

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 25, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by April Simonson at 5:30 PM.

Attendance: John Jensen, Jen Phillips, April Simonson. Chris Helgeson joined the meeting at 5:50 pm.

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Freida Ellison, Marilyn Fudge, Gretchen Jenkins, Mary Forry, Cece Badda

Guests: Maria Ramsey

Approve Agenda: John Jensen made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Board Minutes: John Jensen made a motion to approve the minutes from the school board meetings on July 28, 2020, July 31, 2020, and August 11, 2020. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Communication to the Board: None

Public Comment: None

Reports:

Financial: Business Manager Freida Ellison presented the budget status report for the month of July 2020 and the financial trends to the Board of Directors.

Staff: None

Principal Report: Principal Bechtholdt said that the first day of training for the teachers went well. The focus of the training was on improving remote learning. Our teachers had training on the Learning Management System, Schoology and online program, Moby Max. Sydney Kretchman and Tracy Van Lone helped the staff create their accounts, and access videos, courses and materials. The staff will also receive health training from our school nurse, Rachel Henderson and computer training from our computer technician, Joe Moore. Joe will hand out Chromebooks to students on September 2nd, September 3rd, and September 8th, from 10:00am to 1:00 pm. The district has purchased 25 Hotspots for students who do not have good internet access. Easton School is partnering with Suncadia and Shoemakers to purchase the Hotspots and pay for the monthly fees for a strong internet connection so families do not have any out of pocket expenses.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Dehuff said that the training for teachers went really well today. The entire staff is motivated to do whatever it takes to help students and their families during this challenging time of remote learning. The teachers are excited to learn the many features of our new

Learning Management System, Schoology and to fully utilize the features of Moby Max. Dr. Dehuff is pleased that Tracy Van Lone and Sydney Kretschman are willing to be teacher leaders in technology and will help their colleagues as they integrate learning plans and activities into the Learning Management System, Schoology. Learning how to fully utilize the Learning Management System will help during remote learning, but it will also be beneficial for a classroom setting as well when our students are able to return in person to Easton School. There will be a learning curve and it will be very helpful to have teacher leaders help guide their fellow teachers along the way.

Board Report: John Jensen showed the new speed signs that will be going up around the school. He will be working with Kittitas County this week on where the best placement will be. Mr. Jensen also shared a picture of a speed limit of 25 painted on the road. April Simonson enjoyed attending the training session for teachers. She feels that Schoology will be very beneficial, and is user friendly. April is excited for our students and their families to see how it works. On another topic, Mrs. Simonson said that it is important for staff to be careful with the words that we use and the comments that we make because we are role models for our students and always need to set a good example.

Board Business: Superintendent Dehuff shared the annual audit results for the district. The audit results were good and there was nothing that concerned the auditors regarding the finances and the financial accounting of the district. Freida Ellison was hired as a part-time business manager for Easton School. Since Freida already retired from the Cle Elum-Roslyn School District, she is considered a retire-rehire and there are rules from the Department of Retirement Services on the number of hours that she can work. If she exceeds those hours, it will affect her retirement. Freida Ellison prefers to be contracted for business manager and payroll services than be an employee of the district, so it doesn't impact her retirement. At the previous board meeting, Ms. Ellison submitted her letter of resignation. Superintendent Dehuff recommends the approval of a contract with Freida Ellison for business manager and payroll services. The cost to the district for contracting with Freida Ellison for services will not be higher than the cost of having her as an employee. Superintendent Dehuff also mentioned that we are very fortunate to have Freida Ellison be our business manager and payroll clerk. She brings a lot of experience and expertise to the job, and that is very beneficial as we continue to work hard to maintain a healthy fund balance and plan for the future. Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the contract for business manager and payroll services with Freida Ellison. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

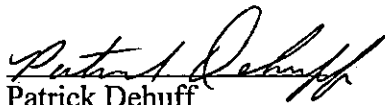
Superintendent Dehuff discussed a furlough of Mary Forry, one of our bus drivers. We have the option of furloughing Mary Forry and keeping her on "standby mode". In this option, the employee does not get a paycheck but the district continues to pay for the district's portion of the employee's health insurance. This is an option that many school districts are doing with their furloughed employees, particularly bus drivers because they are difficult positions to fill. Being in standby mode means that Mary Forry will return to work as soon as the district recalls her to the position, which will happen when we transition from a remote learning environment to having our students return to school.


Superintendent Dehuff has spoken to Mary Forry by phone and has received assurances from her that she will be available and will return to work when she is recalled. Mary Forry was in attendance (via zoom) at the Board meeting and made the comment that she misses our students and is 100% committed to Easton School. Superintendent Dehuff recommended that Mary Forry be furloughed and that the district keep her on standby mode. Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve Mary Forry's furlough and keep her on standby mode. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Reopening plan: Dr. Dehuff did a screen share of the Easton School reopening plan. The Board discussed various portions of the reopening plan, including health and safety factors, sanitizing, social distancing, meals, transportation, professional development for staff, and the various options in the plan regarding remote learning, a hybrid model, and when students return in full. Superintendent Dehuff mentioned that the plan would continue to evolve as we get more guidance from OSPI and Public Health in the future, and we learn more and improve upon the plan. Jen Phillips mentioned a concern about adding an additional staff member on the bus routes. Superintendent Dehuff said that he can remove the wording of adding an additional staff member to the bus route and there can be more time to research the section on the transportation section in the plan prior to students returning to school in person. Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the Easton School reopening plan for the 2020-21 school year, with the adjustment to the transportation section, and the acknowledgement that it is a working document. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: Chris Helgeson made a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.


Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent


April Simonson
Board Director