

SEPTEMBER 2013 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education was held on September 10, 2013 at the Piute County Commission Chambers in Junction, Utah. President Derrin Jensen called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Present were Marty Morgan, Erin Jensen, Derrin Jensen, Joyce Sudweeks and Rickey Dalton. Also present were Superintendent Shane Erickson and Business Administrator Jeff Barben. Guests at the meeting were Holly Nowers, Kennedy Sylvester and Kathy Riddle.

Work Meeting - A work meeting of the Piute County Board of Education was held at 2:00 p.m. Board members received training on personality styles from Superintendent Erickson.

I. Opening Remarks

Opening remarks were by Erin Jensen.

President Derrin Jensen welcomed everyone to Board Meeting.

II. Public Hearing: none

III. Discussion Items:

A. Strategic Plans Review

President Jensen gave time to Superintendent Erickson. Superintendent Erickson explained that strategic plans are now on our website and available to all. Shannon Gleave has taken over the migrant program and ESL program. Their goals are to increase speaking and reading comprehension. Special Ed is focusing on improving IEP's and training of new staff. CTE is focusing on the new Ag program. Piute High School is working on accreditation and focusing on improving junior high student accountability. Circleville Elementary is promoting parental and community support for student learning and achievement. Oscarson Elementary has goals to strengthen teachers, update technology and increase student respect.

B. Junior High Credit Requirements

Superintendent Erickson detailed a program that Rich School District adopted requiring 8th graders to meet graduation requirements to move on to 9th grade, which has increased the accountability and test scores among 7th and 8th graders. They require their students to get a C- or they have to take classes to remediate those grades after school or during the summer. Kennedy Sylvester stated that the students know that they don't have to pass their classes to move on to high school and some of them lose focus during junior high. Holly Nowers expressed that we are setting students up for failure if they are not held accountable for two years. Marty Morgan asked how many students would be likely not to pass. Kennedy answered that 5 to 7 kids out of both classes would potentially be held back if we require them to pass all of their classes before moving to 9th grade. Joyce Sudweeks asked about parent support. Principal Sylvester stated that he felt most students in the district have good parental support.

C. Review District/Student Enrollment

Superintendent Erickson explained that we have fewer preschoolers in the district. He will research the number of preschool students coming in the next few years. We seem to be holding pretty steady overall, but lower numbers in preschool is concerning for the future.

D. Legislative Priorities/Grading of Schools

Superintendent Erickson referred board members to the school grades in their packets. Circleville Elementary has moved from a C to a B, because some test scores were left out. Piute High School received a B grade and Oscarson Elementary received an A. The governor has concerns about the formula being used to grade the schools. Superintendents are also concerned about the growth formula in the grading and that resource students are treated the same as regular students in the grading formula. There is no research that connects school grading with school improvement and the current grading system may actually lower some grades as proficiency rates increase. Superintendent Erickson is confident that the current grading system will be improved.

Superintendent Erickson referred board members to handout listing the legislative priorities of the Utah State Board of Education. Jeff Barben explained to the board the fully funded growth formula and separate line item funding for social security and retirement.

E. District Organization/All Schools

Superintendent Erickson showed the board members how staff are spending their time and what programs are being paid with federal money. President Jensen expressed that he had received positive compliments for the new employees that are working with Special Ed students.

F. ACT Data

Superintendent Erickson explained that he believes in data driven decision making. Kendall Torgerson has accepted the responsibility for the PLC team in the district. In comparing our ACT test scores with the state and national averages over the last five years we show improvement. We are holding steady with the state average and are higher than the state average in some categories. Jeff Barben explained the discrepancy in ACT scores with advanced classes that our students are hurt by not having access to higher level math and science classes offered.

G. International Students, District Emergency Response Plan, Policies

Superintendent Erickson explained to the board that we need to update our international student policy. We are also going to train staff on triage and first aid. The state is requiring that we train staff on response to violence and emergencies including lockdown and evaluation. The policy is stating that we have an emergency plan that includes prevention, intervention and response. Teachers will receive training on September 18th and students will be trained in November or December.

H. Use of District Vehicles/Supervision Transportation Policy

Transportation policy has not changed since the last reading, neither has the district vehicle policy. Superintendent Erickson asked board members to review the policies.

I. Emergency Preparedness, Substitutes Policy

Staff members will be trained on giving medications.

Kennedy Sylvester requested input from the board on the dress and grooming policy. He thought the policy had been passed, but has not been updated on the website. He also needs clarification on the interpretation of sleeveless. Does it need to cover the top of the shoulder? President Jensen felt that covering the top of the shoulder with sleeves was the intent of the board. Marty Morgan asked if the policy was just for students? Superintendent Erickson stated that teacher

dress and grooming is laid out in R277-515, but it is somewhat vague and subject to interpretation.

Substitute policy needs to be changed to allow for exceptions for superintendent approval of substitutes who are not licensed who need to substitute for longer than 8 weeks. Superintendent Erickson asked the board if they wanted to increase substitute pay by 1% to match the cost of living increase given to other employees.

J. Fundraising, Cash Receipts and Donation Policies

Jeff reviewed fundraising policy, cash receipts policy and donations policy. He noted areas that the policy was in conflict with current procedures and asked for input from the board whether to change the policy or the procedure.

Kennedy Sylvester asked to speak to dispel a rumor that a student was starting on the baseball team because his parents had made a donation to the school. He stated that there had been no donation made.

K. Fundraising, Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursement, Donation Policies

Superintendent Erickson addressed the leave policy changes that need to be made to comply with the new retirement policy. Classified staff that are hired after June 30, 2013 will not receive personal leave days unless they are contracted to work at least 30 hours per week. Superintendent Erickson restated that personal days need to be given 48 hours notice unless it is an emergency.

L. Business Administrator/Superintendent Contracts

Jeff Barben directed board members to handouts that compared the salaries of teachers from 25 districts throughout Utah from a survey by Beaver School District that showed that our teachers are paid 2% above the average including salary and benefits. The board was then directed to two surveys that compared the Business Administrator and Superintendent salaries from those same districts that showed that the Superintendent salary was 25% less than average and the Business Administrator salary was 29% less than the average. A survey of the 11 smallest districts showed that the Superintendent salary was 15% lower than average and the Business Administrator salary was 19% lower. In light of these surveys, the Superintendent and Business Administrator requested that the board consider a salary increase. Holly Nowers stated that everyone had received a 1% increase in salary and that should suffice for all. Superintendent Erickson stated that were it not for the size of the inequity her point would be valid.

V. Executive Session:

7:30 p.m. Motion was made by Erin Jensen to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Joyce Sudweeks. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

10:05 p.m.. Motion was made by Erin Jensen to return from executive session. Seconded by Joyce Sudweeks. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

V. Action Items:

A. Approval of August 2013 Board Minutes and Vouchers

Motion was made by Joyce Sudweeks to approve the minutes of the August 2013 Board Meeting, and to also approve vouchers #1375-1486. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

B. Site Specific License

Motion was made by Erin Jensen to authorize a site specific license for Robert Thomas. Seconded by Joyce Sudweeks. All Voted Aye. Motion carried.

C. Paraprofessional

Motion was made by Marty Morgan to approve Ann Kennedy as a paraprofessional at Oscarson Elementary. Seconded by Rickey Dalton. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

D. Cash Receipts, Fundraiser and Donations Policies

Motion was made by Rickey Dalton to approve the policies for Cash Receipts, Fundraising and Donations as updated. Seconded by Erin Jensen. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

E. Piute High School Account Signer

Motion was made by Erin Jensen to authorize Superintendent Erickson as a signer on the Piute High School accounts. Seconded by Joyce Sudweeks. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

F. Increase for Substitutes

Motion was made by Erin Jensen to increase the hourly rate for classified substitutes by \$0.50 per hour. Seconded by Rickey Dalton. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

G. District Audit Committee

Motion was made by Erin Jensen to establish a Piute School district Audit Committee to include Business Administrator Jeff Barben, Superintendent Shane Erickson, Board President Derrin Jensen and Board Member Rickey Dalton. Seconded by Joyce Sudweeks. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

VI. Information Items:

A. Update on drivers Ed. Kendall Torgerson will teach a Drivers Ed course and driver training. The district received \$10,000 for the purchase of a drivers ed car.

B. BTS Grant Update. The district received a \$54,000 grant from Beverly Taylor Sorenson Art funds Dennis Budge, Jo Whittaker and Matt Belliston will be working with the grant. We are the first rural school to get the full program. USOE is excited and watching. Kathy Riddle stated that Mr. Belliston is doing amazing things with incorporating music into math, English, etc.

C. Safe Schools – Oscarson Elementary lacks emergency exits in some classrooms. Superintendent Erickson will look at replacing a window with a safer window or door.

D. ParentLink - September 25 training for secretaries on ParentLink

E. 504 Plan - We need to become more formalized in our 504 plan. Everyone in the building should know how to react to 504 plans.

F. Transportation – Vehicle use requests are online and working.

Motion was made by Erin Jensen to adjourn the September 2013 meeting of the Piute School District Board of Education. Seconded by Marty Morgan. All voted Aye. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned 7:40 p.m.