

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 24, 2020
Easton School Multi-Purpose Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Amy Grove at 5:30 PM.

Attendance: Amy Grove, John Jensen, Jen Phillips (by telephone), April Simonson

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Dave Allenbaugh, Steve and Jenny Jensen, Gretchen Jenkins (by telephone), Lyn Cox

Board Members Absent: Chris Helgeson, leave of absence

Guests:

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

Board Minutes: April Simonson made a motion to approve the minutes of the school board meeting on February 15, 2020. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Communication to the Board: The Board of Directors have received two responses that are "Communication to the Board." There was some discussion regarding the first letter. However, Superintendent Dehuff said that he couldn't discuss the particulars of the complaint since it had to do with a confidential personnel matter. The second letter to the Board was from the Easton Education Association (certified teacher union) asking for an executive session with the Board to discuss the letter that the Board sent to Easton School staff. However, the Easton School District's attorney has advised the Board against meeting in executive session on this matter.

The Board of Directors discussed the letter that they sent to staff in an open session. They feel the intent of the letter was misunderstood by the Easton Education Association. The board is open to publicly meeting to discuss concerns. The response from the board was read out loud. The board all agree that they want to keep communication open. The board stated that they were not pointing fingers at any one person. The board wants to improve the culture of the school. April Simonson made a motion to amend the agenda to include a response from the Board to the Easton Education Association. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Reports:

Financial: Business manager Freida Ellison was not able to attend the meeting. Superintendent Dehuff reviewed the budget status reports, financial trends, and enrollment for Easton School District.

Staff: Lyn Cox sent out emails to all students for science and math, to read the novel, "The Hot Zone," for connections to Ebola breakout, and the coronavirus. Tracy VanLone has students engaged in Khan Academy. April Simonson said the Facebook page for science and math is

great. Students are starting to connect with their teachers. Jenny Jensen said that the breakfast and lunches that are being sent home are going well. The building maintenance personnel are working hard cleaning the building. The carpets and chairs will be done tomorrow.

Student Report: The ASB was ready to have a public painting session, financed by GEAR UP, but unfortunately had to be put on hold. When we do open the school, we (ASB) have leis for entry into the building.

Principal Report: Last week we responded to the school closure. There will be a meeting on 3-17-20 with school leaders to determine strategy for communication and learning support. Julie, Becky, Carol made personal phone calls to all families to ask for participation in the food service delivery and if they had access to devices for learning. Food service schedule was made with Mon/Wed delivery schedule. I Pads were checked out to those who requested them and delivered on Mon/Wed if needed. Dawn directed all teachers to made two-way contact with their students/families last week and this week to establish a regular time for communication and to share the Educational Resources link information posted on the website for all free resources. far. Teachers were asked to document their time while at home. Students with special services were contacted by Mrs. Jenkins with ways to check in with her. Administration participated in webinars and phone conferences with ESD and OSPI.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Dehuff said that this is a difficult time for our students and their families. The primary goal is for everyone's safety, and to provide support to our students and families. He is appreciative of everyone's actions and support by the food service and the teachers. Information is being posted on our website and the Easton School Facebook page. Dr. Dehuff is concerned that we may be facing extended closures this school year. It is important that the families receive what they need. We all need to do our best to provide services and support for all our students and families.

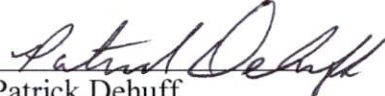
Board Report: April Simonson expressed a concern that she is being targeted by the teacher's union leadership and is being discriminated against on being a substitute teacher simply because she is a Board Director. She expressed concerns over incidents where teachers have said they don't want her to substitute in her classroom, even though she is an experienced teacher and cares about our students. She mentioned that the Board doesn't do teacher evaluations; these are done by the principal. Board Director April Simonson pointed out that it is not a conflict of interest for her to be a substitute teacher, and that can be found in law, RCW. 42.23.030, and in Board Policy 1610, which states, "A director may be employed as a substitute teacher or a substitute educational aide in school districts with 200 or less FTE students." Furthermore, she mentioned that Board Policy 5610 states that substitutes holding emergency certifications can only be assigned work when the list of fully qualified substitutes is exhausted. April Simonson pointed out that she has a teaching certification and has a lot of experience with teaching. Board Director Simonson pointed out that the teacher's union leadership and/or individual teachers should not be trying to make administrative decisions in deciding who won't be allowed to substitute for their classes, and that they should not be discriminating against her.

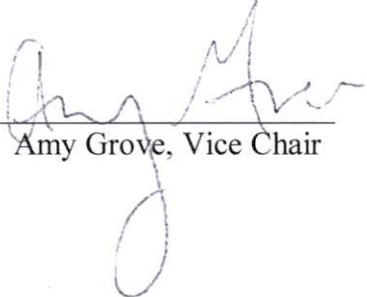
Board Business: Resolution #452 recognized a deficit budget, and is requesting that a reduced educational program for 2020-2021 be authorized to notify employees that adjustments may be made. April Simonson made a motion to adopt resolution #452. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. Policy #2409 is World Language Competency. Students can take a test in a specific language and earn credits for their level of competency in speaking the language they choose. April Simonson made a motion to approve resolution #2409. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Budget Cuts: Superintendent Patrick Dehuff passed out a list of budget cuts that came from the survey responses. The Board discussed items on the list, including reducing or consolidating administrative positions, other staff reductions, and cuts in supplies, materials, utility expenses, supplemental contracts, and costs associated with extracurricular activities. April Simonson expressed a concern about cutting any programs for our students, including extracurricular activities. Superintendent Dehuff will cost out the items that were included in the survey responses and provide that information to the Board for their next school board meeting on April 14th.

Consent Agenda: John Jensen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. April Simonson 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 10:09 pm.


Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent


Amy Grove, Vice Chair