



# APPROVED MINUTES

## DECEMBER 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education was held on **December 10th, 2019** at the Piute County Commission Chambers in Junction, Utah. President Marty Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. Present was Marty Morgan, Teresa Morgan, Erin Jensen, Rick Dalton, and Jeremy Pearson. Also present was Interim Superintendent Koby Willis. Guests at the meeting were DeAnn Heitman, Brandi Schear, Gloria Fox, Paul James, Heather Fautin, and Tammy Jessen.

**Work Meeting:** The school board held a short Finance & Internal Audit committee meeting before the regular meeting at 12:00 PM. The school board reviewed enrollment history and enrollment projections for the next few years. The board reviewed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2019. The board discussed pending capital projects and possible changes in internal controls.

### Opening Remarks:

- Board President Marty Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting. After the pledge of allegiance opening remarks were given by Erin Jensen.

### Citizen Dialogue:

- None

### Discussion Items:

- **Classroom Report - Tammy Jessen**
  - 1st Grade teacher Tammy Jessen explained the reading goals for 1st grade students. She explained that students are tested on reading fluency and other reading indicators at the beginning of the year, at the end of the year, and several times in between. With each measurement of reading level they are trying to help the students grow from where they started.
  - Mrs. Jessen explained that the Really Great Reading program has been really helpful teaching Reading. Ms. Jessen showed the school board how the students track their Reading progress throughout the school year.
- **Classroom Report - Brandi Schear**
  - Mrs. Schear said there are 17 Kindergarten students at Circleville Elementary. They use the Imagine Learning, Reading Wonders, Really Great Reading, and ST Math programs to help teach state standards and objectives.
  - Ms. Schear went through some of the different things the students are learning in Kindergarten.
- **Food Services Program Report - DeAnn Heitman**
  - DeAnn Heitman reported that things are going well for the district food services program. The schools are preparing for the Christmas lunch next week. The high school is putting in a new oven and hopes it will be installed before next week.
- **School Land Trust Final Plans**

- The school board felt the School Land Trust final reports for the 2018-2019 school year were ready for approval.
- Erin Jensen made a motion to approve the School Land Trust Final Reports for all three schools. Rick Dalton Seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **January 31st, 2020 - Region Wrestles**
  - Currently a full day of school is scheduled for January 31st when Piute High School will be hosting region wrestles. Hosting region Volleyball while trying to hold school was difficult. Region wrestles will be slightly easier as the first matches are not until 11:00 AM, at region Volleyball games started at 8:00 AM.
  - The school board felt it would be best to change January 31st to a half day of school so classes would end before the tournament got into full swing. The elementary school are half day every Friday and would thus be unaffected by the change.
- **Utah Tax Reform Implications for Education**
  - The Utah State Legislature has called a special session to discuss significant reform to the state's tax code. The proposed changes could have significant long term effect on educational funding, particularly in rural Utah. Part of what the leadership of the state legislature would like to do is make a change to the state constitution with a statewide vote. The change would remove the earmark on the states income tax for education. Currently the state constitution requires all income taxes to be used for education.
  - The Piute County Board of Education has been asked by the Utah School Boards Association to provide an opinion on a proposal for new state constitutional language that would replace the current earmark. The old and new proposed language are attached at the end of the minutes.
  - The school board discussed a few concerns with the new language. The first being that the new language does not give the state an option to cut budgets in a recession. It would require them to have the same budget as the previous year with additional funds for enrollment growth and the consumer price index. The second concern was that Utah lawmakers seem to be viewing this new language as an educational funding ceiling rather than a floor.
  - A third concern was discussed that is less concerned with the proposed constitutional language and more with the legislative leadership's attitude towards educational funding. With several of their proposed changes they are trying to shift the responsibility of funding education from the state income tax to local property taxes. Which is certainly a grim prospect for rural Utah where families and businesses already struggle with low assessed valuations and high rates. The state legislative leadership frequently points to charts indicating Utah's education system is funded by state sources at a higher rate than most other states. It is important to remember that the reason for that is that more than half of Utah's land is federal land that is not taxable. If all of Utah's land was subject to local property tax Utah would certainly be able to fund more of their education systems with local property taxes.
- **2020-2021 School District Calendar**
  - The school board reviewed a proposed school calendar for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Because Memorial Day in 2021 is not until May 31st the proposed calendar has school starting on August 26th, 2020. Most people favor the late start because the weather is better in August than May. There is some concern that the Baseball and Volleyball teams would be practicing and playing games for almost a month before school starts.
  - The proposed schedule would also have school get out for Christmas break after a half day on December 23rd and the students would return January 6th. The last day of school would be May 28th. Spring Break would be a Thursday, Friday, Monday from April 1st, 2021 to

April 5th, 2021. The district Technology Day that has been held annually in November and is a day students do not attend is proposed to move to the day after Labor Day in September.

- The school board liked many aspects of the calendar, particularly the late start date, but felt that it should be reviewed and discussed more before approval. The calendar will be on the January agenda.
- **Classroom Report - Heather Fautin**
  - Heather Fautin showed the school board a video of the start of day routine song for her classroom. She also showed a video made in Adobe Spark by one of her students.
  - At the district technology day Mrs. Fautin learned to use the Book Creator software. A couple weeks later she had the students create digital books for the alphabet and included sounds.
  - Mrs. Fautin showed the school board some of the activities the students have been working on in her class.

### **Information Items:**

- **Bleachers Update** - Koby updated the school board on the new bleachers. All of the materials for the south side bleachers are at the school except for the chair seats. The chair seats are still being manufactured in China and won't be at the school until February. The company has offered to put in the south side bleachers with benches in place of the chairs until the chairs arrive. The concern with this would be that many have paid for chair seats for the season and would not want a bench seat. It is therefore most likely that the south side bleachers won't be installed until after winter sports.

### **Action Items:**

- **Minutes, Vouchers, Payroll**
  - Teresa Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 12th board meeting, the November payroll, and district vouchers 200378-200454. Jeremy Pearson Seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Executive Session**

- Teresa Morgan made a motion to enter an executive session. Rick Dalton seconded. Motion passed by unanimous individual voice vote. Erin Jensen voted aye, Teresa Morgan voted aye, Rick Dalton voted aye, Jeremy Pearson voted aye, and Marty Morgan voted aye.
- The school board entered executive meeting at 3:32 PM.
- The school board left the executive meeting at 4:51 PM.

### **Adjournment**

- At **4:51 PM** Erin Jensen made a motion to adjourn the **December 10th , 2019** meeting of the school board. Jeremy Pearson seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.