

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 22, 2019
Jennie Marie Giovenale-Austin Library

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chris Helgeson at 6:30 PM.

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

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Marilyn Fudge, Patrick Dehuff, Sagrario Jimenez, Becky Houle, Melissa Sandby, Steve Jensen, Mary Forry, Jenny Jensen

Board Members Absent: None

Guests:

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

Board Minutes: April Simonson made a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting on September 24, 2019. Amy Grove seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Communication to the Board: A letter was submitted to the board and a copy of the letter was included in the board packets.

School Bus Safety Week: This week is appreciation week for all bus drivers in the State of Washington. Superintendent Dehuff read the certificate from the Governor. He personally thanked our bus drivers for their dedication to safely transporting our students, which often includes inclement weather conditions and long travel times for games and field trip events. Superintendent Dehuff expressed his appreciation to Steve Jensen for his hard work and dedication to ensuring that our buses are well maintained and safe to drive. He mentioned that Melissa Sandby, who is one of our bus drivers, in addition to being a custodian and helping with student supervision, has been a dedicated employee of Easton School for 23 years. In addition to her multiple job duties, you can find Melissa volunteering to help at all of our home games and our after-school and evening events. Mary Forry is our other primary bus driver, who also helps with student supervision and participates in driving the school bus for sporting events, which can be as far away at Pateros since we compete against other small schools. Chris Helgeson drives daily to Snoqualmie Pass for his work and remarked how Melissa is always a safe driver. No one knows how early you are up, or all that you do.

Public Comment: None

Reports:

Financial: Business manager Sagrario Jimenez reviewed the monthly financial budget status reports, trends, and enrollment for Easton School District. These reports are attached to the

minutes.

Superintendent: Superintendent Dehuff discussed possible changes that will be taking place in the fiscal office. We have been contracting for business manager and payroll clerk services through ESD 105. Sagrario Jimenez is currently our business manager and payroll clerk, and is contracted through ESD 105. Mrs. Jimenez comes to Easton School once a week, but is finding that the job of business manager and payroll clerk is much more time consuming than one day a week. Recently, Tom Fleming, Chief Financial Officer for Education Service District (ESD) 105 visited Superintendent Dehuff to let him know that the contracted price for a business manager-payroll clerk will go up substantially because of the time required to do the job. Mr. Fleming told Superintendent Dehuff that it would be more cost effective if Easton School District were able to hire their own business manager-payroll clerk instead of contracting through ESD 105. Furthermore, Mr. Fleming recommended that Easton School District advertise for the position soon so we can find someone before we get too far into next year's budgeting process. Sagrario Jimenez mentioned that she really enjoys working with Easton School District but is finding the job to be time consuming, which is difficult because of her other job duties at ESD 105. She mentioned that she feels it is best to continue having a district employee take care of accounts payable, which is currently the primary job duty of Marilyn Fudge, and for the district to advertise for a business manager-payroll clerk to take over the job duties that are currently being contracted for through ESD 105. Superintendent Dehuff explained that he wanted the board to hear the reasons why we are considering changing our model from contracting through ESD 105 to having our own business manager-payroll clerk, and having some time to consider the pros and cons of the change. The topic of hiring a business manager-payroll clerk will be on the next board agenda.

Staff: Becky Houle shared concerns of the certified staff of a drop in student enrollment and shared the need to increase motivation for our secondary students.

Principal Report: Principal Bechtholdt shared that the Associated Student Body (ASB) has a Halloween dance planned for this Friday. There were many students that helped for the community potluck. There will be a Resource Fair during the conferences, and the Halloween carnival is coming up next week. The Elementary cheer squad has started practicing. Jenny Jensen volunteers her time, and has 16 young cheer squad members this year. Preschool started on October 1, 2019, and is being held three days a week from 8:30 to 11:30. Easton Fire District came to our school on October 9, 2019 to teach fire safety. We also had an emergency evacuation drill that day. The students were able to watch the fire trucks and fireman arrive at school, and see what they do. We are very thankful to the Easton Fire Department for their time and dedication. Today, a Kittitas County Sheriff deputy will be having snacks with the preschool students. In October, during Fire Safety week, our elementary students were invited to participate in a county-wide poster drawing contest. Out of all the students in Kittitas County schools that participated, two Easton School students were chosen for first and second place. Drew Stinson won first place, and Lucy Ramsey won second place. Drew was driven to school in a fire truck, and was met by staff and students clapping and cheering. Lucy will have a group of firemen share lunch with her. We did the great American shake out drill. Everyone did a great job. The Jr. High basketball girls are doing great this season. The secondary students are taking a history field trip. They will explore Grand Coulee Dam and many other places on the way. Ms. Jenkins

took her students on a transition trip. This allowed her students to look at different types of employment. Students in the science class watched how to process lavender extraction, and to make oils, and sprays. Math classes are doing interim practice tests. Over \$2,300 was raised for the archery program from the cookie dough fundraiser. The Veterans Day assembly is scheduled on November 7th, starting at 10:00 am. The holiday musical is scheduled on December 11th, starting at 6:00 pm. The flu clinic will be from 2:00pm to 5:00 pm on October 24th. Ms. Badda has 16 students being trained for CPR.

Board Report: The board participated in a good finance session and regional meeting hosted by Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) in Toppenish on October 8, 2019. The meeting helped board directors understand the complexities of school finances. Dr. Dehuff added that WSSDA is impressed that our board members are attending regional meetings, and trainings.

Board Business: A discussion was held in regards to “out of endorsement” teaching assignments. Principal Bechtholdt submitted a letter to the board stating that two teachers are teaching outside their endorsement. Brian Todd is teaching weight training, and Marchel Allenbaugh is teaching TEALS coding training. OSPI allows school districts to have classes that are taught outside of a teacher’s endorsement, provided the Board of Directors is notified and approves of it. Having the flexibility of teachers being able to teach outside of their endorsement provides more offerings for our secondary students. John Jensen made a motion to approve Brian Todd to teach the weight training class, and for Marchel Allenbaugh to teach the TEALS class, which are outside of their teaching endorsements. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

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

Meeting Adjourned to Executive Session: The board adjourned at 7:10 pm for an Executive Session to discuss a complaint against a public employee. The initial expected time in executive session was 30 minutes. The time was extended and announced.

Executive Session Adjourned: The executive session was adjourned at 10:32 pm.

Regular Meeting Re-convened: The regular board meeting reconvened at 10:32pm

Board Meeting Adjourned: The board meeting was adjourned at 10:33 pm.


Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent


Chris Helgeson, Board Chair
Board Chair