

FEBRUARY 2012 BOARD MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education was held on February 14, 2012 at the District Office in Junction, Utah. President Elva Nielson called the meeting to order at 4:16 P.M. Present were Derrin Jensen, Elva Nielson and Rickey Dalton. Also present were Superintendent Don Yates and Business Administrator Jeff Barben. Guests at the meeting were Clay Fullmer, Principal Kennedy Sylvester, Lon Dalton and Sundee Dalton.

I. Opening Remarks

Opening remarks were by Rickey Dalton.

President Elva Nielson welcomed everyone to Board Meeting.

II. Citizen Dialog:

President Nielson gave time to Clay Fullmer to describe his Eagle Project. Clay Fullmer proposed doing an Eagle Project to put a roof and side panels on the baseball dugouts at Circleville Elementary and passed out the cost estimates to the board members. Board members discussed different options. President Nielson asked if the town of Circleville would be willing to contribute to the project. Clay explained that he had spoken with the Circleville Town Board and they were not willing to put any more money into the baseball field. President Nielson thanked Clay Fullmer and moved the issue to action items.

III. Discussion Items:

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Yates asked Jeff Barben to update the board members on the legislative session. Jeff passed out handouts to the board members and guests that detailed the current legislation on the hill that is of most concern to the district. H.B. 123 is the bill that gives us the most concern. If passed it would cut the state funding to the district by over \$750,000, which is approximately 24% of our state funds. This would have a devastating effect on our ability to educate our students and meet the graduation requirements. The NESS funding bill submitted by Representative Kay McKiff that would provide additional revenue for small schools is getting some traction with the legislature and would help the high school offer foreign language classes and additional math options. Jeff also explained that rural school districts are hurt the most by federal land policies and by some state land policies as well. He is planning to work with Representative Mike Noel to draft a letter explaining how the land use policies have a disparate economic impact on small rural districts. Board members thanked Jeff and Superintendent Yates for their efforts with the legislature and encouraged Jeff to proceed with the letter.

B. Patron Questions/Concerns

President Nielson asked Lon and Sundee Dalton if they had any issues that they would like to discuss with the board. Lon Dalton expressed a concern that Devin Shakespear was the Student Council Representative but would not chaperone dances. Sundee Dalton asked why the high school has not held any dances this year. Principal Sylvester expressed his opinion that there isn't much support for dances and the last several dances had very few students attend. He explained that he had spoken with Devin Shakespear, who stated that he had not been approached about a dance until December and by then the schedule for February was already full

with region and state basketball tournaments. Lon Dalton expressed concern that the new counselor was not providing the service to the students that they had received in the past for the Sterling Scholar program. Sundee Dalton commented that if someone is assigned to oversee the student council, they need to be willing to be involved with the student council. Principal Sylvester explained that he has met with Devin and he feels that the Sterling Scholar program is on schedule and a dance has been scheduled. Principal Sylvester stated that Devin had sent out letters and notifications regarding the program and that Devin has been willing to do everything that he has been asked to do. Derrin Jensen agreed.

Lon Dalton expressed concern for the fines that are being levied at the high school. He asked to know what specific fines can be levied. Principal Sylvester explained that there are three rules at the high school that students may receive a fine – leaving campus during school hours, students sitting in the fan section during games and eating and drinking outside the lunchroom and commons area in the new building. About ten years ago, the high school began to fine students \$10 for leaving campus during school hours. The school has had a rule for almost 20 years that students must sit in the student section during ball games or be charged a \$5 fee for sitting in the fan section. The fine for eating and drinking outside the lunchroom and commons area was put in place this year because of the new building and the desire to keep it nice.

Lon Dalton explained that the State School Board had told him that it is illegal to suspend a student from school for non payment of fines. Superintendent Yates stated that he had checked with the attorney at the Utah State Office of Education and a monetary fine is legal if the board approves it and the student is given the option to perform work hours in lieu of the fine.

Principal Sylvester stated that in his opinion the fines are reasonable and effective and help to eliminate confrontations between teachers and students.

Lon Dalton asked if the board members felt we would be better off with a full time principal at the high school. Board members stated that it would be better but they didn't know where to find the funds. Principal Sylvester stated that even though he was not a full time principal, he was able to be very effective and the school and students had been well served. In meetings with other principals, they all seemed to have more problems in their school than we are seeing at Piute High School.

Lon Dalton stated that he feels there is a teacher in the high school that is not reflecting the values and morals of the community. He expressed concern that this teacher is having a negative effect on the other teachers, students, local communities and outside communities.

Lon Dalton asked Principal Sylvester to explain why the basketball players get excused from class on the day after a game and the band students do not. Principal Sylvester explained that the coaches are given the option to stay at the tournament site if they choose after a late game, so permission was granted for them to come to school later rather than stay at the game site. The basketball coach made a special request, which was granted. If the band teacher had made a request, it would have been granted as well. Superintendent Yates thanked Lon and Sundee Dalton for bringing their concerns to the board meeting.

C. 2012 National School Lunch Standards

President Nielson referred the discussion to Superintendent Yates. Superintendent Yates explained that the timetable for new nutritional standards is coming sooner than we expected. The new standards will be in place beginning in the summer of 2012. He expressed concern that this will be another unfunded mandate because the increase in funding will not cover the increase in the cost. Rickey Dalton stated that he had encouraged DeeAnn Heitman to watch the Rachael

Ray program because she had really good nutritional quick recipes. President Nielson read through the new rules for the nutritional program and felt that our district would qualify for an exception based on unusual grade configuration, which would allow us to serve the same lunches to 7th and 8th graders as the high school students. Board members asked Superintendent Yates to make sure that information on the new standards be disseminated to parents before the beginning of next school year.

D. Report on Lt. Governor Bell's Visit to Piute School District

Superintendent Yates reported to the board on the visit by Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell, Education Director Kristine Kearl and Senator Ralph Okerlund to the Piute School District. Superintendent Yates, Jeff Barben and Phil Singleton provided them with information about challenges facing our district and the effect of legislation on those challenges. Superintendent Yates felt that the meeting had gone very well and we received positive feedback on the meeting from Kristine Kearl and other districts who were visited.

E. High School Marquee, Score Boards, Score Table

Superintendent Yates handed the board members a document detailing the history of our dealings with Robson in trying to resolve the issue of the marquee that hasn't worked. Phil Singleton contacted Robson and our only option now is to replace the marquee or the panels. Because of all of the trouble, Robson offered their best quote which was still more than it would cost for YESCO to replace the marquee. Board members asked Superintendent Yates to present a solution for next board meeting and research the cost of putting the new logo on the gym floor.

F. District Teacher Inservice Needs (Common Core)

Superintendent Yates explained that the Utah State Office of Education has offered our district 20 slots for the common core training. It would still cost the district close to \$10,000 if we send all of our teachers to the training. Superintendent Yates recommended to the board members that we pay the teachers to attend the training using one time general fund dollars. We may be able to receive \$200 per teacher of the training cost through CUES.

G. Auto Report

President Nielson asked if any board members had questions about the Auto Report. Rickey Dalton asked Superintendent Yates if the logs were being kept up. Superintendent Yates reported that he felt the logs were being kept regularly. Superintendent Yates also reported that three of our busses are listed for sale on ksl.com.

H. Other

Superintendent Yates referred board members to a thank you note that he would be sending to the Special Service District. Board members suggested that he correct an error on the letterhead and send the note. Rickey Dalton requested that Superintendent Yates update the Special Service District on the progress toward fixing the marquee.

Jeff Barben updated the board members on the progress toward the new fiscal system. The bid has been awarded to Alio/Weidenhammer and all of the districts in the RFP process will be joining together to purchase the software. The first year costs will be \$14,673 for first year implementation costs. Subsequent year costs will be \$4,054 per year. There will also be a cost of around \$500 per year for hardware cost through CUES, who will be hosting the program.

V. Executive Session:

5:40 P.M. Motion was made by Rickey Dalton to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Derrin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

6:55 P.M. Motion was made by Derrin Jensen to return from executive session. Seconded by Rickey Dalton. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

V. Action Items:

A. Approval of January Board Minutes and Vouchers

Motion was made by Rickey Dalton to approve the minutes of the January 2012 Board Meeting, and to also approve vouchers #013607-013759. Seconded by Roger Westwood. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

B. Core Curriculum Training

Motion was made by Derrin Jensen to adopt the funding for state Core Curriculum training for the teachers. Seconded by Roger Westwood. All Voted Aye. Motion carried.

C. Alio Contracts

Motion was made by Roger Westwood to accept the contracts for the new fiscal system with Alio/Weidenhammer. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

D. 401(k) Funding

Motion was made by Rickey Dalton to accept the proposal to fund a 401(k) for Craig Sudweeks with a \$7,500 initial deposit and \$150 per month for 10 years or as long as he is employed with the district. Seconded by Derrin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

VI. Information Items:

A. Next Board Meeting Scheduled March 13, 2012

B. Statewide Compensation Information

C. Thank You Note

D. Special Service District Information

E. Other

Motion was made by Derrin Jensen to adjourn the February 2012 meeting of the Piute School District Board of Education. Seconded by Rickey Dalton. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned 7:40 P.M.