

Easton School District No. 28  
Workshop of the Board of Directors  
March 8, 2016  
Jennie Marie Giovenale-Austin Library

**Call to Order:**

The workshop was called to order by Board Chair, Kathie Stratton at 6:30 P.M.

**Attendance:**

Board Members Present: Kathie Stratton, Chris Helgeson, Lynn Lopez, Ken Everaert, Anna Dodge

Staff Members Present: Patrick Dehuff, Lisa Henderson, Marilyn Fudge, Julie Miller, Jackie Tate, Becky Houle, Melissa Sandby, Jennifer Jensen, Ofelia Todd, Amanda Zimmerman

Guests: Jessie Weaver, Joey Weaver, Owen Dodge

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approve Agenda:** Anna Dodge made a motion to approve the agenda for the March 8, 2016 board workshop. Chris Helgeson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Communication to the Board:** None

**Board Business:** Superintendent Dehuff distributed binders of recommended updates to policies for each board member. The district policies follow the recommendations of the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) who has a legal team that makes recommendations on policies to school districts in Washington State. WSSDA recommends new policies and revises or eliminates existing ones to reflect changes in law or practice. Board members were provided with recommended updates on policies in the 1000 (Board of Directors), 2000 (Instruction), 3000 (Students), and 4000 (Community Relations) series. Superintendent Dehuff will supply board members with the 5000 (Personnel), and 6000 (Management Support) series for their review within a couple of weeks.

**Combined High School Sports:** An online survey was given to each student, grades 6-12, regarding the combined secondary sports program. A survey for parents was also given to each parent/guardian of students, grades 6-12, regarding the combined sport program. Copies of the student and parent surveys are attached to these minutes. One board member will be out of the country from the March 20<sup>th</sup> until April 1st. The board discussed moving the board date to April 12<sup>th</sup> to have a full attendance of board members when making the decision on whether to extend the combined sports program. Thorp School District was asked to distribute surveys to their students and their students' parents. Jenny Jensen, Athletic Director provided an overview of the sports program. The Athletic Director (AD) is responsible for the evaluations of Jr. High coaches at Easton and High School coaches in the combine. Mrs. Jensen evaluates coaches at the end of each season. She oversees the game set up, facilitates grade checks, monitors sports

practices at Easton School, and assists with the coordination of transportation for the athletic program. Coaches are required to follow all WIAA rules. They attend clinics pertaining to their sport and attend mandatory classes for general rules, cardiac arrest, concussions, and first aid. The Athletic Director ensures coaches stay in compliance. Superintendent Dehuff prepared a packet of materials for the board members to review. Dr. Dehuff has previously scanned and e-mailed correspondence pertaining to the combined sports program to each board member. The packet contains four letters; three have been scanned and e-mailed to board members, the fourth was submitted late today. The summary chart shows the responses to the student and parent surveys. All in attendance were able to read the charts and responses to the student and parent surveys. The board read the letter that was submitted late today.

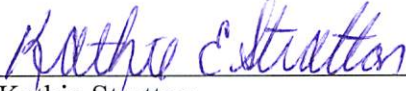
**Public Comment:** The guests attending the board workshop were asked to sign in to make a public comment. Kathie Stratton, Board Chair, posted on the signup sheet that each person would be allowed three minutes to speak, and the discussion would end within an hour. The first person to speak was Becky Houle. Her comments were typed and are attached to the minutes. Amanda Zimmerman stated that a discussion regarding combined sports was held two years ago. That meeting ended with students and parents in tears when the board decided to combine High School sports. Ms. Zimmerman is opposed to combining High School sports with Thorp and urged board members to listen to the students and parents. Joey Weaver said that he has played sports at Easton for two years. Joey mentioned that he is frustrated with the combine and that Thorp students don't attend practices on a regular basis. The Easton athletes are waiting and practice starts late for them because of the no shows. Anna Dodge (board member) asked in the district was obligated to the combined sports program for another four years if the agreement was extended. Lynn Lopez (board member) said that the survey results indicate that families and the community enjoy attending the games. However, some do not have transportation to attend the home games at Thorp School. Chris Helgeson (board member) commented on the time that is spent away during practices and games. Ken Everaert (board member) commented on a letter that was signed by some of the student body. Mr. Everaert stated that over ½ of the students who signed the letter had not participated in High School sports. His son signed the letter and told him that he didn't know what it was for. Mr. Everaert questioned where the letter came from. He agrees that there is a lack of participation from Thorp students and says that Thorp needs to work on recruiting its students to participate. Ken Everaert said that all teams travel. He feels that there should be pride in being in the sport, not just because it is the Jaguar mascot. Superintendent Dehuff said that Jenny Jensen has done a good job as the Athletic Director for two districts. He reiterated that the coaches are evaluated at the end of each season and the Athletic Director is evaluated annually. He said that we have good coaches. Superintendent Dehuff stated that this isn't an easy decision for the board and that both groups, those in favor and those in opposition of the combined sports program, care about our students. Kathie Stratton (board chair) asked the board if there were any further comments. Chris Helgeson said that he would like to see the results of survey responses from Thorp School. The basketball coaches said that there were days that they drove to Thorp for practice, and there would be no Thorp students show up, which was discouraging for the Easton students. Also, the teams had been introduced as the "Thorp Bobcats" with no mention of Easton. Principal Lisa Henderson said that her daughter's opinion is different. Everyone complains when taking a hit, but it can change. Melissa Sandby stated that all of her children attended Easton. They were allowed to play in Cle Elum. She doesn't want to see the kids taken out of their school. Even if we don't combine, it

doesn't mean our kids won't have sports. As a parent, Melissa made sure it happened for her children. Jenny Jensen said that the basketball season is the sport that has to travel in the worst weather conditions. The discussion ended with requests to Dr. Dehuff to contact Thorp and discuss with them an improvement plan for their student's participation.

The board made the decision to hold their next regular board meeting on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> because the State Archery Tournament is being held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> (which is the normally scheduled day for a board meeting).

**Meeting adjourned:** Lynn Lopez made a motion to adjourn the workshop. Anna Dodge seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

  
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Patrick Dehuff  
Superintendent

  
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Kathie Stratton  
Board Chair