



Duchesne County School District

Student Services

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May 2011 Duchesne County School District Board Report

The monthly meeting of the Duchesne County Board of Education was held on May 11, 2011 at the district office in Duchesne. Poetry presentations by Duchesne Elementary School's poetry out loud winners began the meeting. These students put a lot of time into learning these poems, and the Board appreciates their willingness and courage in sharing their talent with those in attendance. School Board President Kim Harding also recognized school and district leadership, media representatives and others in attendance. Special recognition was given to Assistant Superintendent Larry Abplanalp who was attending his last school board meeting. Larry will be retiring at the end of the month after 43 years of dedicated service to the students of Duchesne County. He will be greatly missed.

The time was then given to Superintendent Brotherson for some school district recognition items. Four exceptional professionals were awarded the district's extra degree awards for the month. This award is given each month to district employees who are nominated by peers and/or community members for giving that "extra degree" of effort to help the students of Duchesne County achieve their goals. The award winners this month were Karen Christensen, secretary at Altamont Elementary; Ashley Quick, a teacher at Neola Elementary; Tom Felkins, a teacher at Roosevelt Junior High, and Carolyn Davis, adult education director for the district. Each of the region sterling scholar winners and runner-up award winners were then recognized. It was also mentioned that Principal Russ Nielsen from Union High School has been appointed to the Utah High School Activities Association board of trustees.

Following these recognitions Mary Ellen Kettle, the district Curriculum and Assessment Director gave a report on the progress of the professional learning communities (PLCs) throughout the district. It was noted that many strides have been made at each of the district schools, but that much work is left to be done in order to have functioning and effective PLCs in each school. School Principals have been presenting to the board throughout the year reports on each school's progress with PLCs and other items. This will continue next school year.

During "open time," Misty Fausett, an 11th grade student at Union High School expressed the desire of a group of students at UHS to have access to a Calculus class during the upcoming school year. Board member Greg Wheeler stated that the need for this class has arisen because of Utah State University's reluctance to offer this class through the concurrent enrollment system. Different options were discussed by the board and district administration for offering this class following Misty's presentation and again later in board meeting.

For the "action items" portion of the agenda, the following items were included:

1. The board discussed and voted on the schedule for next year's school board meetings. The board voted to hold six meetings at the Duchesne district office and five at the new Roosevelt Junior High School during the upcoming school year. It was decided that no official school board meetings would be held at Altamont or Tabiona. The board does plan on making an official visit to each of these towns next year.
2. Superintendent Brotherson presented a proposal to the board, which would add two additional professional development days to the 2011/2012 school calendar. One of these days will be on August the 22nd with the second day on January 16th. This will push the first day of school back to August the 25th. The board approved this proposal.
3. Alan Westenskow, from Zions Bank presented a financing proposal for the new Altamont High School that was approved by the board. Ground Breaking for Altamont High School was then scheduled for May the 24th at 9:00 A.M.
4. Stan Young, Principal of Duchesne High School then presented to the board a proposal to upgrade the sound and lighting system along with some safety features in the DHS auditorium. The board voted to commit \$40,000 to the project along with \$10,000 in DHS funds. Mr. Young was encouraged to pursue grant opportunities for the remaining cost.

5. The board discussed and then tabled to the next board meeting a proposal to connect Union High School to either Roosevelt City's secondary water system or the Dry Gulch water system that the district owns water shares to. The decision was tabled until more information can be obtained from Roosevelt City.
6. The board then voted to adopt a coach's code of conduct for all district coaches.
7. A presentation was made to the board with a proposal to reinstate the boys and girls tennis programs at Union High School. The board gave approval to reinstate the program, but voted to not commit additional funding outside of what is already in the UHS athletics budget.
8. Recent funding changes approved by the state legislature to the technology programs at UHS and the UBATC, which appeared in this week's Uintah Basin Standard were discussed. A proposal to hire four new teachers at Union High School to teach business and medical science courses at UHS was presented and approved by the board.

For the "discussion items" portion of the agenda, the following items were included:

1. The upcoming banquet to honor 25-year district employees and those that are retiring was discussed, along with assignments being made to attend each of the high school graduations to be held later this month.
2. The board discussed a plan to switch health insurance providers to a PEHP health insurance pool. Rapidly escalating costs in the district's current plan was the primary reason given for the switch. The new plan, which shouldn't have any significant changes in benefits to district employees, will take effect on September 1st. More information will be sent out in the near future to all district employees on the new plan.