

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 19, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chris Helgeson at 5:30 PM.

Attendance: John Jensen, Jen Phillips, April Simonson, Chris Helgeson

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Julie Miller, Jackie Tate, Marchel Allenbaugh, Cece Badda, Gretchen Jenkins, Jenny Jensen

Guests: Keri Kester, Alex Tutino, Maria Ramsey

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

Communication to the Board: None

Public Comment: None

Board Business: Superintendent Dehuff discussed the plan for Easton School to extend the school days from ½ day to full days, 4 days a week. Last spring, all school districts in the State of Washington were forced to close down because of COVID-19. In the fall, most school districts taught remotely, and Easton School started that as well. With planning and health precautions put in place, Easton School started offering in-person instruction ½ days, first for grades K-6, followed by grades 7-12 a couple of weeks later. It is now time to plan for the extension of the school day to full days, 4 days a week, in order to provide quality instruction and close the learning gaps. Because we are a small school, and masking and social distancing has gone well so far, we have an opportunity to extend the school day for our students.

During our planning meetings, we discussed meals, transportation, recesses, transitions, and how to ensure the safety of our students and their families, and staff. We would continue to deliver breakfasts for students and students can eat breakfast at home before coming to school. The multipurpose room and cafeteria will be utilized for lunch and we have been able to space tables at least 6 feet apart, and we will seat two students at each table at opposite ends. The elementary classrooms will have their lunch times staggered 5 minutes apart. Students will remain 6 feet from each other during transitions and getting their lunch. There will be 4 staff members to supervise lunches and ensure compliance with social distancing and other safety measures.

Dr. Mark Larson mentioned that he thinks our plan to extend the school day is good, and he reiterated the fact that most transmission of COVID-19 does not happen at school but, rather, outside of the school setting where there are gatherings and masking and social distancing is not occurring. He also mentioned that Kittitas County Public Health will do all that they can to distribute the COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as possible. He also mentioned that he will continue to provide testing kits for schools and will do all he can to help keep schools open and maintain safety.

Dates for extending the school day were discussed. One option would be to extend the school day starting when second semester begins, which is February 2nd. Another option is to extend the school day a couple of weeks later, on February 16th, to give more time to plan and notify students and their families. Some questions came up about how to best support our remote students. Superintendent Dehuff and Principal Bechtholdt said that they would explore some options and provide information at our next board meeting next week, which is scheduled for January 26, 2021. The Board of Directors felt it was best to wait for this information before making a decision on extending the school day.

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 7:40 pm.



Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent



Chris Helgeson
Board Chair