

Easton School District No. 28  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
November 24, 2020  
Zoom Meeting

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chris Helgeson at 5:35 PM.

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

**Staff:** Dawn Bechtholdt, Marilyn Fudge, Patrick Dehuff, Gretchen Jenkins, Becky Houle, Cece Badda, Freida Ellison, Jennifer Jensen, Marchel Allenbaugh, Rachel Henderson, Julie Miller, Jackie Tate

**Guests:** Dr. Mark Larson, Phillip Meehan, Keri Kaestner

**Approve Agenda:** John Jensen made a motion to approve the agenda. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Board Minutes:** April Simonson made a motion to approve the minutes from the school board meetings on October 27, 2020. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Update form Dr. Larson:** Dr. Larson, Health Office with Kittitas County Public Health gave an update. He started his report by mentioning that schools are doing well with masking and social distancing. Despite having more cases in schools, the Health Department has not seen a single case of secondary spread in schools in Kittitas County. There continues to be rising cases of COVID-19 in the community but they are associated with a lack of masking or maintaining social distancing. Dr. Larson mentioned that he would like to have schools do rapid testing of staff and students. He said that it is a non-invasive test that is a self-swab and results are available within 15 minutes. He mentioned that a once to twice a week testing process would be beneficial. He also mentioned the recommended protocol of providing information when the Health Department determines that a positive test for COVID-19 has occurred with a student or staff member. Dr. Larson mentioned that when a student comes down with a positive test for COVID-19, the principal and the student's teacher would be notified by Kittitas County Health Department. If a staff member comes down with a positive test for COVID-19, the Health Department will notify that staff member. Our school nurse, Rachel Henderson will work with the student or staff member to determine if anybody was in close contact. If a close contact is identified, they would be tested for COVID-19.

**Communication to the Board:** None

**Public Comment:** Keri Kaestner mentioned the struggles that come with remote learning. She would like to see the K-1 classroom work towards a full day. She said the most important thing is for Easton School to avoid returning to a complete remote learning environment. Although there are challenges with the Hybrid model, it is much better than having remote learning as the only option. She mentioned that she is trying to stay positive during this challenging time.

## **Reports:**

**Financial Report:** Business Manager Freida Ellison reviewed the budget status reports, financial trends, and enrollment.

**Staff Report:** The following is a written staff report that was submitted to the Board.

### *Cece Badda*

Secondary PE students work on fine motor skills with knot tying and string games. String games introduce different cultures into PE.

Agility, endurance, coordination, and balance skills were provided by the game hacky sack and a variety of 30 second challenges.

An Outdoor Survival unit is being taught to prepare the students to be safe as they go outside to play during their lifetime.

Topics discussed in Outdoor Survival:

- telling family and friends where they are going,
- knowledge of miscellaneous items needed for a day hike
- watch out for and avoiding natural disasters - forest fires, landslides, volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

Upcoming topics are avalanche awareness, how to create outdoor shelters, fire starters, how to signal for help, reading maps and using a compass.

Jr. High PE students are also taking part in the Life Skills Grant. It is a 3 year grant that helps students with self-image, self-improvement, and making decisions.

Elementary PE students are being taught large motor skills with hitting, throwing, catching, balance, agility, and kicking using balloons, bean bags, and hacky sacks. Walking with family members is encouraged with outdoor scavenger hunts. The students are currently taking the Ten Day Countdown to Thanksgiving that incorporates fitness challenges, being kind and helpful, and identifying trees by their leaves. There is also a science experiment that determines what color is created when you cut up fallen leaves of the same color and soak them in water overnight.

### *Gretchen Jenkins*

All but 2 students are back at school. They seem really happy to be back and are working hard trying to keep up in their coursework.

### *Jessica Lewis*

In English, we are working through different grade level text through a critical thinking lens and a creative lens. The older grades are starting a novel project and the younger students are working their way through two small novels as a class.

Marchel Allenbaugh

Computer Science (CS) lessons at the elementary level are up and running. We are using Code.org for our curriculum and teachers Allenbaugh and Kretschman facilitate weekly instruction. Computer Science week is coming up on December 7-11 and the CS team will be planning events for our students, families, and the community to participate in.

Steve Eims

Good Evening from the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grades,

It is with joy that the quilt of color (Autumn) has once again allowed our kids to find their way back into the room. Our mornings are filled with fractions and multiplication, writing and cursive practice. The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade has tackled the chapter book, "Disaster Strikes," while the folks in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade are continuing "George Washington Socks." It is a long story but in the end George gets them back! Our weekly writing assignments are showing improvement in capitalization and punctuation which is a HUGE gain. The 50 states and Science Stem activities round out our days. Does candy corn melt quicker in cold water, hot water, or water mixed with vinegar?

Sydney Kretschman

It's going great in the 2nd/3rd grade classroom. We average about 3 in person students and the rest participate via zoom. I am so impressed with how well these kiddos are adjusting to the schedule and workload. We are doing our best and having a lot of fun along the way! My favorite thing is to hear how much they love being at school! :)

Becky Houle

READING! WRITING! ARITHMETIC! The kids are genuinely excited about these three core subjects and regularly express their thankfulness for being able to be in school! They love interacting with their peers and sharing their learning with one another. The favorite part of everyone's day is OUTSIDE RECESS! The minutes mask free and running wild are the BEST!

**Student Report:** Loreydy Santiago gave the student report. Loreydy said that Running Start is really cool. She was worried about attending Central Washington University (CWU) as a High School student but found it fun and she is getting good grades. She also mentioned that her sister, Marisol really prefers to go to school instead of online learning. She is still getting used to the social distancing of staying 6 feet away but it is well worth it to be back at school.

**Principal Report:** Principal Bechtholdt shared the following:

Secondary Hybrid is coming up on two weeks of attendance and appears to be doing well so far. The challenge has been for student to get used to the structure and routines of their classes in person, vs. being at home.

- One-way flow is working well (but annoying for some of the students to have to get in the “extra steps”
- Students are doing a fabulous job of sanitizing their spaces and keeping their masks on.
- It is challenging to keep 6 feet apart when walking but they are getting constant reminders.
- We have a release pattern to help keep everyone distance and it is working well.
- We are working to make it more “fun”: adding music during passing time.
- Zooms appear to be working okay...sometimes we have sound/technical glitches but it is getting better.

Schoology parent nights are in progress. Mrs. Van Lone is guiding parents on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30. Next one is Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. So far, we have parents from 19 different students involved. We’ve sent multiple school messengers and have a link on our webpage with the information. Staff continue to learn within Schoology. Lessons and links are growing. Communications are becoming more frequent between students, families and teachers. Training is focusing on designing lessons and assessments aligned to content standards. Improving knowledge and skills every day.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, we had a parent financial aid night by zoom (power outage) but got some parent participation. Gear Up is meeting with 11/12<sup>th</sup> graders during advisories. This week, CWU students discussed vocational trade school vs community colleges and universities and financial aid packages. Next week Perry Tech, YVC, CWU and other local programs will be explored.

CTE grants brought in \$2,000.00 for student and staff certifications and training; (OSHA 10 for example for students) and articulation agreements. We are working to get Applied Math Courses on board for second semester. Computer Science is planning for a virtual Code.org event Week of Dec 7-11<sup>th</sup>. Elementary started teaching Basic Computer Coding Skills K-6 last week. Will be weekly...more to follow.

**Superintendent Report:** Superintendent Dehuff discussed the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) conference. Board Director Jen Phillips and Superintendent Dehuff both attended the virtual WSSDA conference this year. While the conference was much different than previous years because it was virtual, an advantage was access to the recorded sessions and materials for review for the remainder of the school year. He discussed several of the sessions including one on budgeting and what to expect in the 2020 legislative session, another on levies and financing, and another on a proposal for a scale adjusted levy based on school size.

Dr. Dehuff mentioned that the session on scale adjusted levies was an interesting proposal by Lopez School District on the impact that local levy lids had on small schools. While the cap on local levies of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation isn’t impactful to Easton School District because we are less than \$1.00 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, the accompanying part of the law that says, or \$2,500 per student, whichever is less is a discriminatory practice against

small school districts. It makes sense to cap the amount of taxes (per thousand of AV) but it doesn't make sense to penalize school districts simply because they are small. As the presentation by Lopez School District points out, there is an amount of overhead in capital and labor that is needed to operate a small school. Their proposal calls for the cap per student to be \$5,000 per student for up to 100 students, \$4,000 between 101 and 200 students, and \$2,500 for any student above 200.

Superintendent Dehuff will continue to work with other small school districts to lobby for changes in the local levy cap to ensure equity for small school districts and provide the funding that their local communities approve.

**Board Report:** John Jensen discussed a draft letter to be presented to the Kittitas County Public Works Department, thanking them for the electronic speed signs in front of the school and a request for speed limit lettering on the street. The rest of the Board agreed with the proposed letter and asked that it be sent. Jen Phillips acknowledged her place of employment for granting time for volunteer work, which she utilized to attend the WSSDA conference.

**Board Business:**

a. **Curriculum:**

- 1) Outdated Curriculum - Superintendent Dehuff provided a list of outdated English curriculum that our English teacher, Jessica Lewis has recommended that we surplus. Jen Phillips made a motion to surplus the list of outdated English curriculum that was provided to the Board. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- 2) Update on Social Studies Curriculum - Dawn Bechtholdt reported that sample curriculum for Social Studies has been received. The sample curriculum includes books and materials in Geography, Civics, American History, and World History.
- 3) Discussion of Online Providers – April Simonson recommended that the District consider utilizing the online provider, Edgenuity instead of Red Comet. April said that the online classes through Edgenuity are much more interactive and includes a live instructor. Her students have really benefited from the inter-activeness and engagement that Edgenuity online classes provide.

b. **Board Officer Position:**

With Amy Groves resignation, it has created a vacancy of the Vice-Chair position on the Board. Superintendent Dehuff asked the Board if they wanted to look at nominations for all positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Legislative Representative). The Board would like to maintain the current positions that are filled (Chris Helgeson as Chair and John Jensen as Legislative Representative) and nominate a Vice-Chair to fill the vacant position. Chris Helgeson nominated April Simonson to be the Vice-Chair of the Board. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. April Simonson said that she was willing to serve as Vice-Chair but abstained from the vote.

**c. Board Director Interview:**

The Board interviewed Phillip Meehan for the position of Board Director that was vacated when Amy Grove resigned from the Board.

**d. Preschool:**

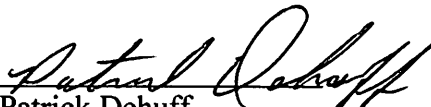
After some discussion, the Board thought it would be best to wait until after the first of the year when Christmas break is over and we see how many cases are in Kittitas County before we make any decisions about Preschool.

**Consent Agenda:** Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the consent agenda. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Executive Session:** The Board went into an Executive Session at 8:37 pm for 20 minutes to discuss the Board Director interview. The Executive session was extended another 15 minutes at 8:57.

**Resume Regular Meeting:** The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm. The Board decided to keep the Board Director position open until January since we only had one applicant.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Chris Helgeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

  
Patrick Dehuff  
Superintendent

  
Chris Helgeson  
Board Chair