

Easton School District No. 28  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 12, 2021

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by April Simonson at 5:30 PM.

**Attendance:** John Jensen, Jen Phillips, April Simonson.

**Board Member Absent:** Chris Helgeson

**Staff:** Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Gretchen Jenkins, Jennifer Jensen, Rachel Henderson, Ofelia Todd, Cece Badda

**Approve Agenda:** Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Board Minutes:** John Jensen made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2020 school board meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Update from Dr. Larson:** Superintendent Dehuff congratulated Dr. Larson for being named "Person of the Year" by the Daily Record for his leadership role during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Larson provided an update to the Board and began with mentioning that Governor Inslee has grouped counties in the state into regions for the purpose of tracking COVID-19 and determining phases. As a result, Kittitas County has been moved to phase 1, because our region includes neighboring counties, such as Yakima County, Benton County, and Franklin County with higher rates of COVID-19. However, the phase 1 for our region won't shut down our schools. KVH Hospital and Rich Elliot, Deputy Fire Chief, have done a good job in distributing vaccinations. We have requested more vaccine, which I expect will help us move into 1B phase. Safeway should receive additional vaccines soon. Testing is the key to get through school this school year. There have been no transmissions within schools with the exception of one where staff had lunch together. Continued masking and social distancing will help keep everyone safe. Dr. Larson said that his goal is still to keep students and staff safe in schools. If Dr. Larson feels that it is becoming unsafe, he will make it known. Superintendent Dehuff mentioned that Easton School is considering the extension of the school day for direct instruction to full days, instead of half-days. He asked Dr. Larson if he had any concerns about extending the school day. Dr. Larson replied that he did not have any concerns about Easton School extending their school day for in-person instruction. He reiterated that masks and maintaining social distancing was key to safety, regardless of how long the school day was. Dr. Larson said that he is happy to join any virtual meeting the district has if they would like him too.

**Communication to the Board:** Dr. Dehuff forwarded an email that he received that was "Communication to the Board". Board Director Jen Phillips read the e-mail message from a community member who expressed concern about the low amount (\$500 per parcel) of mitigation fees to Easton School that was proposed by the developer of the Marian Meadows development. Superintendent Dehuff and Board Director John Jensen gave an overview of the

process that the school has gone through regarding the future collection of mitigation fees by the developer. Superintendent Dehuff agreed with the concern that was raised by the community member who sent the e-mail message as "Communication to the Board". Board Director John Jensen has an extensive knowledge of the Marian Meadows development project agrees with the community member's concern as well. They will continue to voice their concerns to the County regarding the proposed mitigation fees.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Report:** None

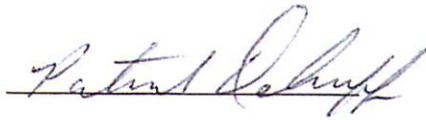
**Board Business:** The Board was provided an update on the hybrid model. When we started working on the plan originally, we said it was a fluid plan that would change over time as guidance changed and we learned more. Our school nurse, Rachel Henderson will continue COVID-19 testing for school staff. Board Director April Simonson shared her concern for the parents of K-1 students who have requested that their students attend Easton School four days a week for in-person instruction, which is offered to students in all other classrooms at Easton School. Board Director Simonson said that it is not equitable and she would like to see this issue resolved. Board Director John Jensen and Jen Phillips agreed with Board Director April Simonson and also voiced their concern. Superintendent Dehuff mentioned that he has had discussions with Becky Houle, our K-1 classroom teacher regarding concerns raised by parents of K-1 students who have requested the opportunity for their children to attend Easton School for in-person instruction four days a week. He said that Mrs. Houle told him that she can do a better job of teaching and closing the learning gaps of the K-1 learners if the grades are not combined as long as we are in a ½ day hybrid model. Superintendent Dehuff will relay the concern to the K-1 teacher again and mentioned that he is hopeful that Easton School can extend the school day from ½ day to full day, and provide all students, including grades K-1, with the opportunity to have in-person instruction for a full day, four days a week.

**Adjourn Regular Meeting:** The board adjourned the regular meeting at 7:15 pm for an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of the interviews for the open Board position.

**Executive Session:** The Board of Directors announced that they would be in Executive session for 20 minutes. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the qualifications of applicants who applied for the open Board position.

**Resume Regular Meeting:** Following the Executive Session, John Jensen made a motion to resume the regular meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. The regular meeting resumed at 7:35 pm. The Board of Directors decided to make a decision on the open Board position at their meeting scheduled on January 26, 2020.

**Meeting Adjourned:** John Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Dehuff", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Dehuff  
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Helgeson", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Helgeson  
Board Chair