

**GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Escalante High School, 800 East Highway 12 Escalante, UT 84726
August 17, 2017**

Board members present: President Cheryl Cox, Vice President Michael Savage, Ken Platt, Myron Cottam, and Frank Houston. Business Administrator Patty Murphy was also present. Superintendent Tracy Davis joined the meeting at 5:20PM.

Escalante faculty, staff, and community members were in attendance.

BOARD MEETING

1. Open Meeting

Cheryl Cox opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

2. Welcome

A. Welcome

Cheryl Cox extended a welcome to all who were present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Myron Cottam led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Consent Agenda Items

A. Approve Financial Reports

The July 2017 Financial Reports were reviewed.

B. Approve School Board Meeting Minutes

The July 2017 School Board Minutes were reviewed.

C. Approve Hiring Recommendations

District Office - Slader Matthew - IT Coordinator

Panguitch Elementary School - Hillary Bonner - .5 FTE
Kindergarten Teacher

Escalante High School - Simone Shumway – Assistant Volleyball
Coach

Panguitch Middle School / Panguitch High School - Candy Bagy –
Lunch Worker

Panguitch Elementary School / Panguitch Middle School /
Panguitch High School - Cristina Clerico - Substitute
Teacher

Escalante High School - Sabrina Hughes - Head Volleyball Coach

Panguitch Elementary School - Laura Cox - Para
Panguitch Elementary School - Haley Bagy - Para
Panguitch Elementary School - Leanna Williams - Para
Bryce Valley Elementary / Bryce Valley High School - Geni Senary
- Substitute
Bryce Valley High School - Melissa Tuft - Food Service
Bryce Valley High School - Lauren Senary - Food Service
Bryce Valley Elementary School - Kylie Mortensen - Pre K Teacher
Escalante High School - Greg Allen - Substitute
Bryce Valley Elementary School - John Cloud - Para
Bryce Valley Elementary School - Caleb Cloud - Para
Bryce Valley Elementary School - Holly Willis – Para

D. Letters of Resignation

Boulder Elementary - Mary Jane Coombs - Custodian
Panguitch Middle School - Cristina Clerico - Para
Panguitch Elementary School - Kim Julander - Para
Panguitch Elementary School - Taylor Bennett - Para
Bryce Valley Elementary School – Hillary Bonner – Pre-school
Teacher

E. Letters of Recognition

Garfield County School District has achieved its uniform growth goal for the 2016-2017 school year for 3rd grade literacy.

F. Home School Affidavits

There were no Home School Affidavits.

Myron Cottam made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mike Savage seconded the motion. A vote was called for: Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Frank Houston voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Beth Christensen asked to set up a meeting with Escalante teachers and the school board.
Jessica Fisher is concerned about staff losses.
Ryan Fisher questioned whether his children would be better off taking a bus to Bryce Valley.
Chip Sharpe also discussed staff numbers.
Elizabeth Julian discussed the growing number of students including pre-K at Boulder.

5. Reports

A. School Board Reports

Mike Savage had nothing to report.

Ken Platt had nothing to report.

Frank Houston attended a Five-County Association of Governments meeting. He discussed Garfield's small tax base and cuts in federal revenue.

Myron Cottam met with Southwest Tech. They discussed Southwest Tech hiring an additional person to better serve districts.

Cheryl Cox Attended USBA Board of Directors. She discussed State budget recommendations.

B. Business Administrator Report

Business Administrator, Patty Murphy, presented. The State Auditors gave the district a clean audit. She discussed her new state-wide committee assignments including hosting a UASBO-Rural meeting at Escalante High School in October.

6. Truth-in-Taxation Hearing

The Truth-in-Taxation Hearing was postponed until 6:00 p.m.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Boulder Elementary School Custodial Position

The Boulder Elementary custodial position was discussed. Superintendent Davis explained the difference between an employee and a contracted service.

8. Board Action Items

A. Coach Stipends

Coach stipends were discussed. Long season and no during-school instruction should be paid at \$2,200; short season at \$1,300.

Superintendent Tracy Davis joined the meeting at 5:20PM.

Frank Houston made a motion to approve the Coach Stipends as amended. Myron Cottam seconded the motion. A vote was called for.

Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Frank Houston voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Proposed Tax Increase

Agenda item moved to I on the Action Items until after the 6:00PM hearing.

C. FY18 Board Goals

Board goals were discussed.

Myron Cottam made a motion to accept the FY18 Board Goals. Ken Platt seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Frank Houston voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

D. RFP for Construction Manager/General Contractor

Superintendent Davis discussed the RFP for a Construction Manager/General Contractor. He described the nature of the position and timing.

Ken Platt made a motion to approve advertising for the selection of a Construction Manager/General Contractor for a 2-year period with the option to extend for an additional two years if Bryce Valley Elementary School is successful. Frank Houston seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Frank Houston voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

E. Advertising for a Mechanical/Structural Engineer for an Independent Audit of PES Gymnasium

Superintendent Davis discussed the Mechanical/Structural Engineer RFP. He stated that the PES gym is only 20 years old, and could be saved with roof extensions and addressing downspout issues.

Myron Cottam made a motion to approve issuing a contract for an independent Mechanical/Structural Engineer to evaluate the existing Panguitch Elementary Gymnasium to verify salvaging the building to be used in the new PES building configuration. Mike Savage seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Frank Houston voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

F. Tropic Property Adjacent to the Baseball Field

The Tropic property adjacent to the baseball field was described by Superintendent Davis. He said that the city is interested in improving a portion of that property with gravel to provide additional parking for games and bus parking for the district. The city has offered to cover the costs.

Ken Platt made a motion to work with Tropic City to improve the property adjacent to the baseball field. Frank Houston seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Frank Houston voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

G. Revised Fee Schedule Approval, Credit Recovery Fees, Pre-K Tuition Fees

Various aspects of the revised Fee Schedule were discussed. The credit recovery service has positively affected the graduation rate.

Myron Cottam made a motion to approve the Revised Fee Schedule, Credit Recovery Fees, and Pre-K Tuition Fees. Ken Platt seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Frank Houston voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

H. Proposed Tax Increase

It is recommended that the board approve the proposed tax increase from the Certified Tax Rate of .005631 to .005866 in Board Local (.000002) and Capital (.000344) levies. The result would increase collections county-wide by approximately \$207,000.

Frank Houston moved to approve the Board Local Levy increase by .000002 and the Capital Levy by .000344 for a total rate of .005866 to generate an additional \$207,000 in current taxes as discussed in the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing. Ken Platt seconded the motion. A vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Mike Savage, and Frank Houston voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

9. Board Business

A. Opening Institute – Bryce Valley High School

The Opening Institute at Bryce Valley High School on August 21 was discussed.

B. Set Next Month's Meeting

The next work meeting will be September 19 at the District Office at 4:00 p.m., and the regular board meeting will be September 21 in Antimony at 4:00 p.m.

C. Future Board Items

No future board items were discussed.

10. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Among those commenting or asking questions in this informal meeting with the board were: reporter Erica Walz; district staff Eva Durfey, Chip Sharpe, Elizabeth Julian, Sharla Poast, Jody Brooks, LaRee Bybee, and Beth Christensen; and patrons Nicole Griffin and Jessica Fisher.

Concerns were again expressed about declining staff in Escalante, lack of information including financial, and one parent's preference to bus kids to Bryce Valley High School.

Myron Cottam commented that living in a small town carries benefits not offered in metropolitan areas.

Cheryl Cox commented that many teachers being hired statewide are not yet certificated due to relatively low wages and low unemployment.

11. Executive Session

An Executive Session may be necessary for discussion of the character, professional competence, physical or mental health of an individual; a strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property; and/or a strategy session to discuss collective bargaining.

Ken Platt made a motion to move to Executive Session at 7:23PM to discuss character and real property strategies. Myron Cottam seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Frank Houston and Mike Savage voted, "Aye." The motion passed 5-0.

Included in the first portion of the Executive Session were reporter Erica Walz; district staff Eva Durfey, Chip Sharpe, Elizabeth Julian, Sharla Poast, Jody Brooks, LaRee Bybee, and Beth Christensen; and patrons Nicole Griffin and Jessica Fisher. They were excused following a discussion about the Escalante schools.

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Myron Cottam made a motion to return from executive session at 9:19PM. Frank Houston seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was called for. Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Frank Houston, and Mike Savage voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

12. Adjournment

Myron Cottam made a motion to adjourn. Frank Houston seconded the motion. A vote was called for: Ken Platt, Cheryl Cox, Myron Cottam, Frank Houston, and Mike Savage voted Aye. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20PM.

**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.