



# APPROVED MINUTES

## March 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education was held on **March 12, 2024** at the Piute County Courthouse in Junction, Utah. President Jeremy Pearson called the meeting to order at **3:32 P.M.** Present was Jeremy Pearson, Teresa Morgan, Erin Jensen, Neccia Dalton and Rick Dalton. Also present was Superintendent Koby Willis and Business Administrator Dallas Sylvester. Guests at the meeting were: Eric Jessen, Russ Lee, Troy Allan, Brittany James, Paul James, Aaron Metcalfe, Beth Allen, Rodney Mayo, Holly Westwood, Tim Westwood, Shawni Carver, and Natalie Remund.

**Work Meeting:** The board, Superintendent Willis, and Dallas Sylvester met to go over financials and receive a report from the finance committee.

### Opening Remarks:

- Jeremy Pearson welcomed everyone to the meeting. After the pledge of allegiance was recited, opening remarks were given by Dallas Sylvester.

### Program Reports:

- **District Literacy Report**
  - Natalie Remund gave a report for the district literacy program.
  - She presented the board with a report that shows attendance at Circleville Elementary School.
  - She expressed her concern that there are a lot of students who miss too much school and this directly affects their academic performance.
  - She presented the board with a report that shows student progress from last school year to this school year.
  - She presented the board with a reading report that showed the most frequently missed words by each grade level.
  - Natalie mentioned that although she is not supportive of the 4-day school week, she feels that it doesn't matter how many days kids are in school if their parents don't get involved in their education.
- **Technology Infrastructure Report**
  - Paul James presented the board with the technology infrastructure report.
  - He informed the board about what has been happening with technology in the school district.

- He mentioned that House Bill 84 passed through legislation and just needs to be assigned to the governor.
  - House Bill 84 requires new safety measures to be put in place in schools.
  - The bill will require each classroom in each school to have a panic button and other safety measures that will require more technology.
  - Paul mentioned that there have been 680 technology tickets submitted since November 2022.
  - He added that the technology system works really well in the district and he encourages all employees to use it.
- **Girls Basketball Report**
    - Tim Westwood gave the board a report for the girls basketball team for this year.
    - He mentioned that the season went well even though there were only 7 girls on the team.
    - He mentioned that he is contemplating on whether or not to come back as the coach next year.
    - He said he was pleased with how the girls played at the state tournament.
    - He expressed that the high school could use a new girl's locker room. He explained that the current locker room isn't designed very well and there isn't enough space.
    - Tim expressed that he would like to see the school board members more at school activities.

### **Public Hearing:**

- **2024-2025 School Fees Schedule**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the public with the 2024-2025 school fees schedule for the second time.
  - No public comments were made about the 2024-2025 school fees schedule.

### **Public Comments:**

- The board gave time for the public to make comments.
  - Aaron Metcalfe from Hogan Construction introduced himself.
  - He explained what a CMGC is and how they help throughout the construction process.
  - He mentioned that Hogan Construction is constructing Wayne High School and has been working as a CMGC with them throughout the project.

### **Business Items:**

- **Harmony Education Contract**
  - Superintendent Willis gave the board a presentation about online schooling.
  - He mentioned that the school district has been discussing pursuing a partnership with Harmony Education for an online school.
  - He mentioned that creating an online school could potentially create more full-time positions in the county.
  - He explained that Piute County currently has an estimated 20-30 students that attend online school.

- He presented the board with scenarios of what the funding impacts could be if the school district pursues a partnership with Harmony Education for an online school.
- Superintendent Willis mentioned that both Garfield and Iron School Districts have partnered with Harmony Education.
- Shawni Carver from Harmony Education explained to the board what a partnership with them would look like.
- Rick Dalton made a motion to move forward and approve a contract with Harmony Education for the school year 2024/2025. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
  
- **Teen Center/High School Remodel Construction Bids**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the board with the selected bid for the Teen Center/High School Remodel Construction.
  - He mentioned that the construction project involves much more than just the teen center. It also includes remodeling the current weight room, adding storage rooms, and additional rooms.
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the district received \$290,000 in grant funding for the teen center portion of the project.
  - He mentioned that in order to keep the fidelity of the grant, the district would need to contribute at least half the funding for the overall project.
  - The bid from Tushar Construction for the project came in at \$1,059,000 and was the lowest bid.
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the county special service district might be able to contribute to the project.
  - Superintendent Willis explained that the area of the weightroom and the old gym is one of the areas in the high school that is most in need of remodeling.
  - Rodney Mayo presented the board with another possible project in case the current project isn't approved due to budget concerns.
  - The school board discussed the need for the teen center and also the high school remodel for the weightroom area.
  - Dallas Sylvester mentioned that the school district received a state grant for capital projects for \$530,000 in FY23. The school district used most of that grant funding to pay for the new roof on the high school, which was already a planned expense.
  - Neccia Dalton made a motion to approve the bid from Tushar Construction as-is for the teen center construction project/high school remodel while being as conservative as possible with the project. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
  
- **#5065 Wellness Policy Revision 1st Reading**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the revision for policy #5065, Wellness Policy for the 1st reading.
  - Rick Dalton made a motion to suspend the second and third readings for the revision of policy #5065, Wellness Policy and approve it on the first reading. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
  
- **Merger of Policy #1007 and #3001 Parent & Family Engagement 1st Reading**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the merger of policies #1007 and #3001, Parent & Family Engagement for the 1st reading.

- Neccia Dalton made a motion to suspend the second and third readings for the merger of policies #1007 and #3001, Parent & Family Engagement and approve it on the first reading. Teresa Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **#1161 Sterling Scholar Advisor Policy Revision 1st Reading**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the revision for policy #1161, Sterling Scholar Advisor Policy for the 1st reading.
  - Erin Jensen made a motion to suspend the second and third readings for the revision of policy #1161, Sterling Scholar Advisor Policy and approve it on the first reading. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **New Elementary Schools Architectural Services Contract**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the school board with the architectural services contract for the new elementary schools from KMA Architects.
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the agreed upon percentage with KMA Architects is below the recommended percentage according to the architectural project design fee schedule provided by the state of Utah.
  - The agreed upon percentage with KMA is 5% of the overall construction project.
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that KMA would like to begin meeting next week to begin the design process of the new schools.
  - Erin Jensen made a motion to approve the New Elementary Schools Architectural Services Contract between Piute County School District and KMA Architects. Teresa Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Bus Garage Update**
  - Superintendent Willis gave the school board an update on the bus garage project.
  - He mentioned that the foundation project has been put out for bid and the bidding closes on Thursday, March 14th. ‘
  - The dirt work and concrete foundation should be completed by mid-May and the building will be erected after that.
- **Special Education Policies & Procedures**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the Special Education Policies & Procedures and mentioned that they need to be approved by the school board.
  - Teresa Morgan made a motion to approve the Special Education Policies and Procedures. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Approval of Minutes and Vouchers**
  - Erin Jensen made a motion to approve the February 2024 board meeting minutes, the February payroll, and district vouchers 24000603-24000699. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **New Hires, Assignments, and Reassignments**
  - None

**Information Items:**

- A. **USBA Regional Meeting March 14th - 6:00 PM - Richfield-** Superintendent Willis reminded the school board of the USBA regional meeting on March 14th.
- B. **Legislative Session Summary-** Superintendent Willis gave the school board an update of legislation that passed in the recent legislative session.

**Executive Session :** None

**Adjournment**

- At **6:31 P.M.** Rick Dalton made a motion to adjourn the **March 14, 2024** meeting of the school board. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.