

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 13, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by April Simonson at 5:45 PM.

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

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Julie Miller, Jackie Tate, Gretchen Jenkins, Tracy VanLone, Cathy Hammerburg, Jenny Jensen, Rachel Henderson

Guests: Dr. Mark Larson, Terri Campbell, Phillip Meehan, Alex and Michael Tutino, Kaylin Aper, Ryan Vanneta

Approve Agenda: Superintendent Dehuff requested an addition to the agenda of a closed session to discuss contract negotiations. John Jensen made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the closed session. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dr. Larson shared the current information from Kittitas County Health Department on COVID-19. Currently the cases of COVID-19 are 126.7 per 100,000 in Kittitas County This has been an increase of positive cases, particularly in the 20-29 age groups. Central Washington University (CWU) has 46 new cases. Dr. Larson said that he is looking into an option for rapid testing of COVID-19 for Easton School. If a student develops symptoms, they could be tested at school. Dr. Larson said that Easton School is good to start with a Hybrid model. Jen Phillips questioned if there were any cases at Snoqualmie Pass. Dr. Larson said there were no current cases at Snoqualmie Pass that he was aware of.

Communication to the Board: None

Public Comment: Board Chair Chris Helgeson is requesting that communication be limited to 3 minutes if anyone has comments; please add your name to the chat room.

Student Report: Kaylin Aper, a 10th grade student shared her views of remote learning. Ms. Aper said that some classes best done in person and others are fine to do remotely. For hands on classes, such as PE and science, it is much better to have these taught in-person. Other classes, such as math is working well with remote learning. The hotspots provided by the district are working well. Students have mentioned there are too many login's during the day. The students are beginning to the Schoology.

Staff Report: Gretchen Jenkins reported on behalf of the teachers. The elementary wing is set up for the start of the Hybrid model. The hallway has arrows for the students to follow. Paw prints are on the floor as well to help students with social distancing. The teachers are busy getting their class plan ready. Decorations are starting to cover the walls to greet their students. The high school hallways are so quiet. The students that Ms. Jenkins have had in her classroom are struggling with wearing the masks. Steve Jensen has helped her with spacing desks 6' apart.

Principal Bechtoldt said that the secondary students are engaging with their teachers on zoom.

Board Business:

Preschool - Cathy Hammerburg, preschool teacher discussed the calendar days that she would like to have the preschooler start. Board Director Jen Phillips asked if the preschool students rode the bus. Ms. Hammerburg replied that most preschoolers are dropped off by a parent. Board Director April Simonson said that we would need to develop a plan for preschool students. We have received guidance from the State for grades K-12, but not for preschool. Principal Dawn Bechtoldt confirmed that the State has not released information regarding pre-school. The discussion continued that we need to have a plan for the preschoolers. We need time to cover every angle for everyone's safety. Questions like how do we handle toys, and games? Everything is required to be cleaned after use. How do you have one student only use one toy at a time? Jen Phillips agreed that those are great points. We need to focus on the first round of the Hybrid model. We would love to have our preschool students back, but need to be ready. Chris Helgeson said that we have worked on the Hybrid model and need to start with bringing back our elementary students, which is planned to begin on October 20th. Then, we need to bring our secondary students, grades 7-12 back, which is planned to begin on November 12th. We need to see how this goes and work on incorporating the preschool program into our overall plan for reopening for in-person instruction to ensure safety. Superintendent Dehuff will meet with Cathy Hammerburg to work on a plan for bringing in preschool students for in-person instruction.

School Nurse: Rachel Henderson, Easton School's nurse, has been working with staff to prepare for bringing students back into Easton School in a Hybrid model. Paw prints, one way arrows, stop signs, and other measures are being put into place to ensure social distancing. Students who are riding the school bus will be required to present the prepared health attestation to determine if the student has any COVID-19 symptoms. There will be an additional adult (besides the bus driver) on the bus to take the temperature of each student and review their health questionnaire before they enter the bus. Rachel Henderson has talked with the elementary teachers about safety precautions and provided them with masks and gloves for each classroom. There is an isolation space in the front area of the school that will be partitioned off. This area will be stocked with required supplies. The school will call parents to pick up their child if they develop a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms.

Hybrid Update: The discussion of how the Hybrid model would look was discussed with the board. Our maintenance crew Melissa Sandby and Jennifer Jensen continue to do extra cleaning in the building. The district has purchased an Electro Static system for cleaning and sanitizing. This sanitizes everywhere that it is sprayed, even spaces that can't be reached. Busses will be sprayed down after every use. Secretary Julie Miller has reached every parent of our elementary students. Ms. Miller said that approximately 11 elementary students will be staying remote when the Hybrid model begins. Jen Phillips suggested a video to parents to show the safety precautions we have for the students coming into the building. Principal Dawn Bechtoldt gave an update on the Schoology program. The teachers meet every Monday to train on Schoology. April Simonson said

that she enjoys the Schoology program and is utilizing it for her science classes. Tracy Van Lone said that learning all of the features of Schoology is a big learning curve. Ms. Van Lone is willing to help get teach parents how to access and utilize Schoology. The Board discussed equitable learning for remote learners who stay at home when other students are attending Easton School in a Hybrid model.

Curriculum: Jen Phillips mentioned a concern about an outdated textbook for the Pacific Northwest class and the need to update our Social Studies curriculum. The Board requested an update on curriculum at the next Board meeting.

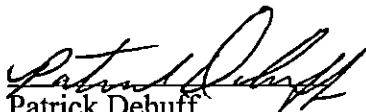
Adjourn to Closed Session: Jen Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting to go into a closed session for discussion of contract negotiations. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Board of Directors invited Superintendent Dehuff and Warren Hopkins to join the closed session. The closed session began at 8:16 pm.


Reconvene Meeting: April Simonson made a motion to come out of the closed session and reconvene the meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was reconvened at 9:10 pm.

Board Statement: After some discussion among Board Directors, April Simonson made the following statement on behalf of the Board. "We want to reaffirm as a Board that we approved a Hybrid reopening plan for grades K-6 to begin on October 19th. Our decision was based on an expectation that students who would remain in remote learning would be treated fairly and equitably. Our expectation is that our remote students will receive simultaneous learning while their classmates are in session. We understand that there needs to be some technology pieces put in place for recording and we would like that to happen, but in the meantime, the expectation is that all students will be able to access the lessons simultaneously, whether they are in the classroom or at their home." All Board members stated that they agreed with the statement, which will be presented to the union during contract negotiations.

Consent Agenda: Frieda Ellison added more detail pertaining to the consent agenda from the August 25, 2020 board meeting and the September 22, 2020 board meeting. Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chris Helgeson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: April Simonson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.


Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent


April Simonson
Board Director