

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 14, 2014
Jeannie Marie Giovenale-Austin Library

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Tony Fitzgerald at 6:35 p.m.

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Ken Everaert, Anna Dodge, Kathie Stratton,
Tony Fitzgerald

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Lisa Henderson,
Becky Houle, Brian Todd

Guests: None

Safety Briefing: Tony Fitzgerald reviewed the safety procedures should an emergency arise.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda: Anna Dodge made a motion to approve the agenda for the October 14, 2014 board meeting. Kathie Stratton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Communication to the Board: The board was given a letter written by a student who attends Easton School. Each board member read the letter silently. The board was given a letter written by Mr. Brian Todd. This letter is a follow up to his verbal resignation as the Athletic Director for Easton School that he had with Superintendent Dehuff at an earlier date. Board Chair Tony Fitzgerald asked if Mr. Todd wanted to add any comments. Mr. Todd declined. Ken Everaert thanked Mr. Todd for his past years as the Easton School Athletic Director.

Financial: Wandah Messinger was absent this evening. Superintendent Dehuff reviewed the monthly budget report with the board. He discussed the financial commitment of the district with improving technology, including the purchase of iPads for all students. With the combined high school sports program with Thorp SD, we are in need of a van to transport students for practices. The purchase of a van was budgeted. The Debt Service Fund is for our bond payments. The bond for the elementary wing of the school will be paid off in 2019. We will need plan for long-term capital needs, particularly to the secondary wing of the school, which was built in 1964.

Reports:

Staff: Becky Houle reported for the staff this evening. She shared that the pre-school and the kindergarten students are all diving into science projects. Ms. McCoy's first and second graders

are taking a field trip to learn how to press cider this Friday. Mr. Eims is excited to be teaching 3rd and 4th grade this year.

Principal: Mrs. Henderson commented that Mr. Eims is really using the Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) training he has learned. Ms. Parker's 5th and 6th grade class is looking at taking a field trip to a Marine Biology camp this spring. They would go for two (2) nights and three (3) days. Mrs. Parker has received a partial grant to cover some of the expenses. Funds will have to be raised for the remaining amount. Ms. Parker has started a "Think Sheet" for her students who are struggling with behaviors. It seems to be helping. She has also started a blog for parents to follow. This next week is spirit week. The students are giving good support this year. Mrs. Henderson shared that at the next board meeting she may be requesting a leave of absence for one of our staff. This staff member has a father who is terminally ill. We will need to find a long time sub at that time. We are at step two of school improvement. The Smarter Balance Assessment is in the elementary for science only. It will be nice to have to review the digital library that all staff has access too. All of our tenth grade students passed the reading and math assessments that are required for graduation. We also had 100% passage of students who took the End of Course (EOC) state assessment in Biology. We are seeing success in our high school students who have attended Easton School through elementary and middle school.

Superintendent: Superintendent Dehuff informed the board that we have received 120 iPads for the district. Both he and Mrs. Henderson will be checking with other districts to see how they have set up user agreements for the iPads. It will be a project that will evolve. The iPads will allow students to access what they need. He thanked the board for their help in this endeavor. Our computer server is old and will need to be replaced soon. We have thirteen high school girls on the volleyball team. Patrick Dehuff is filling in as the interim Athletic Director until the position is filled. Transportation is a challenge with a shortage of bus drivers. Superintendent Dehuff and Steve Jensen, our transportation supervisor are working on the purchase of a van and increasing our pool of substitute bus drivers.

School Board Business:

School Board Member: Board Chair Tony Fitzgerald discussed the communication to the board policy that they currently have. Tony stated that policy number 1430 is in conflict with its associated procedure (1430 P). He distributed a proposal for a change in policy 1430 that would align policy 1430 with its associated administrative procedure. This prompted a conversation from Becky Houle regarding board communication, including notification of board agendas, and public comment. Board Chair Tony Fitzgerald explained that the policy was put into place when a community member made derogatory comments about a certificated staff member at a school board meeting. A former staff member was in attendance at that meeting and came to Superintendent Dehuff to discuss ways to avoid this occurring again. The result was the implementation of procedure 1430, which outlines the procedure for communicating with the school board. In reviewing the EEA contract, board members requested that this be placed on hold until the next board meeting to allow time for board members to read the contract. Kathie Stratton made a motion to hold the approval of the EEA contract till the October 28th board meeting. Anna Dodge seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Consent Agenda: