

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 22, 2021
Via ZOOM / In Person

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, Phillip Meehan

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Jenny Jensen, Gary Wargo

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Lyn Cox, Tim and Susan Berndt

Approve Agenda: Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve tonight's agenda. Phil Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of the board.

Board Minutes: Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve the June 8, 2021 board minutes. Phil Meehan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board. Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2021 minutes. Phillip Meehan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

Public Hearing:

- Capital Projects Fund Balance Extension: Board president April Simonson announced to the board that she would entertain a motion for the board to open a public hearing for the purpose of discussing the 2020-2021 Budget Extension for the Capital Projects Fund. Chris Helgeson made a motion to open the meeting for a public meeting. Phil Meehan seconded. The school board approved to move to public hearing. April Simonson explained the public hearing was open to any public comment regarding extending the Capital Project fund which is necessary to increase the appropriations limit in order to purchase the property next door to the school. There was discussion among the board members about the importance of the purchase of the adjacent property to meet the future expansion of the school. With the growth in home development in the area, the school board anticipates the need to create more classroom space and the adjacent property provides needed space for that potential expansion.
- There were no public comments offered up.
- April Simonson then declared that the public hearing was closed and the board moved on to other meeting agenda items.

Communication to the Board: None

Public Comment: None

Reports:

- Financial – Freida Ellison reviewed the status of the 2021-22 general fund budget. She

also indicated that she is putting the final touches on the draft 21-22 fiscal budgets. She shared that revenues will be a continuing issue to look at as state and local levy revenues are declining.

Gary Wargo said that he and Freida have discussed that there will be a reduction in certified salary with the retirement of the 3 teachers who were at the high end of the salary schedule. Freida will present a draft budget at the next board meeting and reminded the board that the 21-22 budgets will be on the agenda for approval at the July 27th board meeting.

Classified (ESPA) staff have settled their contract negotiations.

We have a new superintendent/ principal selected to lead the district during the 21-22 school year. We are happy to have Tim on board with us.

Consent Agenda: Chris Helgeson motion to approve. Jen Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Staff Report: Jenny Jensen shared that the end of the school year was fun. The kids were invited to the Double K Ranch here in Easton. They were able to play various games and activities. Steve Jensen prepared pulled pork for lunch. The ASB leadership group was there to help. The teachers closed up on the last day of school. The teachers are off for the summer.

Principal Report: Attached by Dawn

Superintendent Report:

- Update of Property Purchase – Mr. Gary Wargo met with the seller, Mr. Cresto, and signed the purchase and sale documents. Mr. Wargo hand delivered these papers to Amerititle in Cle Elum to start the process. August 3rd is the possible closing date. Gary will keep the board updated. The graduation was good. The weather stayed nice. Lyn Cox, the keynote speaker, did a very nice job as speaker and supported each student in her speech.

Dr. Patrick Dehuff said that his last superintendent report will be short. Dr. Dehuff reminded the board that the Levy will need to run the next year. He thanked Jen Phillips for going to Olympia with him to lift the levy lid. Easton has the lowest tax rate in the state, which is good to add to levy information. As a parent whose two children attended Easton School during their K-12 careers, he sees both of his children doing very well in their future. His children's success is attributed to the small staff at Easton. His son Alden was a bit challenging as you all remember, but the nurturing environment helped Alden succeed. Easton is a great school. As the superintendent for the past 13 years, he feels that he was supported in every way. It has been a pleasure to be here. Thank you to Lyn Cox for graduation speech. Freida Ellison, our business manager, has been great to work with and is doing wonderful things for the district. Marilyn Fudge and I worked together a long time, 13 years at school, and we served on the board together prior to working in the building. Dr. Dehuff thanked Jenny Jensen for her support of school facilities and students. He really would like to thank Mr. Gary Wargo for stepping in as the interim superintendent the second part of the school year. Dr. Dehuff's health issue was a surprise to all. Gary stepped right in to help Easton School. Dr. Dehuff ended his report by thanking the board, the classified staff and certificated

staff for the last 13 years of his service to the school district.

Board Report:

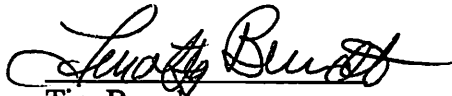
- John Jensen asked about an update on the water testing. Gary reported that while reviewing the water test results, he had looked at the results that were reported in parts per million. The health department's new standards look at the results in parts per billion. This changed the results previously shared with the board. Test results in terms of 'parts per billion' indicate that the shower rooms had a higher level of lead than is allowed in the new state rules. First step in resolving this is we will be installing a water filter at each shower room sink. Steve will be doing that this summer and then the district will retest water quality at all sink areas and drinking fountains throughout the school.
- John Jensen talked about the upcoming Marion Meadows meeting with the County Commissioners. Mr. Jensen stated that as a board, he would like to see a letter signed by the board members. The decision is also to contact the attorney they have spoken with prior regarding Marion Meadows, and request a letter to the people associated with the building of the Marion Meadows development. Nothing has been done. Dan Carlton, one of the people associated with the development, came to one board meeting to have a discussion with Easton board. They left the meeting and have not been to a board meeting since.
- Phillip Meehan thanked the staff who were able to attend graduation.

Board Business:

- Rescind Hire: Buddy Woodman – Buddy had indicated to the district that he was moving to the west side of the state and, as a result, would not be able to serve the district in the PE/Health position. – Phillip Meehan made a motion to approve. Jen Phillips seconded. The motion passed.
- Hire Kyle Hickman, PE, Health and Fitness –John Jensen made a motion to approve the hire of Kyle Hickman as PE, Health and Fitness teacher- Chris Helgeson seconded. The motion passed.
- Business Manager Contract 2021-2022 – Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 contract with Freida Ellison. Jen Phillips seconded. The motion passed.
- Approve Capital Project Fund Budget Extension Resolution #456 - Chris Helgeson made a motion to approve Resolution #456. Jen Phillips seconded. The motion passed.
- Review Preliminary 2021-22 Budget Plan provided by Freida - Discussion
- Interim Superintendent/Principal Contract for 2021- 2022 – Phillip Meehan made a motion to approve the hiring of Mr. Tim Berndt as the interim Superintendent/ Principal for the 2021-2022 school year. Chris Helgeson seconded. The motion passed.
- Approval of the 2021-2024 ESPA Classified Contract- Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the contract. April Simonson seconded. The motion passed.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Chris Helgeson made a motion to adjourn. Phillip Meehan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Meeting Adjourned:



Tim Berndt
Superintendent



April Simonson
Board Chair