

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 29, 2020
Zoom Meeting

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

Attendance:

Board Directors: John Jensen, Jen Phillips, April Simonson, Chris Helgeson

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Julie Miller, Jackie Tate, Gretchen Jenkins, Cece Badda, Ofelia Todd, Jennifer Jensen, Cathy Hammerburg

Guests: Alex Tutino, Michael Tutino, Teri Campbell, Zach Campbell, Stephanie Porter, Keri Kaestner, Phillip Meehan, Dr. Mark Larson

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

Communication to the Board: None

Public Comment: No written public comments were submitted. Participants were allowed an opportunity to speak during the discussion on the Hybrid model.

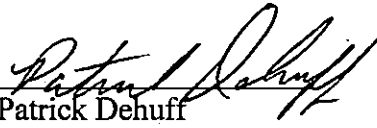
Hybrid Model for Easton School: Superintendent Dehuff discussed the recent survey results that were sent to students, parent/guardians, and staff. There were 43 student survey responses, 37 parent/guardian survey responses, and 20 staff survey responses. Dr. Dehuff sent the survey results to the Board of Directors on Saturday, and provided another update today! He thanked all of the students, parents/guardians, and staff who completed the survey. There were varied responses in the survey results. Some parents said they wanted their child to attend Easton School for in-person instruction as soon as possible. Other parents said that they were concerned about the health risk of in-person instruction and that they preferred to keep their child in remote learning. Others said that they prefer in-person instruction but had concerns about mandating the use of a face mask. Most of the students who filled out the survey said that they preferred to attend Easton School in-person. Board Director Jen Phillips said that the survey questions for the student survey should have included more information on what a Hybrid model would entail so students could make a more informed decision. Most of the staff said that they would like to have students back for in-person instruction but some shared concerns for health and safety and felt that we should start with smaller groups of students to help ensure safety and social distancing.

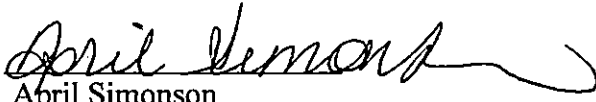
Dr. Mark Larson, Kittitas Health Department gave an update on cases in Kittitas County. He said the current cases per 100,000 is 118.1 and that the majority of cases were from Ellensburg. Dr. Larson spoke to the change in numbers. The numbers have increased since Central Washington University opened for the school year. The school did a good job in preparing to

open this fall, but social gatherings of college students off campus continues to happen and contributes to the spread of COVID-19. The growth in numbers of cases in Kittitas County is highest in the age range of 20 to 29 years of age. Dr. Larson mentioned that if you took out the cases that were attributed to CWU students, the numbers would be much better. Superintendent Dehuff asked Dr. Larson what his thoughts were about Easton School opening up in a Hybrid model. Dr. Larson said that he thought it would be fine because the majority of the cases in the County are in the Ellensburg area and, currently, there are few cases in the Easton area. He said the risk increases if we start to have an outbreak of cases in Easton or in our school. Dr. Larson said that he would work with us and provide guidance if we have a spike in cases. Rachel Henderson discusses safety measures that have been put in place.

The Board had some further discussion on the survey results, the planning that has been done for a Hybrid model, and safety concerns. Phillip Meehan shared some of the procedures that were being developed in Kent School District. Stephanie Porter mentioned the need to get students back to school as soon as possible. Terri Campbell shared the challenges that students are having with multiple log-ins for remote learning. April Simonson made a motion to approve the return of Easton School students, grades K-6, for in-person instruction in a Hybrid model beginning October 20th and the return of Easton School students, grades 7-12, for in-person instruction in a Hybrid model beginning November 12th. Chris Helgeson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adjourn Meeting: Chris Helgeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.


Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent


April Simonson
Board Director