

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Zoom Meeting
August 11, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chris Helgeson at 5:30 PM.

Board Members Attendance: Chris Helgeson, John Jensen, Jen Phillips, April Simonson.

Approve Agenda: Superintendent Dehuff asked that the agenda be amended to include a resignation from Freida Ellison so she can be contract with the district instead of being an employee. John Jensen made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Freida Ellison's resignation. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Communication to the Board: Carol Shapiro sent a letter to the Board announcing her retirement, which will be discussed later in the agenda.

Resignations: Carol Shapiro has retired from her position as a paraprofessional. The Board expressed their appreciation for Carol's years of service to Easton School District. Jen Phillips made a motion to accept Carol Shapiro's resignation. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Freida Ellison explained to the Board that her retirement would be affected if she continued to work as an employee of the district. She would like to resign from her position and contract with the district for Business Manager and Payroll services. Freida submitted her letter of resignation. Superintendent Dehuff mentioned that it was very beneficial to have someone who has the experience and dedication that Freida Ellison has and that he would like to have Freida continue to work at Easton School. He recommended that the Board accept the resignation and that we would contract with Freida Ellison to continue her services. Superintendent Dehuff also assured the Board that the cost for contracted services for Freida Ellison would not exceed the amount that is currently being paid for her as an employee. Jen Phillips made a motion to accept Freida Ellison's resignation. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Draft of 2020-21 Easton School Reopening Plan: Superintendent Dehuff discussed the draft 2020-21 Easton School reopening plan. He started by mentioning that the plan is a draft and it will be revised for our upcoming board meeting on August 25, 2020, where it will be formally adopted. After formal adoption of the plan by the Board, it will still be subject to revision as we continue to improve remote instruction, plan for the future and the return of our students, and receive further guidance from Public Health. Superintendent Dehuff will keep the Board informed of recommended revision as we go.

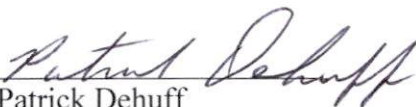
The draft plan discusses the preplanning for the reopening of Easton School, including the survey responses and planning meetings, and the decision by the Board of Directors to start the 2020-21 school year teaching remotely. The plan outlines goals for remote learning including, staff working at Easton School to collaborate on professional development (while maintaining social distancing), and to better accommodate the needs of our students and their families than we can if staff were working out of their homes.

The draft plan includes providing hotspot connections to students who don't have an adequate internet connection, one to one Chromebooks for every student, and the utilization of a Learning Management System (Schoology) and other learning tools such as Moby Max that can enhance a remote learning environment. The draft plan also discussed the need for initial and ongoing professional development for our staff and students to become more proficient with remote learning. The plan also discusses safety training, special services, counseling and social-emotional needs, food and nutrition services, and transportation.

The draft plan also discusses safety precautions and social distancing guidelines, and outlines health and safety requirements, Kittitas County Health Department guidelines, and guidelines for suspected cases of COVID-19, including the procedure for health exclusion and return to Easton School.

Board Director Jen Phillips had some questions about substitute teachers and how they would be utilized and provided professional development, and how to best meet the needs of highly capable students in a remote learning environment. Ms. Phillips mentioned that she has worked remotely for years and has learning a lot from the experience. Although we would love to have our students attend school in person, perhaps this is an opportunity for our students to become more proficient in an online learning environment, which can be a valuable learning experience and one that that may help them in the future.

Meeting Adjourned: At the conclusion of the discussion on the draft of the reopening plan, April Simonson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.


Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent


Chris Helgeson, Board Chair