

March 2014 Board Meeting

*Held at District Office
Tuesday, March 4, 2014*

Members present

Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

Others present

Doug Wright, Clayton Holt, Kit Mantz, Chas DeWitt, Ron Nielson, Lynnette Shumway, Eliza Fry

Meeting called to order at 2:58 PM

A. Approval of Agenda - 3:00 p.m.

1. Board Meeting Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the Board Meeting agenda, with a possible change to the executive session.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Debbie Christiansen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Merri B Shumway

Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman, Elsie A Dee

B. Board Work Session

1. Board Meeting Schedule 2014-15

At the February 2014 Board Meeting a possible schedule of meetings for the 2014-15 school year was introduced, with the request that Board Members review their schedules and return with input. A variety of options were presented, for meetings being held on the first Tuesday of the month, the second, and the third, with an exception in March due to Spring Break, and possibly June due to the adoption of the next year's budget. Board Members were asked to consider their preferences, and a vote would be taken later in the meeting.

2. Capital Projects

In February 2014, Clayton Holt, Business Administrator, presented to the Board a list of potential and ongoing capital projects throughout the district. The Board was asked to consider the list, and what they feel the priorities in the district should be with respect to long-term capital planning. Mr. Holt asked for further direction in setting priorities, as there are a number of upcoming questions that will need consideration. The Board asked administration to put together a recommended prioritized list and send it out to Board members prior to April's meeting. The recommendations will be discussed at the April board meeting working toward adoption of an updated list of long-term priorities.

Elsie Dee arrived at the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

3. Legislative Update

Superintendent Doug Wright presented the legislative updates from the most recent legislative session that may impact the district. The first issue involves the option of shortening of the school year for professional development. It has been passed as law that up to four days per school year can be designated as professional development days, with the only requirement being that parents are notified at least 90 days prior to the beginning of the school year. The district currently has two days set up during

the school year as professional development days (SEOP days), so the recommendation was that, if the district intends to take advantage of this, that one or both of these days are designated. The concern is providing quality instruction to students, and keeping the schedule balanced throughout the quarters. The second item was technology money, and the way in which it is utilized by school districts. In San Juan School District, there is a significant investment in technology, but there is not a support mechanism to help teachers integrate technology into the classroom. Overall there were more educational legislative bills proposed this session - over 113, as opposed to the average of 80. But, there will most likely be fewer educational bills passed than in years past.

Nelson Yellowman arrived at the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

4. Fiscal Policies

As a result of the fiscal problems that have been faced recently by some of the larger high schools in Northern Utah, the state board of education has required that fiscal procedures be defined and evaluated by districts across the state. The Board has several fiscal policies that require administrative procedures be put in place to implement the policies. Business Administrator, Clayton Holt, discussed the updated procedures with board members. Financial policies and procedures are available on the district website.

5. Board Travel Expenditures

At February 2014's Board Meeting, Board Members discussed the Board Travel budget and expenditures. The purpose of this discussion was to determine if a different framework should be set for Board travel expenses; possibly separate amounts for each Board Member. After some consideration, the Board asked to table the issue until this meeting. After some further discussion on the matter, the Board determined that when considering the budget for the next fiscal year, they would like to give each member a separate amount, and each member would be responsible to determine what travel would best serve his/her constituents. And, once the money was spent, there would be no more travel for that member for the year. The district was asked to provide some further detail and recommendations during the budget presentation in May.

C. Reports and Presentations - 4:00 p.m.

1. San Juan High Report - Principal Bob Peterson: 4:00 p.m.

Principal Bob Peterson of San Juan High School presented student scores and information for his school. His presentation included data on test scores, achievement by subject, enrollment numbers, school grade, and college benchmarks. He touched on the challenges facing his staff, and the achievements of his students and teachers. San Juan High is making great strides, and the administrators are working very hard to improve student learning.

2. Student Services Supervisor Report - Lynnette Johnson: 4:30 p.m.

Student Services Director Lynnette Johnson reported on the projects she is currently working on. Student Services encompasses a wide range of issues. She is currently heading the district curriculum project, has been assigned to provide some extra support to Whitehorse High School, working with the leadership team, writing two School Improvement Grants, helping occasionally with investigations for Human Resources, coordinating the consolidated plan, overseeing Title 1 programs and budgets, working on the OCR reports, and helping with consensus plans. She provided data as to the progress of these projects. These programs are seeing success and are a great advantage to the district.

D. Board Closed Session

1. Personnel

Motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

E. Break - 5:40 p.m.

F. Public Session-Welcome and Recognition of Guests - 6:00 p.m.

1. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes

2. Revenue Reports

Business Administrator Clayton Holt reported that the district has received the first impact aid payment, which was more than had been anticipated. The District budgeted a decrease in the amount of Impact flowing to the Capital Outlay fund in FY 2014.

3. Expenditure Reports

4. School Expenditure Reports

5. Board Travel Reports

6. Personnel Report(s) and Information

Human Resources Director Kit Mantz reported that the district currently has sixteen vacancies, with retirees and resignations. The Human Resources Department will be recruiting for those positions in the next few weeks.

7. Home School Requests

8. Student Hearings

There were seven student hearings in the past month. Superintendent Doug Wright provided a summary of what happened in each of those situations, and the determinations that were made at the hearings.

9. Updated Spring Sports Schedule

10. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items

Motion to accept all consent agenda items.

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Elsie A Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

H. Action Items

1. 2014-15 Board Meeting Schedule

Discussion was held earlier in the meeting regarding the Board Meeting Schedule for 2014-15.

Motion to approve the Board Meeting schedule with meetings being held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, with adjustment in March.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Elsie A Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

2. Board Travel Requests

The Board was provided with information regarding upcoming conferences. The District Heritage Language Conference will be held on April 11, 2014 at the Utah State University Eastern Campus, and the theme this year is Science. This conference will be held at the same time as a Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering and Math Conference on the campus.

The National Johnson O'Malley Conference will be held March 25-27, 2014 in Denver, CO. Elsie Dee requested travel to this conference.

Motion to approve travel for Elsie Dee to the National Johnson O'Malley Conference.

Motion by Elsie A Dee, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

I. Discussion Items

1. Retiree Recognition

In the past, the Board has recognized retirees, and those leaving that have been with the district 10 years or more, by inviting them to the May Board Meeting, presenting them with a gift, and thanking them for their service. However, Board Members would prefer to do something more community-based in the future, to encourage attendance and community recognition of the great contribution these individuals have made. A few ideas included open houses, recognition at graduation ceremonies, and/or recognition at school-sponsored events. The Board requested that the district determine the most appropriate venue for this recognition by community, and make arrangements for the 2014 retirees. Board members will attend their community events.

2. Graduation/Promotion Schedule 2014

The Board was presented with a schedule of graduation and promotions for the schools in the district for 2014.

3. Recognition-Staff and Student Accomplishments

The Board was presented with a copy of the most recent District Staff Newsletter, which was sent out at the end of February. In addition to the items in the Newsletter, Board Members were informed that Matt Baldwin of Whitehorse High was named Teacher of the Year. He, along with all other nominees, were recognized at a banquet held on March 3rd in Blanding. He will represent the district at the state competition.

4. Information on Next Board Meeting

The upcoming Board Meeting will be held on April 15, 2014, at Navajo Mountain High School. After some discussion, it was determined that the Board Members will arrive at the school at noon, eat lunch in the cafeteria, and the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

J. Closed Session

1. Personnel

Motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel.

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Elsie A Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

2. Renewal/Non Renewal of Provisional Contracts, and Career Status Employees

Motion for those employees listed on the employee renewal recommendation list who are in provisional status will move up one year in provisional status, and those that are in 5th year status will move to career status.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Elsie A Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

3. Non-Renewal Employee List

Motion to approve non-renewal status for those listed on the non-renewal list.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

K. Discussion Items

1. Superintendent Concerns

Superintendent Doug Wright expressed some concerns he has currently regarding the some challenges that the District currently faces:

- Teacher shortages and the lack of prepared teachers. The district will meet with Utah State University to discuss possible collaboration on this issue.
- The need to leverage technology in classroom.
- The level of leadership in throughout the district.
- Maintaining progress in high-performing schools, while still focusing on more needy schools.
- Changes in student socio-economic status.
- Climates that exist in district schools - learning, trust, collaboration, and the desire of the students to be at school.
- Relationship-building between administrators and community members.
- Focus on academics

Two of the district schools will be participating in the University of Virginia turn-around program (UVA), and the agreement with UVA requires that the Superintendent work closely with these schools as they undergo the process. UVA staff feel that without constant attention by the Superintendent

consistency may not be maintained. The Superintendent has concerns moving forward, and wants to create an atmosphere in all schools that best supports student learning.

L. Closed Session

1. Personnel

Motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Merri B Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

M. Discussion Items

1. Capital Projects - Monticello Elementary School Mural Proposal

With the construction of the new Monticello Elementary School, the community is actively raising money for a statue to be placed at the front of the school. In addition, \$10,000 was set aside for artwork to be placed in the entry of the school. However, due to the layout of the entry, six paintings are needed rather than the four originally planned. Bill Boyle proposed that funding from the project contingency budget be used to provide \$22,000 for the artwork rather than the original budget. Nelson, Elise and Debbie indicated they would support allowing some of the contingency to be used for this purpose. Merri indicated she was not in favor using some of the contingency for this purpose.

N. Adjourn Meeting

1. Adjourn Meeting

President Bill Boyle declared the meeting adjourned.

Board Officer

Business Administrator