

MAY 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, Elva Nielson and Rickey Dalton. Derrin Jensen arrived at 6:30 pm. Also present were Superintendent Don Yates and Business Administrator Jeff Barben. Guests at the meeting Martine Marshall, Sherry Winkel, Sally James, Jodi Johnson, Devin Shakespear, Holly Nowers, Dan Springer, Kristi Fautin, Phil Singleton and Shane Erickson.

I. Opening Remarks

Opening remarks were by Ricky Dalton.

President Elva Nielson welcomed everyone to Board Meeting.

II. Citizen Dialog:

President Nielson recognized those who were in attendance from Marysvale and asked if they had a spokesperson. Erin Jensen stated that she had been requested by Shelley Blackwell to inform the board that she would like to have Sally James teach the 3rd and 4th grades at Oscarson next year to be able to keep her at Oscarson Elementary. Martine Marshall addressed the board and stated that she was at the meeting in support of Sally James. She requested that the board give the teaching job to Sally James to keep her at Oscarson. She felt that Sally has been a great teacher. Sherry Winkel addressed the board and stated that she feels that Sally James is a great teacher, but she is not sure whether Kristy Delange is a great teacher or not. Sherry stated that she may look at home schooling her kids if Sally James is not teaching at Oscarson Elementary next year. Sally James addressed the board and explained that she loves Oscarson Elementary and is dedicated to it. Sally stated that she knows the kids and has taught them to read and introduced the Liberty Kids program. Sally expressed that she thrives on teaching and that she wants to be in Marysvale, Sally committed to giving the students all that she has. Jodi Johnson addressed the board and stated that Sally is enthusiastic and cares about the students. In 6th grade 33% of students are receiving resource support. As are 42% of kids in 3rd grade. Twenty five percent of 1st and 2nd graders require tier two and tier three instruction. Oscarson doesn't have a lot of students, but they have a lot of needs. If they don't have outstanding teachers, they won't be successful. Kristi Fautin addressed the board and stated that even though Sally James had a baby this year, her son is a 2nd grade reader in 1st grade. She expressed that she didn't feel it would be good to disrupt the personnel and introduce a new teacher in such a small school. She would really like Sally James to stay if it pleases the board. President Nielson stated that Oscarson has always been one of our top schools. Erin Jensen stated that it was nice to see so many parents in support of Sally James and commended them for coming to the board meeting. Superintendent Yates commended the parents for being positive toward one teacher and cautioned them about not being negative toward another. Superintendent Yates advised the parents to be careful about forming opinions based on what they hear about teachers. Superintendent Yates explained that the position has been posted and the district has received three applications. We are still unsure what next year's budget will allow us to do. We are not saying that we would drop Sally's position, but the budget is tentative. Superintendent Yates explained that he had just returned from a Title I meeting. If a school has less than 10 students in a class, the students will not count towards meeting Adequate Yearly Progress. In Utah's

application to leave AYP, they would move to create focus schools. Oscarson Elementary would be on the list of focus schools, which may mean changes because a small number of poor performing students could impact the entire school. Superintendent Yates expressed his appreciation to the parents for appearing in support of Sally James. Sherry Winkel stated that she felt it would be unthinkable to lower the staff levels at Oscarson. Jeff Barben explained that we are still not sure what the budget will be for next year. We have lost funding for next year and our expenses are projected to increase, but we have not received the final budget projections for next year. President Nielson expressed appreciation to the parents for attending and moved the agenda forward.

Derrin Jensen arrived at 6:30 pm.

President Nielson gave time to Devin Shakepear. Devin expressed concern about the attendance policy. Under the current policy, students can miss 5 days without consequence. After 5 days students are given detention hours. Devin expressed his concern that the current policy is not clear and has not been consistently enforced, which both need to be addressed. Holly Nowers explained that she has a student who missed 12 days and she feels like she has failed him. He won't graduate because he has an incomplete. He has missed 9 days already this quarter. Holly stated that restitution does not replace class time. Devin stated a lot of his time is wasted following up on restitution hours. When Devin checked with other schools, most of them have a policy that takes effect at 5 absences and again at 10 absences. Holly asked Shane Erickson what Beaver School District was doing. Shane explained that they have a youth court that initiates progressive discipline. Devin proposed keeping the 5 absences without consequence, then initiating restitution between five and eight absences which would require two tutoring sessions per absence. On the 9th absence, the student would lose all credit for the term and with excessive absences be referred to juvenile court. Superintendent Yates suggested meeting with the faculty and reviewing the proposed changes. Roger Westwood asked if the other teachers were okay with the proposed changes. Devin stated that all of the faculty members had voted to move forward with the changes. President Nielson thanked Devin and Holly and excused them from the meeting. Derrin Jensen stated that the proposed policy looked good.

Phil Singleton addressed the board with concerns about facebook. Many districts have a facebook page for their high schools and have put their high school counselors in charge of the facebook pages. Phil asked if the board would be in favor of Piute High School creating an official facebook page. President Nielson asked Devin Shakespeare how he felt about taking on another duty. Devin expressed that he was fine with being in charge of the facebook page, as long as he wasn't required to update it every week. Holly Nowers suggested that Georgi Dalton update the facebook page. President Nielson suggested that Phil look at the parameters for a facebook page and report to the board in the next board meeting. Phil agreed.

Holly Nowers addressed the board and announced that her son Austin was selected for the National Greco-Roman Wrestling Team to represent the State of Utah for 1A schools. It will require him to travel to Indianapolis, IN and cost him about \$2,000 to participate. Holly asked if the board would consider sponsoring Austin with a donation to help cover the cost. President Nielson told Holly that the board would discuss her proposal and board members thanked Holly for attending the meeting.

III. Discussion Items:

A. Review of PHS Industrial Technology Program (Mr. Springer)

President Nielson gave time to Dan Springer. Dan explained that he had been talking with Rickey Dalton about the projects that his students had completed this year and the awards they had received. Rickey had invited him to board meeting to share the successes of the drafting and wood shop programs with the board. Dan explained that he had students place first and second in the Architectural Fair. Architectural Drafting is now approved as an art credit, which has increased enrollment. Dan showed the board members a slide show of the wood shop projects that the students have completed this year. Superintendent Yates congratulated Dan on a great program and thanked him for his work.

B. Options for Early Graduation

Rickey Dalton suggested that the Board move to the discussion on early graduation. Board members agreed. Rickey Dalton explained that raising the requirements for graduation had made it more difficult for students to take CTE and other elective classes. He felt that we should try to encourage students who have met the graduation requirements to take classes where they can learn additional skills. Devin Shakespear explained that he encourages students to take classes that will increase their skills. Shane Erickson asked if we have the Pathways Program. Devin explained that we do offer the Pathways Program and will have four Pathway Completers this year.

C. Discussion on District Technology and Training

Phil Singleton explained to the board members that Utah Education Network provides and holds ownership of our network to the internet. We are in the process of upgrading our VOIP phone system. The last update cost us \$90,000, so we looked at a lease that would cost us the same amount that we are currently paying. UEN had signed a contract giving South Central Communications control of our networks and South Central threatened to cut off our phone lines if we used the new VOIP system on their networks. Currently, the only way that we can see to use the VOIP system and save money will be to build a wireless network with UEN. We are working with UEN to put that network in place if necessary. Our current plan is to build the new network in June and hook up the new VOIP phone system.

Phil Singleton explained to the board the access that students, faculty, staff and guests have to the internet and why we filter websites to protect students. Our guest account is the most restricted, then student accounts, then teachers. Teachers can submit restricted sites that they need to access

for approval within 24 to 48 hours. Teachers are the least restricted, but they are not unrestricted. ViewSafe is a program that the teachers can access that allows them to get on YouTube. Filtering and firewalls are updated every night. The main focus is keeping the students safe. Phil stated his feeling that what students are doing on the network should reflect what they are learning in the classroom.

D. Auto Report

President Nielson asked if anyone had questions regarding the Auto Report. Rickey Dalton asked if the logs are still being kept up to date. Superintendent Yates replied that they were being kept as near as he could tell.

E. 2012-13 School Lunch Program/Prices

Superintendent Yates explained to the board the current price structure for school lunch. The district is not charging enough to cover the cost of the meals or the price that the federal government is reimbursing us. We are getting reimbursed \$3.25 for lunches through state and federal funds. We are currently charging \$1.50 for lunch in the elementary schools and \$2.00 in the high school. The state is recommending that we add 14 cents to the cost of each lunch. Derrin Jensen asked Shane Erickson what Beaver School District charges for lunch. Shane was not sure. Superintendent Yates recommended raising the price of school lunch by 25 cents, which would increase the price to \$1.75 for the elementary schools and \$2.25 for the high school. Board members expressed concern that we need to increase the quality of the meals if we are going to increase prices. President Nielson suggested moving the topic to action items. Board members agreed.

F. Gym Floors, Marquee

Superintendent Yates explained that the Marquee has been ordered and the contractor is moving forward with the replacement of the old gym floor and the sanding and refinishing of the new gym floor.

G. Office of Energy Loan Repayment Options

Superintendent Yates explained to the board members that the district still has the option of paying off the Department of Energy loan over 12 years rather than in one payment. We can pay the loan off in full in the future if we desire. Superintendent Yates recommended paying the loan off over time to give the district greater flexibility.

H. Staffing Update

Superintendent Yates expressed to the board members that because we did not yet have the budget numbers, he felt it would be premature to discuss staffing decisions. Rickey Dalton asked about the cook position at Oscarson Elementary. Superintendent Yates replied that he had not taken any action yet, but the district had received three applications for the position.

V. Executive Session:

9:30 P.M. Motion was made by Rickey Dalton to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

10:15 P.M. Motion was made by Roger Westwood to return from executive session. Seconded by Derrin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

V. Action Items:

A. Approval of April Board Minutes and Vouchers

Motion was made by Erin Jensen to approve the minutes of the April 2011 Board Meeting with corrections to action items, and to also approve vouchers #013937-014019. Seconded by Rickey Dalton. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

B. Increase the Price for School Lunch in 2012-13

Motion was made by Derrin Jensen to increase the price of school lunch in the elementary schools to \$1.75 and \$2.25 in the high school for the 2012-13 school year. Seconded by Roger Westwood. All Voted Aye. Motion carried.

C. Superintendent

Motion was made by Rickey Dalton to hire Shane Erickson as Superintendent of Schools for the Piute County School District. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

VI. Information Items:

A. Next Board Meeting Scheduled for June 12, 2012

B. Senior Recognition/Awards Night – May 16th @ 6:00 PM

C. Graduation – May 23rd @ 8:00 PM

D. Preliminary End of Level Testing Results

E. Other

Motion was made by Roger Westwood to adjourn the May meeting of the Piute School District Board of Education. Seconded by Derrin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned 10:45 P.M.