

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 26, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chris Helgeson at 5:34 PM.

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

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Julie Miller, Jackie Tate, Jenny Jensen, Steve Jensen, Freida Ellison, Gretchen Jenkins, Cece Badda, Tracy VanLone

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Phillip Meehan, Kara Gunderson, Alex Tutino, Terri Campbell

Approve Agenda: Dr. Dehuff requested that a discussion regarding preschool, and an executive session for the annual superintendent evaluation be added to the agenda. Marilyn Fudge had requested that the agenda be revised to move the consent agenda to directly follow the financial reports. Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the agenda tonight's meeting with the changes mentioned above. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Board Minutes: John Jensen a made a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting on January 12, 2021. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. April Simonson made a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting January 19, 2021. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Communication to the Board: Superintendent Dehuff received an email application for the open board position from Alex Tutino. Superintendent Dehuff thanked her for applying, however the timeline for applying ended 90 days after the position was vacated. The Board of Directors discussed the application and decided to make a decision to fill the open Board position with applicants who had applied within 90 days of the vacancy. The second communication to the Board is a letter from a staff member regarding the extension of the school day.

Public Comment: None

Reports:

Financial: Business Manager Freida Ellison reviewed the budget status reports with the Board of Directors.

Payroll direct deposit is \$121,30220. Taxes and benefits are \$61,253.16. The total payroll is \$182,555.40. The general fund for AP is 1) \$469.55. General fund AP is 2) \$44,088.60. The ASB is a total of \$124.28.

Consent Agenda: John Jensen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Student Report: The Hot Diggity Dog evening was a fun event. The ASB students prepared hot chocolate, and hot dogs. The cost was by donation. It was fun dancing. Thanks to Julie Miller, Jackie Tate, Melissa Sandby and Jenny Jensen for making it happen.

Staff: Dawn: want to acknowledge novels that were given for the English class. The novels were donated from April Simonson's neighbor. Jessica Lewis is checking these out to her students.

Principal Report: Dawn Bechtholdt acknowledged the gift of novels that were given for the English class. The novels were donated from April Simonson's neighbor. Jessica Lewis is checking these out to her students. Principal Bechtholdt commended the teachers and gave some examples of observations that she has made. These included the following:

Geometry – Pictures of tangrams on the overhead, each student worked with individual sets of wooden pieces to form the picture.

Science – Students drew posters and discussed the process of photosynthesis from their class notes and posters.

English – Students used their phones and an APP that allowed them to use Deductive Reasoning skills in solving problems.

History – Students asked if they could use the extra time to read their novel for English and they all did.

Computer Science in the 4-5 grade classroom – Students actively participated in a Code.org dance off from the Google slide deck in their Computer Science lessons. It was shared on the local computer from a saved file.

Science in the 2-3 grade classroom - A combination of mystery science and computer science activities, and students created a String Maze with chairs.

Board Report: Chris Helgeson shared a concern that his son, Keaton was short on some core classes required for graduation during his time at Easton School. He mentioned his concern that this may have happened to other students at Easton School, and that he was approached by another parent who had a similar concern. Chris Helgeson asked about the process for ensuring that our students are being enrolled in classes to meet their graduation requirements. He also mentioned his concern that his son, Mason is in a study skill class that does not offer credit. He mentioned that it is important to ensure that students are on track for graduation and not be scheduled into a study skill class that does not offer credit if they are not on track or in need of credits for graduation. Mr. Helgeson asked that there be an audit of the grades to assure him, and other parents, that their students are receiving the classes they need.

Principal Bechtoldt said that she is responsible for scheduling students into classes and for ensuring that our students are on track to graduate. Mrs. Bechtoldt said that she works with students who are failing, or at risk of not graduating. Principal Bechtoldt said that she will

complete a credit audit per Mr. Helgeson's request.

Board Business:

A: K-1 classroom: Superintendent Dehuff has spoken with Becky Houle regarding her K-1 classroom. If the school days are extended to full days, 4 days a week starting on February 16th, she is willing to have K-1 students attend 4 days a week starting second semester (February 2nd).

B: Support for remote students: Options to provide support for remote students was discussed. Options discussed included the use of Edgenuity, and/or hiring a support coach who would work with our teachers using classroom curriculum to provide extra support for our remote students. Superintendent Dehuff said that he liked the idea of hiring a support coach for our remote students and could use some of the CARES grant money to help fund the position for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

C: Extension of the school day: Extending the school day from half days to full days was discussed. Communication to the Board by a staff member was discussed and the Board agreed that there were some valid points made in the letter, which included concerns about extending the school day before vaccinations were available to all staff members. The Board shared that they would like to see our students return to school for full days of in-person instruction, but want to be careful and balance it with health concerns. In light of safety concerns, the Board decided to hold off on extending the school day for now, but to continue keeping it on the agenda for discussion in future board meetings.

D: Preschool: The Board discussed having preschool at Easton School. After some discussion, the Board felt that it would be best to postpone preschool until next school year.

Meeting Adjourned to Executive Session: Board Chair Chris Helgeson adjourned the regular meeting at 7:30 pm to executive sessions for 35 minutes back. The purpose of the executive sessions were for 1) discussion of Board Director interviews and 2) annual superintendent evaluation.


Transition from Executive Session to Regular Meeting: The executive session ended at 8:05 and the regular meeting opened back up.

Appointment to Open Board Position: April Simonson made a motion to appoint Phillip Meehan to the open Board position. John seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: John Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent

G. Wang, Interim



Chris Helgeson
Board Vice Chair