

## **JULY 2012 BOARD MINUTES**

The regular board meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education was held on May 8, 2012 at the District Office in Junction, Utah. President Elva Nielson called the meeting to order at 4:16 P.M. Present were Roger Westwood, Erin Jensen, Derrin Jensen, Elva Nielson and Rickey Dalton. Also present were Superintendent Shane Erickson and Business Administrator Jeff Barben. Hillary Morgan, Linda Jenkins, Tina Sudweeks, Jodi Johnson, Sherry Winkel, Janeen Houtz and Kathy Butcher were guests at the meeting.

### **I. Opening Remarks**

Opening remarks were by Erin Jensen.

President Elva Nielson welcomed everyone to Board Meeting.

### **II. Citizen Dialog:**

President Nielson noted the guests in attendance and asked if they had issues they would like to present to the board members. Sherry Winkel asked about the status of replacing Shelly Blackwell at Oscarson Elementary. Superintendent Erickson answered that the board is still considering options, but that the worst case scenario would be to at least provide a Paraprofessional to assist the teachers at the school. Superintendent Erickson explained that there are different requirements from the state in regards to funding that are being reviewed. Sherry Winkel asked if it would be a certified teacher or an aide. Superintendent Erickson replied that the decision had not been finalized but he expected it would be an aide. Sherry Winkel asked if the School District had a certified speech pathologist. Jeff Barben answered that the district pays a certified speech pathologist, Tracy Janes, who comes to the schools each month to work with students who require speech therapy. Sherry Winkel expressed her concerns with having three grades in one classroom. Superintendent Erickson expressed that President Nielson had asked him to look into the possibility of obtaining funding from the new Focus Schools program. He found that Oscarson is not currently on the list of Focus schools. Superintendent Erickson expressed his frustration that Oscarson Elementary is not currently on the list and assured Sherry that the district will do everything we can to maintain the teachers at Oscarson Elementary. Janeen Houtz and Kathy Butcher echoed Sherry Winkels concerns about not replacing Shelly Blackwell with a certified teacher at Oscarson Elementary. Sherry Winkel also expressed concern that her children will not get enough reading time. Board members agreed with the importance of keeping certified teachers at Oscarson Elementary. President Nielson asked if there were any other citizen dialogue, then explained to the guests that they were excused from the meeting or they could choose to stay.

### **III. Discussion Items:**

#### **A. Transportation**

President Nielson gave time to Tina Sudweeks, who expressed concern about transporting the Allen children to Circleville Elementary. Tina explained that she had briefed Superintendent Erickson on the issue. Derrin Jensen asked what time Tim Westwood picked up the students in Angle. Tina stated that Tim arrived in Angle later than Scott Bagley and would not be a viable option. Tim can meet Scott at night, but not In the morning. Tina explained that the state had made Angle a designated area for Garfield School District because of its location. Tina Sudweeks stated that we love having the kids here, but the family needs to decide how to get

them here. Superintendent Erickson stated that the district would continue to try to find a solution. Tina Sudweeks also explained to the board that the district will need to change a bus stop location in Kingston due to a special needs student that will be moving from Circleville Elementary to Piute High School. Scott Bagley's bus will need to stop next to the house, but Linda Jenkin's could move her bus stop to the street. Roger Westwood expressed concern with having a bus stop on top of a hill. Board members agreed. Tina Sudweeks suggested moving the stop close to Garrett Gleave's home.

#### **B. USBA Training/Master School Board Award**

President Nielson has asked Phil Singleton to get computers set up for the August Board Meeting to train the board members for the Master Boards Award. She asked if the board members could come an hour early for a board work session. President Nielson also suggested that the board members share the "Tell Our Story Video" from the Utah School Boards Association with their communities.

#### **C. PLC District Team/PLC School/Admin Team**

Superintendent Erickson introduced the Professional Learner Community concept to the board members. He expressed his belief that a PLC is not a program, it is a mindset, that moves education from traditional schools to a professional learning community. Superintendent Erickson posed the questions: How do we know what students are actually learning? What do they need to learn? He expressed his opinion that PLC's improve collaboration within schools and between schools. PLC's develop measurement tools to determine if needs are being met. Are we paying attention to the data and the progress being made by students? Superintendent Erickson expressed his belief that we have a great board and great schools and we need to continually focus on what is working and expand that success.

#### **D. Evaluation Process/Admin Team**

Superintendent Erickson expressed that he is not a dictator, but he does believe in accountability. The Utah State Office of Education suggests that we put a committee together consisting of board members, parents, teachers and administrators to come up with an evaluation tool. Roger Westwood commented that Snow College adopted a similar evaluation process and it has made a big difference. Superintendent Erickson explained that the evaluation process will be developed over 2 to 3 years. He explained the "snapshot" process that was used in the Beaver School District. Hillary Morgan asked if these "snapshots" ended up in a desk drawer. Superintendent Erickson expressed that follow through is a key part of the evaluation process and has been a problem in some previous evaluation processes that have been used in schools. The state has recognized that we do well at finding the issues that need to be addressed, but helping students to grow is where we need to continue to improve.

#### **E. Auto Report**

Superintendent Erickson expressed that he was impressed with the Auto Reports that are done in the district. Roger Westwood asked if Sandra Gear uses district cars for summer school. He expressed concern with her taking too many students to summer school in district cars. Superintendent Erickson will explore the issue.

#### **F. August Board Meeting Agenda/Schedule**

Superintendent Erickson informed the board members that Devin Shakespear has asked that the board members review the 2012-13 schedule for Piute High School and approve it if possible. Superintendent Erickson suggested scheduling a work meeting at 3:00 p.m. on August 14<sup>th</sup>, prior to board meeting, to do online training.

### **G. Parking Lots/Building Projects**

Superintendent Erickson reported to the board members that he inspected the elementary school parking lots in Circleville and Marysvale. The lines have been painted and they look really nice. Jeff Barben updated the board members on the capital projects. The old gym floor has been replaced and the first coat of varnish has been applied. The new gym will be sanded and refinished. Both gyms will have new logos painted and should be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Elva Nielson expressed that the paint on the floor is coming up in the art room and needs to be addressed. Superintendent Erickson will follow up with Hogan Construction. Superintendent Erickson explained that the mixer in Circleville Elementary is going out and needs to be rebuilt or replaced. He will work with Terri Higgins to determine whether it is more cost effective to repair or replace the mixer. There are also some concerns with flooring at Circleville and Oscarson Elementary buildings.

### **H. Chain of Command**

Superintendent Erickson asked the board members to comment on how they would like him to set up the chain of command. In Beaver School District, patrons would often contact different board members to get resolution, which would fragment the process. The administrators approached the Beaver School District board members to set up a chain of command that included administrators to insure that situations were resolved appropriately. Superintendent Erickson asked the board members how they would prefer him to establish the chain of command in the Piute School District.

Roger Westwood expressed that he would prefer patrons to address issues to teachers first, then principals, then the superintendent, then to board members. President Nielson suggested that board members refer patrons to the superintendent, teachers and principals to try to bring resolution. Superintendent Erickson stated that he was impressed with the board members and the number of years of experience serving on the board.

### **I. Background Checks for Teachers – Payment Process**

Superintendent Erickson asked if staff or the district pays for background checks on employees. Board members explained that staff pay for the background checks.

### **J. Professional Development/Teachers-Administrators**

Superintendent Erickson expressed to the board members that he would like to set aside time each month for professional development. Board members agreed.

### **K. Budget Update**

Jeff Barben updated board members on the budget. He directed them to budget handouts that provided the updated budget figures for FY2011-12 and shared the good news that we will receive around \$140,000 from Secure Rural Schools funding for next year. Jeff found that an error was made by the Utah State Office of Education on the transportation formula that will result in additional transportation funding for the district of over \$80,000. We have received

better estimates of NESS funding that was passed in the legislative session, which should mean an additional \$150,000. These were areas of concern that initially were projected to be budget cuts. Jeff expressed that the legislature will be asking for an accounting of the NESS funding and encouraged the board to find ways to add foreign language, art and math classes to the schedule. Jeff Barben has added these funds to the 2012-13 Budget, which necessitate the budget being amended.

#### **L. Policy Updates (Personnel) and Others**

Superintendent Erickson referred board members to the proposed attendance policy. Jeff Barben expressed concern that the policy as written was too inflexible. Board members discussed attendance policy implications. Superintendent Erickson shared insights from the attendance policy in the Beaver School District that allowed greater flexibility. President Nielson directed Superintendent Erickson to meet with Kennedy Sylvester and Devin Shakespear to discuss revising the attendance policy and bringing recommendations back to the board.

#### **M. 7 Correlations of Effective Schools**

Superintendent Erickson directed board members to the handout "7 Correlations of Effective Schools". He reviewed the seven correlations with board members expressed his support for utilizing these correlations to improve the expectations of our schools and paying greater attention to the learning process.

#### **N. Compliments to Piute High School: #28 of the Top 50 High Schools in Utah**

Superintendent Erickson congratulated Piute High School for being ranked among the Top 50 Schools in Utah by the Deseret News. Their test scores were 28<sup>th</sup> highest in the state in 2012.

#### **V. Executive Session:**

6:55 P.M. Motion was made by Erin Jensen to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Rickey Dalton. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

9:00 P.M. Motion was made by Roger Westwood to return from executive session. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

#### **V. Action Items:**

##### **A. Approval of June Board Minutes and Vouchers**

Motion was made by Erin Jensen to approve the minutes of the June 2012 Board Meeting, and to also approve vouchers #014020-014212. Seconded by Roger Westwood. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

##### **B. Biology Teacher**

Motion was made by Derrin Jensen to approve the hiring of Tyrell Clove as the Biology Teacher at Piute High School at 5/8 Salary and authorize him to teach in curriculum areas through student teaching until licensure occurs. Seconded by Roger Westwood. All Voted Aye. Motion carried.

##### **C. Amend Final 2011-12 Budget**

Motion was made by Rickey Dalton to approve the Final 2011-2012 Budget as amended. Seconded by Roger Westwood. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

**D. Amend Proposed 2012-13 Budget**

Motion was made by Erin Jensen to approve the Proposed 2012-13 Budget as amended. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

**E. Superintendent Contract**

Motion was made by Derrin Jensen to approve the superintendent contract for Shane Erickson as written. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

**VI. Information Items:**

**A. Next Board Meeting Scheduled for August 14, 2012**

**B. Superintendent Report**

**C. Other**

Motion was made by Roger Westwood to adjourn the July meeting of the Piute School District Board of Education. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.  
Meeting Adjourned 9:28 P.M.