

Easton School District No. 28  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 23, 2021

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chris Helgeson at 5:36 PM.

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

**Staff:** Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Gary Wargo, Freida Ellison, Becky Houle, Gretchen Jenkins, Julie Miller, Jackie Tate, Jenny Jensen, Cece Badda, Mary Forry

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Guests:** Dana Meehan, Toni Brenning

**Approve Agenda:** Board chair, Chris Helgeson requested that the student report be moved on the agenda to be presented before the financial reports. Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting, with the above change acknowledged. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Board Minutes:** John Jensen made a motion to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Communication to the Board:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Officer Positions:** Chris Helgeson requested that a new board chair be nominated. Mr. Helgeson will continue to serve on the school board; however, his work schedule does not permit him to continue in the role as board chair. Phillip Meehan made a motion to approve April Simonson as the board chair. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. April Simonson made a motion to approve Phillip Meehan as the vice chair. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Reports:**

**Student Representative Report:** Loreydy Santiago spoke on behalf of the students, and the Associated Student Body (ASB). The drive-in movie night that was held on March 12<sup>th</sup> was good. Quite a few families came and all said that they enjoyed it. On St Patrick's Day, the ASB made chocolate chip mint milkshakes for students and staff. The ASB is currently working on getting carpet runners, masks, and other items for the school. They have the funds to "spruce up" the entrance, the commons, etc. for upcoming events.

**Financial Report:** Ms. Freida Ellison, business manager, updated the board on the budget status report, financial trends, and enrollment report. Ms. Ellison commented that the enrollment report shows a slight increase in our enrollment from 85.2 to 90.

**Consent Agenda:** Phillip Meehan made a motion to approve the consent agenda. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **Staff Reports:**

**Teachers' Report:** Mrs. Becky Houle reported for the teachers tonight.

Cece Badda - Mr. Eims was a guest speaker in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Advisory. He explained his experience of being an entrepreneur and discussed his business; Cowboy Creek Gifts.

Jessica Lewis - In Secondary English, we are working on our grammar skills. Jenny Jensen has been teaching First Aid and CPR for students in the PE and Lifetime Fitness classes. Students are able to purchase First Aid and CPR cards for \$15.00

K-6 PE classes are experiencing Heart March Madness in class. They are learning CPR, how the heart works, nutrition, and why you stay active to keep the heart happy.

Gretchen Jenkins - SPED kids are doing good. We had one student exit services this month which is exciting!

Becky Houle -The K-1 students wrapped up St. Patrick's Day academic activities last week. Students researched DIY ideas for Leprechaun Traps and submitted a video of their finished products on Schoology. We dabbled with chemical reactions in Science. We observed Skittles reactions when placed in milk and in soda. The milk Skittles created a rainbow!

### **Principal Report:**

- The ASB movie night activity was a blast. They ordered up some great weather and it was a wonderful evening that brought back lots of memories.
- Elementary lunches are going well. Students have their routines in place and they are enjoying the time together.
- Secondary teachers are ready for students to return to full days. They are planning for Spring conferences next week. Zoom sessions with teachers are scheduled.
- Comprehensive Health Services continue to be available to Easton students and their families. We are scheduling WebEx sessions with the counselor. We are planning to have the counselor, Scott Riley, onsite for one day per week beginning after spring break.
- ASVAB testing for juniors is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Todd will be contacting students and families about this opportunity.
- CTE teachers are meeting with their respective advisory teams in the next couple of weeks to finalize CTE frameworks for updates and new courses for next year. We will bring you the final course updates for your approval at the April 27, 2021 meeting. Our draft 5 year for the CTE plan has been updated and we will request approval on that next month as well.
- CTE Course Updates:

- Switching to Introduction to Construction Frameworks (through Core Plus Construction) for next year (from Introduction to Woodworking). Next year, we will add Construction Foundations 101 and the following year Construction 201 to create a True CTE Construction Pathway (2 years, progressive).
- New Course: Applied Algebra 1, then next year we will add Applied Geometry so we can have a CTE Math pathway. We are also applying for College in the High School at CWU for Algebra 2 for next year. Not CTE, but it will offer dual credit for students.
- TEALS was approved by Microsoft to continue at Easton School. This will be year 4. We will continue with the SNAP and Python version. We are also switching our Microsoft Office Specialist Course to Introduction to Computer Science programming using Code.org curriculum. Students will still be able to earn a MOS certificate as an Industry Standard Certification.
- K-6 students continue to learn and grow with their Computer Science Skills.
- Kittitas County Search and Rescue team, invited by Cece Badda, taught middle and high school students about winter safety.
- Picture retakes are scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Superintendent Report:** Superintendent Dehuff started by thanking Gary Wargo for continuing his work while he is out on a medical leave. Dr. Dehuff said he misses all the staff and students and thanks everybody for the support. The state's revenue forecast is good news. The revenue picture is positive for the state and the change has been significant since last June. This past summer, the state anticipated a \$8.8 billion shortfall. That shortfall was cut in half by the fall and has come down even further since then. Current prediction coming from the state are that they will be operating in the black sooner than previously predicted. It is always good to see Federal and State revenue levels look better. House bill #1476 is of interest during this legislated session. HB1476 would be a benefit for Easton since our levy collection is capped at \$2,500 per student. There is also some discussion on the state funding schools based on their enrollment for the 2019-20 school year, if their enrollment dropped during the 2020-21 school year because of COVID-19. Another bill to keep an eye on is Senate bill #5128. If SB5128 passes, it would provide stabilization in our pupil transportation funding for this year. While we are transporting fewer students, we are still looking at our fixed costs which are higher than our anticipated transportation revenue.

Gary Wargo said that he and Dr. Dehuff have been working together and communicating on a variety of different issues. We have ordered an OWL for the future board meetings. The OWL is a device to help with audio and visual during virtual meetings.

**Board Report:** Jen Phillips thanked everyone for the help and work they do to keep us going.

**Closed Session:** Contract Negotiations

At 6:10 pm the board adjourned for a closed meeting to discuss personnel bargaining issues. They estimated 30 minutes before returning. The board returned to continue the regular meeting at 6:40pm.

**Board Business:**

- **Extension of School Day for Grades 7-12:** Mr. Wargo said that the intended target date for secondary students, grades 7-12 to return to full days for in person instruction is right after spring break. We are requesting action from the board to proceed. Per Principal Bechtholdt, the secondary concerns have all been addressed. The schedule and safety precautions are similar to those used in the elementary. There are exceptions, for example Ms. Badda will require students clean their PE equipment after use. Overall, students will follow a regular schedule during the day. Mrs. Bechtholdt gave examples of a schedule for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. A motion was made by Phillip Meehan to approve secondary returning to full days on April 13, 2021. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), EEA and District:** Gary Wargo and Patrick Dehuff explained that when working conditions change, the administration and union meet to discuss the impact of these changes. The district and EEA discussed procedures for secondary students returning to full day instruction. The MOA on the agenda is the result of these recent discussions. Gary Wargo said that the teachers have approved the new MOA. Both Dr. Dehuff and Gary Wargo recommend the board approve the agreement. Phillip Meehan made a motion to approve the MOA. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- **Resolution #457, Emergency Waiver of High School credits:** Resolution 457 provides some flexibility in waivers of High School credits. With the impact of COVID-19 affecting secondary students, many districts are looking for flexibility in credit waivers. Resolution 457 will provide flexibility for school districts and is in compliance with OSPI. The waiver will expire August 31, 2021. Jen Phillips made a motion to approve resolution #457. Phillip Meehan seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- **Retirements:** Dr. Dehuff announced the retirement of Ms. Cece Badda, who has spent her entire teaching career at Easton School. Superintendent Dehuff thanked her for everything she has done. Through the archery program, his daughter and son were able to compete in National Archery Tournaments. The trips and opportunities that Ms. Badda has provided students throughout her career added to the life experiences for so many students. Ms. Badda truly cares about our kids, and has the amazing ability to work with everyone. Ms. Badda was active in seeking multiple grants that helped support her life-time sports programs over the years and benefited so many students. She tapped into grants that provided programs such as fly fishing, making of fishing lures, snow showing, bicycles, and a variety of fitness equipment that enhanced our fitness activities. She is always excited and Easton School students and their families have benefited from all she has done. Chris Helgeson, a former student of Ms. Badda, made a motion to approve Ms. Badda's retirement. Phillip Meehan seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- **Parents/Community School Support Group:** There has been conversations at prior school board meetings about increasing parental involvement with Easton School. April Simonson referred to policy #4110 as a means for the school board to involve citizens to address specific needs. April Simonson is proposing forming a board-approved advisory committee. Phillip Meehan has shown an interest in this proposal. Mr. Meehan said he would like to be involved in the committee and represent the school board. Per policy 4110 guidelines, the school board would approve additional appointments from parents, citizens and school staff who may be interested in applying to serve on the committee. Any interested parent, community member or staff, was asked to please contact Phillip Meehan to let him know of their interest in serving on the committee. The board would like to invite interested people to the next meeting to join. The committee would present monthly reports of their progress to the board. The board is

authorizing this committee to continue through to October 2021. April Simonson made a motion to approve the Parents/Committee Support Group. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

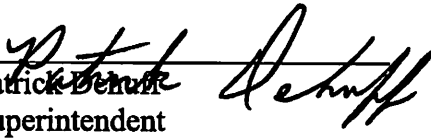
- COVID-19 Rapid Tests: Our school nurse, Rachel Henderson has offered to come in on April 12<sup>th</sup>, when we return from spring break, to give staff, and families rapid COVID-19 tests. We will notify the families of this opportunity.

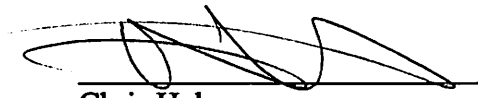
**Executive Session: Site acquisition**

The board chair adjourned the regular meeting at 7:30 for an Executive Session. The estimated time to return is at 8:10 pm.

**Resume Regular Meeting:** The board resumed the regular meeting at 8:10 pm

**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 8:11pm.

  
Patrick Bennett  
Superintendent

  
Chris Helgeson  
Board Chair