policy was needed due to recent law changes.

There was much discussion concerning this topic. Superintendent Janice Hatch informed the Board the Garfield County School District Policy states we can accept up to 10 years of experience in response to questions relating to this topic. She continued with a note of information: the last position the District opened actually had a cap on the total cost of hiring

the position due to the budget. Garfield has really been good to accept years to try to entice people to come to our district.

Brian Bremner proposed a motion to have Business Administrator Lark Reynolds draft a policy that will address the recent law changes for an employee hired by the District prior to July 1, 2010 who previously retired with the Utah Retirement System. The law prior to July 1, 2010 required the District to contribute 15.72% of the retired employee's wages to those individuals' 401(k) plans if they are hired in a position greater than half-time. This is only for individuals who have previously retired with the Utah Retirement System. After July 1, 2010 this option to contribute to the 401(k) policy will be optional. As part of his motion Brian Bremner suggested that the policy read, "The District will contribute up to 1.5% of the employee's wages into their 401(k) plan." The motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen, and Brian Bremner all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Non-Discrimination Policy for Years of Service Purchase with URS

After a brief discussion pertaining to Utah Code 49-12-409(3) requiring the District to have a non-discrimination policy if it is to help an employee purchase future years of service with the URS, Brian Bremner proposed a motion the business administrator draft a policy for the District to be presented at the September Board Meeting. This motion was seconded by Gladys LeFevre. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen, and Brian Bremner all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

E. 2010-2011 School Calendar

A School Calendar for the 2010-2011 fiscal years was presented to the Board for approval. A minor change was proposed to the schedule. Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to accept the calendar with the proposed change. The motion was seconded by Gladys LeFevre. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, and Gregg Christensen voted aye. Brian Bremner voted present. The motion passed 4-0-1.

F. Preliminary FY2011 Budget

This was discussed briefly. Superintendent Janice Hatch noted she would send a copy of the preliminary budget with notes to board members next Monday.

G. Superintendent Contract

Board President Ken Platt informed the general body there had not been an opportunity to talk to the superintendent concerning the proposed contract in the executive session and would not be addressed at this point in the meeting.

H. Secondary Schools Fall Sports Schedule

After some discussion about certain activities and dates, which mostly revolved around the Tuesday activities, endowment games, hosting region tournaments and the Region 20 voting process of who was to host the region tournaments Gregg Christensen commented the administrators and coaches had done a really good job with the scheduling. Gregg Christensen made the motion to accept the schedules as is. Gladys LeFevre seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gregg Christensen and Gladys LeFevre voted aye. Brian Bremner voted nay. Voted passed 4-1.

I. Secondary Schools UHSAA Over 150 Miles Contest

Board member Gregg Christensen commented regarding bus driver pay while not driving. There was some discussion. Business Administrator Lark Reynolds offered an explanation. He had checked with Transportation Director Annie Eldredge – the bus drivers are “off” the clock when they return to the motel/hotel. Principals are doing everything they can to help the travel situation. Escalante High School has combined BBB and GBB for the one long distance trip allowed. Board members expressed appreciation to the principals for their efforts. Superintendent Hatch advised the Board she had instructed principals to limit travel and combine where possible. Gregg Christensen made a motion to approve the EHS and PHS UHSAA Over 150 Mile trips in December for basketball. Brian Bremner seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously. Board President Ken Platt signed the original UHSAA Over 150 Mile Contest Forms. Gladys LeFevre commended coaches.

J. School Trust Lands Reports

Board members were impressed with how principals had used the funds. There was discussion regarding E2020 software. Superintendent Hatch explained to the Board E2020 is used for credit recovery. It is core aligned and has every class imaginable that is needed for complete credit recovery/remediation and can be used for every class being taught in school. “Making Sense of Sense Making Program” is math. PHS teacher John Gillett is attending. SEDC obtained a technology grant which made this possible. This is implementation of a model engagement program, the I3 Grant. Board members once again expressed how they were impressed to have the funds go towards education. Brian Bremner made a motion to approve the Trust Lands Plans as submitted. Gladys LeFevre seconded the motion. A vote was called for. All board members voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Escalante Heritage Center

Board President Ken Platt asked board member Gregg Christensen to address this issue since he had negotiated with Escalante Heritage Center board members. Gregg Christensen reported. Brian proposed a motion to accept Gregg’s recommendation to accept \$1,000 as a hookup fee and the District authorize the Heritage Center to draft an agreement for a monthly fee for the use of the water from the district well. This motion was seconded by Gladys

LeFevre. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen, and Brian Bremner all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Discussion of the 5th Furlough Days

Board member Gregg Christensen commented on how he thought it didn't make sense for the schools to lock the schools down on Friday, and then ask the teachers to come back to work the following Monday to check-out. Gregg Christensen proposed to allow the teachers to come in on Friday to check-out. Brian Bremner made the motion to accept Gregg Christensen's proposal. This motion was seconded by Gladys LeFevre. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen, and Brian Bremner all voted aye. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion regarding teachers being in the buildings during the summer and also closing buildings on Fridays.

7. Board Business

A. Set the June 2010 school board meeting.

It was proposed the June school board meeting be held at Bryce Valley High School Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 5:00 p.m. with the budget hearing to follow. The motion for this is included in the June Budget Hearing motion below.

B. Set the June Budget Hearing.

It was proposed the June school board meeting be held at Bryce Valley High school on Tuesday June 15, 2010. An executive session is tentatively scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. with the regular board meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. In order to help the board members with their schedules, it was decided to hold the budget hearing the same day as the board meeting. Therefore, the board meeting will be scheduled from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. on that date. The Public Budget Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. These meetings will be held at Bryce Valley High School as it seems to be the most central location within the District. Brian Bremner proposed a motion to meet on the above date and times. The motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen. A vote was then called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen, and Brian Bremner all voted to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Comments

Mack Oetting commented on the former superintendent and business administrator. He also asked the Board to rethink their stance on a five day furlough. The Board then commented on why they do not want to cut five days from the 2010-2011 school year.

Kevin Moore commented as a parent he would like to see kids in school.

Phoebe Wiseman praised Vicki Ahlstrom for her efforts as a Special Education Director and thanked her for her service in the District. Vicki informed the District last month that she was going to retire this year.

Kevin Moore discussed how thankful he is for the various programs that our district is able to offer.

Cheryl LeFevre asked the Board to raise property taxes next year.

Debbie Pollock then praised Superintendent Hatch for her efforts in the District, the many jobs she is doing, and asked the Board to help her. She noted she supports a tax increase.

Mack Oetting commented new growth was never considered, there was not a reason for a tax increase, he is in favor of an increase now because he knows what is going on, the reserve is down to \$22,000.00 and Camille Moore adjusted the tax rate. Board President Ken Platt reminded Mr. Oetting he did not vote for the tax increase when he served on the Board.

Board members discussed what was acceptable to discuss in executive sessions and the training they received from Burbidge and White.

9. Adjournment

Gregg Christensen proposed a motion to move into an executive session to discuss the employee competence, negotiations, and personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Gladys LeFevre. A vote was then called for. Ken Platt, Ted Chidester, Gladys LeFevre, Gregg Christensen all voted to approve the motion. Brian Bremner voted undecided. The motion passed 4-0-1.

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.