

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 27, 2019

Jennie Marie Giovenale-Austin Library

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

Attendance: Chris Helgeson, John Jensen, Jen Phillips, April Simonson

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Marilyn Fudge, Patrick Dehuff, Sagrario Jimenez, Cece Badda, Gretchen Jenkins

Board Members Absent: Amy Grove

Guests:

Approve Agenda: John Jensen made a motion to approve the agenda for the August 27, 2019 board meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Board Minutes: Chris Helgeson made a motion to amend the date of the previous board meeting minutes to July 25, 2019 and approve the minutes. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Appoint New Board Member: April Simonson was interviewed and selected by the Board of Directors at the July 30, 2019 board meeting to be appointed to the vacant board position. Superintendent Dehuff issued the oath of office to Mrs. Simonson as required by the State of Washington. The board members, staff and administration all welcomed her as a member of the Board of Directors of Easton School District. Mrs. Simonson joined the board at the table.

Communication to the Board: None

Public Comment: None

Reports:

Financial: Business Manager, Sagrario Jimenez provided the monthly financial and enrollment report. Mrs. Jimenez reviewed the report with the Board of Directors, and the audience. The financial report and the enrollment report are attached to the minutes.

Staff: Cece Badda and Gretchen Jenkins shared information from the staff report. They mentioned that the staff training day that was held today went well. Staff was provided with professional development training and updates. Concerns about the budget was discussed and staff will work with administration to look for ways to reduce costs. The paraprofessionals recently attended a two-day training in Ellensburg. Dave Allenbaugh attended a CTE conference over the summer. Cece Badda is working with the Sexual Health Education Committee. There are teachers and parents on this committee. Ms. Badda will continue to attend trainings, and

conferences with this committee, which is funded by OSPI.

Student Report:

Principal Report: Principal Bechtholdt shared that our current enrollment is 47 students in grades K-6, and 45 students in grades 7-12. In addition, we currently have 11 preschool students who will start on October 1st. Mrs. Bechtholdt felt that we had a great all staff day today. This year, our counselor from Comprehensive Mental Health that we contract with will be at Easton School on Wednesdays. Marchel Allenbaugh will continue to teach computer skills through the Technology, Education, and Literacy in Schools (TEALS) partnership with Microsoft. Lyn Cox will be teaching a High School personal development class to help build social skills and leadership to our High School students. School pictures will be taken on September 11, 2019.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Dehuff welcomed April Simonson to the Board. He said that there were good conversations today when he spoke to the staff about the need for budget cuts. He mentioned that he would be soliciting input and suggestions from the staff on ways to reduce expenditures. The reason for the financial concern is because of the impact of losing local levy funds. There was a state-wide cap of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for local Maintenance and Operation levies (also known as Educational Programs and Operations levies) that helps fund the day-to-day operations. Many school districts throughout the state could not manage their budget at that level so the cap was raised to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. However, there was a clause in the wording that said school districts would receive up to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation or \$2,500 per student, whichever is less. Originally, this was put in place so that school districts on the west side of the state that had deep assessed valuations would not receive too much money. However, it ended up hurting some small school districts, including Easton School District. Our collection of local levy funds for the Educational Programs and Operations levy at Easton School was 98 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and the new law forced it down to 43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. We will continue to advocate our concerns to the legislature in hopes of getting some relief for small school districts. In the meantime, we will explore ways to reduce expenditures to minimize the loss to our fund balance.

Board Report: John Jensen requested that the flags on the exterior of Easton School be replaced and the pulleys adjusted so they can go higher on the pole.

Board Business: The board discussed changing the meeting time for board meetings to start at 5:30 pm. John Jensen made a motion to change the start time for board meetings to 5:30 pm. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried. Resolution # 451 allows the district to move ahead with a bus purchase that was discussed in previous board meetings. Jen Phillips made a motion to approve Resolution # 451. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried. The WIAA requests an annual signed agreement for our students to participate in sports in neighboring school districts that Easton School does not offer. April Simonson made a motion to approve the agreement. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

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

Meeting Adjourned: Chris Helgeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.


Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent


Chris Helgeson
Board Chair