

Easton School District No. 28  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 30, 2019  
Jennie Marie Giovenale-Austin Library

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

**Attendance:** Chris Helgeson, Amy Grove, John Jensen, (Jen Phillips joined the meeting at 6:40 pm)

**Staff:** Dawn Bechtholdt, Marilyn Fudge, Patrick Dehuff, Sagi Jimenez, Cece Badda

**Board Members Absent:**

**Guests:** April Simonson, Emma Jenkins, Hayden Zimmerman, Travis Zimmerman, Kaylin Aper, Madison Aper

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

**Board Minutes:** Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes of the board meeting on June 25, 2019. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Interview for Vacant Board Seat:** April Simonson submitted her application of interest in the vacant board seat. Mrs. Simonson has a strong interest in what happens with Easton School. April feels that the community needs to know the school, students and staff. The students are here to help the community. Mrs. Simonson has been in attendance for the past year at board meetings. She wants to see the community involved with the school. She has always felt welcome every time she enters the building. The challenge is getting information to parents and community members. Mrs. Simonson knows that she will need to learn, but is up for the challenge. Mrs. Simonson has encouraged more parents and community members to attend. Mrs. Simonson said that she is available to attend most any upcoming conferences to learn more about serving on the school board.

**Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss Qualifications:** Chris Helgeson requested the board to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the board applicant's qualifications. The board adjourned to Executive Session at 5:40 pm. The board estimated that they would be adjourned to Executive Session for 10 minutes.

**Re-Convene Regular Meeting:** The board members reconvened the regular meeting at 5:50 pm.

**Appoint New Board Member:** John Jensen made a motion to appoint April Simonson to the Easton School District Board of Directors. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the board. The board welcomed April Simonson to the Easton School Board of Directors. Mrs. Simonson will be officially appointed at the next board meeting.

**Public Comment:** None

**Reports:**

**Financial Report:** Sagi Jimenez reviewed the financial budget status report. Mrs. Jimenez reviewed information regarding the budget extension for 2018-19 fiscal year.

**Adjourn to Public Budget Hearing:** Amy Grove made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting for a Public Budget Hearing. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. Business Manager Sagi Jimenez discussed the proposed 2019-20 budget for Easton School District. Mrs. Jimenez discussed the projected enrollment for the 2019-20 school year and the impact of the projected enrollment on the budget. She also discussed the impact of lost revenue from local school taxes due to legislation that have resulted in a loss of over ½ of our Educational Programs and Operations levy funding. Mrs. Jimenez distributed a copy of the proposed 2019-20 school budget for the board and audience to look over as she discussed each category in the budget. Throughout the discussion during the Public Budget Hearing, the audience was encouraged to ask questions, if they had any, about the proposed 2019-20 budget proposal.

**Reconvene Regular Board Meeting:**

The regular meeting reconvened at 6:20 pm.

**Board Discussion on the 2019-20 Budget:**

Business Manager Sagi Jimenez and Superintendent Dehuff discussed the financial challenges that lie ahead for the district with the proposed 2019-20 budget and the possibility of future budget deficits. Dr. Dehuff mentioned that Easton School District has not had a deficit budget during the time that he has been the Superintendent of Easton School District (starting in 2008). There are several issues that are causing the 2019-20 budget deficits. One is that the legislation enacted because of the McCleary lawsuit was intended to improve funding for school districts. However, there are some school districts, including Easton School District, that have been adversely impacted. One reason is the loss of aligning state revenue to the location of a teacher on the salary schedule. Teachers are paid more when they have more experience and more advanced degrees. Previously, revenue for teachers' salaries from the state adjusted depending on a mix factor that took into account where teachers were on the salary schedule. Now that the revenue for teachers is no longer aligned to where they are on the salary schedule (based on years of experience and level of education), there are school districts such as Easton School with a higher percentage of teachers with more experience and advanced degrees that are penalized financially in comparison to districts that have much more turnover and newer teachers with less advanced degrees. This has led to an unequitable funding formula by the state. In addition, the state put restrictions on local school levies which cap the amount of local levy money they can receive. Initially, the state put a cap of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Then, after many school districts in the state raised concerns that the cap of \$1.50 was insufficient for them to operate their district, the legislation was amended to increase the cap to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. However, there was also a clause that stipulated that the cap is \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation or \$2,500 per student, whichever is less. This additional stipulation

caused Easton School District to lose ½ of their local levy funds and we are only able to collect 43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation because we are a small school. Superintendent Dehuff stated that it is an injustice to the district and its students to penalize a school that has consistently been fiscally sound and has had the lowest tax rate in the County and one of the lowest in the state because it is small. Easton School District was already less than \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation before the state imposed their restriction of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation OR \$2,500 per student, whichever is less. Dr. Dehuff further stated that he believes that it is a discriminatory practice to punish small schools simply because of their size, particularly when their local school tax rate was already low in comparison to other school districts and they have demonstrated fiscal responsibility.

**Staff Report:** Ms. Cece Badda held an archery camp this summer at school. Joelle Bates, a Champion Archer, taught the camp for three days. Archers left for Nashville for the competition. The archers and their families all flew in at different times. The archers went to Franklin, a neighboring town to practice and prepare for competition. Joella Bates drove up to watch them shoot. The venue was very nice. Both Emma Jenkins and Madison Aper shot their personal best. There was one other archer from Washington State that shot the 3D. The archers had great support from family members that attended.

**Principal Report:** The front office will open on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are scheduled for a field trip in September to see the initiation of the new wildlife crossing on I-90 near Snoqualmie Pass. Sydney Kretschman will be on leave until December 2<sup>nd</sup> and a long term substitute teacher (Anna Kerlee) will be teaching Sydney's class until she returns. The new person who will be providing mental health support through Comprehensive Mental Health will be here to meet the staff on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Superintendent Report:** Kittitas County opened up Public Comment regarding the Marian Meadows development. Superintendent Dehuff provided written comment on behalf of Easton School District regarding the process that was previously agreed to in determining mitigation fees. Dr. Dehuff and the Board of Directors discussed the letter and the process to determine mitigation fees.

**Board Report:** none

**Board Business:**

**Resolution #449:** Resolution #449 authorizes a budget extension for the General Fund for the 2018-2019 school year. Superintendent Dehuff explained that the Board of Directors authorize an amount of expenditures when they approve the school district budget. If the expenditures exceed the amount that was originally authorized in the budget, it requires the Board of Directors to authorize a budget extension. This keeps the Board of Directors informed that there has been an increase in expenditures that exceeds what was originally anticipated when the budget was approved. Examples of reasons for budget extensions are when unexpected or emergency expenditures occur, or an increase in wages occurs through contract negotiations. In the 2019-20 school year, Easton School District was in contract negotiations with the certified teacher union and the classified union that resulted in increases in pay and retro pay from the beginning of the

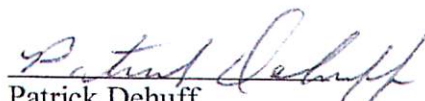
2019-20 school year. John Jensen made a motion to approve Resolution #449. Amy Grove seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Resolution #450:** Resolution #450 authorizes the adoption of the 2019-2020 school year budget for Easton School District. John Jensen made a motion to approve Resolution #450. Amy Grove seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Board of Directors was informed that Marchel Allenbaugh was teaching out of endorsement for the Teaching Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS) during the 2018-19 school year. It is not unusual for teachers to teach a class that is out of their endorsement provided they are working towards a pathway towards endorsement with OSPI and that the Board of Directors is informed. This provides the flexibility of providing valuable class offerings for our secondary students that would, otherwise, not be available.

**Consent agenda:** John Jensen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Amy Grove seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Meeting Adjourned:** A motion was made by Amy Grove to adjourn the meeting. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

  
Patrick Dehuff  
Superintendent

  
Chris Helgeson  
Board Chair