

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 16, 2009

Antimony Elementary School

Board members present: Board President Ken Platt, Gladys LeFevre, and Brian Bremner. Gregg Christensen arrived after the work meeting had started. Ted Chidester was unable to attend due to his health.

Community members were present. Acting Superintendent Janice Hatch was present, and Superintendent Park was in the audience.

A. WORK SESSION 4:00 P.M.

Board President Ken Platt called the meeting to open. He called the meeting to order.

A-1 RREVERENCE

Gladys LeFevre gave the reverence.

A-2 DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The fiscal year 2010 budget was presented as filed with the state. Brian Bremner wanted to make sure that the budget was “trackable.”
2. Freezing the steps and lanes was discussed by the School Board, with input from the GEA.
3. Insurance changes were discussed. Richard Stowell provided a sheet that calculated a difference between the gold and silver insurance plans. The difference was \$224,533.
4. The pool was also on the agenda, and Ken Platt corrected rumors that the District was going to close the pool. Bids were discussed detailing the amount the district would have to spend in order to fix the pool. The Board set up a meeting with Panguitch City to discuss the pool. The meeting was set for Tuesday, July 28, 2009. The public was invited to attend that meeting. Those who came to address the pool were given time to voice their concerns. And I do make several comments. Number one I have very little confidence in the budget numbers at this point. There’s a least one item at attributable to the pool that is approximately \$9,000, and we’ve only been able to find \$1000. Brandon and Sandy haven’t been paid, but we are showing that they are being paid in the expenses. We need accurate numbers, before we can make a decision. Number two, the Board has made motions and made decisions without actually seeing contracts without seeing them and evaluating them. We need to view these contracts before that decision is made. Number three, there is actually a recorded easement for that pool in the name of the city. That means they have a property right to that pool, as opposed to just a

part of the contract. They actually have a recorded easement for use of that property for uses of the pool. The bids vary greatly, and so it's tough to choose which one is most accurate. Fifth, this one bid we seem to grab onto and use has issues. We've also talked about safety. This has been emotionalized. Sometimes we emotionalize things and blow things out of proportion, and Brian believes that we need to stop, and slow down work with the city, talk to the individuals and give them opportunities to speak and work this out.

B. REGULAR BOARD MEETING 5:15

B-1 WELCOME

1. Board President Ken Platt called the meeting to order.

B-2 Pledge of Allegiance

1. Gregg Christensen led the pledge of allegiance.

C. OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS IMPROVING THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

- C-1** Ken Platt asked if anyone had anything to say regarding the improvement of the education of students. No comments were made.

D. AGENDA CHANGES

1. The agenda changed to accommodate the many people who showed up to discuss the pool. The pool was discussed first by various people who attended the board meeting. All who attended were invited to attend than the meeting on July 28th. Pool managers were unable to attend because they were out of state. After a friendly discussion many people left the board meeting, as they only came to discuss the pool.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1-A The minutes were reviewed for the June 2009 meeting. Brian Bremner suggested that various changes should be made. And then he made a motion to approve the June 2009 minutes with the grammatical changes that were noted. This motion was not voted upon at that moment, Ken suggested that the consent agenda items should be voted on as a group at the end.
- 1-B The June 2009 financial reports were then reviewed.
- 1-C Hiring recommendations: Vicki Ahlstrom recommended Dean Harrison to fill the opening for the Escalante Elementary School Special Ed position.

Gladys LeFevre made a motion to accept the June 2009 minutes with the recommended changes. Brian Bremner seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Gladys then made a motion to approve the June 2009 financial reports with the idea that we are trying to get away from issuing checks directly to the individual schools within the District.

The motion was then second by Gregg Christensen.

The vote passed unanimously.

Brian Bremner then made a motion to hire Dean Harrison as the Escalante High School/Escalante Elementary, and Boulder Elementary Special Ed teacher. Brian Bremner also indicated he would be paid out Special Ed funds which would be approved in next month's board meeting.

Gladys LeFevre seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

3. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

3-A Gregg Christensen reported he had asked about moving the wrestling mats from the old gym to the auditorium stage. Gregg was told they would be able to do this. Gregg did not believe the numbers that were presented to the Board at prior meetings were accurate. Gregg proposed that the Board discuss the situation more before voting on whether to close or sell the old gym.

3-B Gladys LeFevre mentioned she is going to meet with the parents of students in Boulder to discuss the Boulder Activity run.

Brian Bremner and Gladys LeFevre met with GEA. They discussed steps and lanes. Second, they also discussed the insurance options. Third, they talked about carrying personal leave over to the following year, or being reimbursed at the substitute rate. Fourth, they reviewed the policy for re-hiring teachers with prior experience after a one year period, using Leslie Taylor as an example. Fifth, they requested that they look at the director's salary schedule and review it. Sixth, consider paying for additional preparation days and that we may need to apply for grants. Seventh, more open communication. Eighth, holiday pay for classified and benefit employees. Finally, the Board then suggested to GEA that they look at the bottom three teachers in each school in order to see what they can do to help them improve the teaching process.

4. PROGRAM AND BUILDING REPORTS

- 4-A There were no program or building reports. However, because the work session went so long, some discussion points were not addressed that were on the agenda. They were added to the agenda, and were then discussed.
- 4-B The Boulder Elementary 4-Day week: Janice presented a letter from the State Superintendent Larry Shumway regarding the 4-Day Week.
- 4-C Citizen letter of concern response from USOE Superintendent Larry Shumway: Janice presented another letter from State Superintendent Larry Shumway. This letters stated that school personnel are not required to enforce immigration laws.
- 4-D Business manager's contract: Board President Ken Platt suggested that the Board discuss recently hired Business Administrator Lark Reynolds' contract in executive session. Brian Bremner indicated that contract issues could be discussed in public. Brian then noted that he did not like the provision that 5% of the business manager's contract would be put into a tax sheltered annuity of the business administrator's choosing. After discussion with all the Board, it was decided that 2.5% would be the maximum. The next item that was discussed was the vacation accrual. It was suggested that vacation days be changed from 20 days to 12 days. Next, the reasonable expense portion of the contract dealing with membership fees was then discussed. Brian suggested that those expenses be approved by the Board rather than the business administrator. Superintendent Park, then suggested that the Board realize that cutting the benefits of the business administrator hurts the district because it leaves a window open for the business administrator to go to another district. He then suggested that they look at the investment they are putting into a new business administrator before the decision is made to cut the benefits as suggested. Brian suggested that they change the notice the business administrator has to give the Board that he is leaving from 30 days to 60 days. Brian also suggested that the wording be removed that his contract could automatically be renewed if the Board does not act by informing the business administrator of its intent not to renew his contract in January 2011. Brian suggested the contract be written for the worst employee rather than the best employee. After some discussion the opinion of other members changed and they agreed not to change the leave notice from 30 days to 60 days. It was then suggested they have an attorney look at the contract and review its validity. The clause regarding the termination without cause was then discussed. Brian did not like paying him until the end of the two-year contract if he is put on administrative leave. He suggested it be the lesser of three months pay or the end of his contract. Gladys then suggested they leave the 401(k) contribution at 5%, or they give him 20 vacation days, but not to cut both.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 5-A Janice talked regarding Board Member Ted Chidester's health situation. Ted suggested he resign or an interim board member be appointed until he can get feeling better. Janice called the state and found out there is no provision for an interim board member. It was discussed that there is no problem with having a board member teleconference to the meeting. It was then suggested Ted could

call in for the future board meetings. Gregg then suggested Board Member Ted Chidester remain on the board and have him call in.

- 5-B Gladys LeFevre then made a motion the Board will now continue to receive pay that was frozen in an earlier meeting.
Gregg Christens seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

6. DISTRICT BUSINESS

- 6-A FY 2010 Budget: There was no further discussion on the budget as it was approved and sent into the State.
- 6-B Steps and Lanes were discussed above.
- 6-C The pool was also discussed above.
- 6-D Business manager's contract was discussed above.

7. BOARD BUSINESS

- 7-A The August school board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2009 at Boulder Elementary. The board meeting will start at 4:00 p.m. Brian Bremner suggested that no work session be advertised, and discuss information twice. Rather, he suggested the Board have one meeting to discuss the issues.
- 7-B Gladys LeFevre made a motion to change the meeting from August 20 to August 13, 2009.
The motion was seconded by Gregg Christensen.
The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

Board President Ken Platt made a motion to move into executive session.
Gregg Christensen seconded the motion.
Ken, Gregg, and Gladys voted to go into the executive session.
The motion passed.

Gladys LeFevre made a motion to come out of executive session.
Brian Bremner seconded the motion.
The vote passed unanimously.

Brian then suggested that a \$1,000 stipend for the acting superintendent be included on next month's agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Gladys LeFevre made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

**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.