

Easton School District #28  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
April 27, 2021  
Zoom and In-person

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by April Simonson at 5:33 PM.

**Attendance:** Jen Phillips, April Simonson, Chris Helgeson, Phillip Meehan

**Staff:** Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Jenny Jensen, Becky Houle, Cece Badda, Gretchen Jenkins, Gary Wargo, Marchel Allenbaugh, Ofelia Todd, Tracy VanLone, Freida Ellison

**Guests:** Teri Campbell, Lyn Cox, David Hamilton, Loreydy Santiago, Sarah Conner, Sarah Hamilton, Aaron Heyer

**Approve Agenda:** Phillip Meehan made a motion to approve the agenda. Chris Helgeson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Board Minutes:** Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting on April 13, 2021. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Communication to the Board:** None

**Public Comment:** Student ASB report: Loreydy Santiago shared with the board that the two designs of the safety masks that the ASB has purchased. Each design has the school colors and school mascot in different design configurations. The ASB provided one mask to each school staff member. The feedback on the design and fit was good. The ASB is planning on purchasing more masks to sell to anyone in order to support Easton School. Additionally, anyone entering the school now will notice the new walk off carpets and flags with the school logo and the jaguar mascot. Loreydy reported that on May 21, elections of ASB officers for the 21-22 school year will be held. Gary Wargo thanked the ASB for the masks. The first Baking with Betsy event was fun. David Hamilton said that "Betsy" (Julie Miller) was enjoyed by all of the students who participated. The next "Baking with Betsy" is on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. This baking adventure will involve strawberries. All are invited to watch the activity on Zoom.

**Financials:** Frieda Ellison reviewed the budget status report, financial trends, and enrollment report.

**Consent Agenda:** Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Staff Report:** The staff report was presented by Becky Houle.

Update on Cece Badda's classes: K-6 PE students are juggling, playing soccer, and fitness testing. They are also learning about the sleeping patterns of animals and tracking their own sleeping habits. Jr High PE and Lifetime Fitness students learned how to make snares and bolas in their outdoor survival unit. HS Photography students are going to enter images in the WA State HS Photography Competition. They are entering images in the following categories: abstract, animals, portraits, still life, documentary, architecture, people manipulation and landscape.

**Mrs. Houle, K-1:** The students are excited to begin the Life Cycle Of The Painted Lady Butterfly unit! They will observe, describe and record as they track the butterfly through the stages of its life cycle. They'll make predictions and communicate their findings in words and drawings within their own scientific notebook!

**Jessica Lewis, English:** In English class, we are starting to get into the swing of a full day schedule. With the full days we have been able to do more in class discussions about literature, grammar, and writing skills. Students are showing more engagement in the classroom since I have started to see them almost every day of the week. In all of English secondary classes we are working through a poetry unit (April is National Poetry Month!) and students are enjoying writing their own poems. We are also working on writing skills through essay work and creative writing prompts. With being on a nearly full day schedule, students are showing more improvement in their English skills (reading, writing and critical thinking).

**Mr. Johnson, Secondary Science:** Students are transitioning to full days without issue. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are currently focused on evolution and the process of natural selection. This will complete the 4<sup>th</sup> life science disciplinary core idea from the middle school Next Generation Science Standards "Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity." Following the unit on evolution, we're going to learn about local geology, minerals and rocks. Steve Jensen has agreed to bring in his gold mining equipment and talk the students through the process of hobby gold mining.

High School students are still working primarily in Edgenuity. In comparison to the first quarter, students are showing improvement at staying on pace with the curriculum, being self-starting and producing quality work. As of 4/23, over 85% of the Edgenuity students are passing their classes with many of those scoring in the A/B range. Those students who continue to struggle or procrastinate are receiving communication to the home on a weekly basis. Recently, classes from all grade levels have been making trips outside to make firsthand observations and to take full advantage of the agreeable weather.

Tracy Van Lone added to the report information about secondary advisory. Advisory is held every Monday at 1:22 PM. Students are working on their high school and beyond plan during these times. Students are also working on public speaking and resume writing. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are focusing on problem solving. Mrs. Van Lone's algebra class is ending the school year watching the stock market.

**Principal Report:** Principal Dawn Bechtholdt presented the following report. Secondary Students returned to full days on April 13<sup>th</sup> and it has been great to see them in the classes. Some students have been able to make great progress being in person so we are thrilled about that. Practice through homework is still hit and miss, but having the Schoology system for delivery and assessment has been very helpful for students and staff. It does take some more planning time but we are continuing to learn and will get better as we keep moving forward. It is especially helpful for our remote students.

Our Distance Learning Specialist has been providing instruction using Edgenuity and working with teachers support to our remote learners and others who have been referred to her by teachers as needing additional check in and support. She has also met with seniors and has planned a fun senior night event in June for them to go to an Escape Room in Yakima and out to dinner. This Spring has been busy for CTE. We are updating to some new courses that provide more robust learning opportunities for students. You have the Core Plus Frameworks and the new Computer Programming and Applied Algebra courses. Teachers have been working with advisory committees to complete Program Review and updates. We have our final Spring General Advisory Committee meeting at the end of the month.

We have been looking at a way to consolidate our student assessment system to provide us a more longitudinal lens for students that is applied across K-12. There will no State SBA testing this year, but we will be finishing our assessment data this year with Moby Max and other classroom-based assessments teachers used to assess

students so we can submit our end of year reports with the same tools. We are also going to test our students with I-Ready later in May, to establish a baseline that we will use moving into next year. This test is OSPI approved to support the Dyslexia Screener required, as well as provides tools that support personalized learning for students and reports that document mastery of standards for teachers and parents. We have also met in teams to complete the Academic and Student Well Being Recovery Plan and will have a draft ready for review at our next school board meeting. We will be getting input from students and parents too.

**Superintendent Report:** Superintendent Dehuff said how much he has appreciated working with everyone and appreciates the hard work each staff member is doing. He misses being in the building and with the Easton students and staff. Dr. Dehuff reported that the fund balance is in good shape. The year started out with grim prospects for revenues, however the picture is brighter given state and federal support and also that they have worked hard on pursuing grants. Dr. Dehuff reviewed the outcome of the recent Legislative Session with respect to K-12 funding. The Legislature did support schools statewide with passing Pupil Transportation and Enrollment stabilization funding. These measures within the state budget will help stabilize revenues next school year given the enrollment and transportation ridership losses during the pandemic year of 2020-21. More information on how the Legislative session affects school operations will be made when WASA comes out with their document that summarizes all of the legislative actions that affect public schools throughout the state.

**Board Business:** Leave of absence and resignation: Superintendent Dehuff has requested to go on leave beginning July 1, 2021. Dr. Dehuff was diagnosed with cancer in 2015 and treatments were successful at that time. The cancer returned in January, 2021 and he is asking for a leave of absence to focus on his health. Superintendent Dehuff read his letter requesting leave beginning June 30, 2021 and his resignation effective June 30, 2022. Dr. Dehuff reported that he has enjoyed being the superintendent of Easton School for the last 13 years. He has watched students grow into adults over the course of his superintendency here. His two children, Seneca and Alden attended Easton School from preschool through high school graduation. Seneca is graduating from Central Washington University this spring with a Bachelor's degree and endorsements to teach middle school and high school math, and Alden is also attending Central Washington University and is interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Superintendent Dehuff recognized the positive impact that Easton School had on both of his children and many other students over the years. Dr. Dehuff also mentioned that he has enjoyed all the events, trips, and sporting events he participated in. He will always be grateful for the opportunity he had being the superintendent of Easton School District. Board Chair, April Simonson thanked Dr. Dehuff for his years with Easton School. She said he has been a huge influence on our students and community.

April discussed past board level discussions and the community survey conducted during the 2019-20 school year when the financial outlook was concerning because of restrictions put on our local levy funds by the State and the potential impact of a loss of revenue because of Covid-19. As a result of the survey and anticipated budget losses, the board decided in April 2020 to reduce the principal position to .63 FTE. In the fall of 2020, with all the work required as a result of Covid planning for the reopening of Easton School, and given that the budget outlook in the fall was better than expected, Dr. Dehuff requested that the principal position be reinstated to a full FTE, which the school board approved. With Dr. Dehuff's leave request, it is time for the board to again review administrative options. Chris Helgeson shared his thoughts that the Board should consider moving ahead with a combined superintendent and principal position.

**Administrative Reorganization:** Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve the reorganization of the superintendent and principal positions to create a combined superintendent/principal position starting with the 2021-22 school year. Phillip Meehan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Superintendent request for Leave and Resignation:** The board expressed their gratitude and thanks to Superintendent Dehuff for all that he has done for the entire school community. Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve Superintendent Patrick Dehuff's request for leave effective June 30, 2021 and his resignation effective June 30, 2022. Jen Phillips seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote of the school board.

**Out of Endorsement Teaching assignments:** The following teachers need board approval for teaching outside of their endorsement areas. Marchel Allenbaugh for teaching Introduction to Computer Science – TEALS; Tracy Van Lone for teaching Microsoft Office Specialist; and Katie Estes for elementary/middle school (until her certificate arrived on 3-11-2021). Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the out of endorsement assignments. Phillip Meehan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**CTE Programs:** Principal Bechtholdt had previously reported on work being done to create new frameworks for CTE classes for the 2021-22 school year and she reported on the work done by the CTE advisory committee to approve the 2021-22 CTE program and the 5-year plan. Additionally, Gary Wargo reported that CTE teachers holding conditional certification must be approved annually by the board. Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve the 3 new CTE frameworks presented, the 2020-21 and 2021-22 CTE course list and approve the conditional certification of the 3 CTE staff members. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Preschool program for 2021-22 School Year:** Gary Wargo reported that the school office did a survey of parents to get an understanding of the need for restarting a preschool program. There is interest in a program for next year, however, many parents are not comfortable sending their children if they must wear masks. Gretchen Jenkins reports that the district will have 3 special education students in the 3-5 age group who will need preschool support. The district will gather more information to share with the board and make a recommendation at a later board meeting.

**Update on Parent/Community School Support Group (PAC):** Phillip Meehan reported that the first meeting of the PAC was attended by 4 parents and additional staff members. The meeting was mostly a time of introductions and discussing the focus of the planning group. The #1 response was that the focus of the PAC is to bridge the gap between the school and parents and community. There was discussion about the leadership positions needed for the group and what the roles would be. Phillip Meehan assured attendees that he would report to the school board on the progress and desires of the PAC. Future PAC Zoom meetings will be posted on the school website, reader board and other means of communication in order to encourage parents and community members to attend. The ASB will be scheduling a meet and greet activity soon for parents and community. This may be a great way to get the PAC introduced to the community and involved with the ASB students in organizing and conducting school events.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Chris Helgeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.



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Patrick Dehuff  
Superintendent



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April Simonson  
Board Chair