

ELMA SCHOOL DISTRICT #68

Regular Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014255249>

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 06:00 PM

Call to Order

The Elma School District #68 Board of Directors met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 via Zoom Meetings. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson Bernadette Bower at 6:00pm.

Flag Salute

Board Chairperson Bernadette Bower led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jamie Bailey, Bernadette Bower, Ryan Cristelli, Stephanie Smith, and Jody Thompson.

STAFF PRESENT: Becki Spivey, Cris Cisneros, Debi Ohashi, Jessica Burgher, Jeff Monroe, Bobbi Smith, Kerry Murphy, Melissa Crisp, Rob Ohashi, Stacey Rockey, Laura Nelson, Suzanne Thietje, Wendy Beldin, Kari Eaton, Heather Moore, Andel Hoke, Angie Salvaggi, Bethany Grijalva, Brandi Thomas, Carrie Vessey, Deanne Woita, Debbie Woodruff, Denise Boling, Donna Burgess, Elizabeth Tarman, Greg Scroggins, Jane Allaire, Kathleen Stidham, Kaye Pearse, Kayli Hendricks, Kendra Dunn, Kim Bouchard, Kim Vest, Liz Farrar, Maria Cruz, Marilynn Curl, Mary Roberts, Megan Hinderlie, Melinda Tuttle, Michelle Hill, Raquel Cruz, Shawnie Rakevich, Sheila Wells, Shelley Arnold, Stacey Trimble, Terri Burkett, Tonya Hutchings, Tracey Key, Elizabeth Cline, Barb Snyder, Christi Kershaw, Rich Rasanen, Sunshine Perry, Julie Crawford, Erin Walker, Kristi Stewart, Cheyenne Roberts, Caleb Bogar, Mark Keating, Kevin Acuff, Eric Smith, Lisa Arnold, and Kendis Goldsmith.

GUESTS: Josh Colette, David, Tyson, Kina Delimont, Cristelli, Karissa Clark, Lacey McMeekin, Laura, Mandie, Marsha Hendrick, Sarra Burnett, Shelley, Teresa Hann, Tiffany Lessard, Kari Sample, and other unnamed community members.

Letters

*Lisa Lemons-Kearse Hire Letter

Board Clerk Kendis Goldsmith read the following letter:

I would like to recommend Lisa Lemons-Kearse for the above listed position at Elma High School for the 2020/2021 school year beginning 12/14/2020. Lisa has experience working with students through her subbing and home schooling experiences. She is already well respected at EHS through the listed practices. She will be responsible for working with ELA students struggling academically and identified through the LAP program. She will also be responsible for other assigned duties as a result of struggling learners resulting from the school closure.
Respectfully,
Rich Rasanen

Prior to moving to the Consent Agenda, Board Member Jamie Bailey asked about our Leave Without Pay process. Superintendent Kevin Acuff explained, that typically, a LWOP would be approved by the Board prior to the time off being taken. He is following up with the administrator to find out why we received it so late and to determine corrective actions if necessary.

Consent Agenda

Business

Donation of \$500 from Ben & Martha Ohashi for Needy Students

Donation of \$71.80 from NASA Robotics to Maintenance

Personnel

Hires

*Lisa Lemons-Kearse -Temporary HS Student Support ELA Paraeducator

Retirements

Leave Requests

Rebecca Johnson (HS) - LWOP

Resignations

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for November 24, 2020

Approval of Vouchers

GF Vouchers: #159050 - #159084 Totaling \$95,197.69

PPT Voucher: #159049 Totaling \$1,063.58

ASB Vouchers: #159047 - #159048 Totaling \$1,449.20

Payroll Vouchers: # - # Totaling \$

ASB Vouchers: #159044 - #159046 Totaling \$17,141.68 Void Totaling -\$17,341.68

ASB Vouchers: #159041 - #159043 Totaling \$17,341.68

Voucher: #159085 Totaling \$370.95

Motion made by Jamie Bailey, second by Ryan Cristelli to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

Communications and Comments

ETO

EESP

ECOPA

ADMIN

Persons to be Heard

Good News

Superintendent Kevin Acuff shared that FoodBowl raised over \$17,000 for our local foodbanks. He thanked all involved and especially the leaders that ran it. He also reported the Elma Flight Foundation was able to have their online auction.

Reports

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Acuff reported that we have been back in school for Pk-2 since December 2nd. He was impressed with everyone's teamwork to make it happen and it made everyone happy to have kids in school. He thanked the Board for their courage in choosing to send the kids back to school. He also reported that the Gates Foundation has asked he and Rich Rasanen to share their processes in closing achievement gaps. He congratulated the staff for their work in closing achievement gaps. Board Chairperson Bernadette Bower also thanked the staff for their work.

Student Representative Report

No student representative report.

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion of Reopening

Superintendent Acuff shared Student Representative Ella Moore's report for the elementary. Things are going well and exceeding expectations. Grateful to the middle and high school to help with the duties and signs. The new drop off and pickup procedure is going well and getting better everyday. We appreciate the staff's flexibility during these times. They are doing things now that are different and new. And, they have been great with taking it all in.

Superintendent Acuff shared that the governor and superintendent of public instruction had a news conference and shared a new decision tree or guidelines. The superintendent reviewed the changes. The high category is greater than 350/100,000 in the last 14 days, test positivity is less than 10%, and trends headed downward or flat. Phase in in-person learning in groups of 15 or fewer students for Pre-K through grade 5 and those with highest needs. Prioritize Pre-K through grade 3, and students in any grade with disabilities, students living homeless, or those farthest from educational justice. If schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, add grades 4-5. They are recommending what we are doing. He had planned to recommend to bring back grade 3 on January 11th and, possibly, all of the grades on February 1st. There are still no extra-curricular activities under the high category. The moderate range has the biggest change with the high as 350 and the low as 50 cases. Today's current numbers are at 395 and we could be in the moderate category any day. A lot of our cases are from the outbreak at Stafford Creek Correctional Facility. Extra-curricular activities are allowable in the moderate category following the governor's guidelines. In the low category, all students return to in-person learning. He also pointed out that in both the high and moderate categories, there is still a phased in approach. There are concerns about moving faster in regards to transportation, lunches, and any other services that we are providing.

They are working on logistics of lunches as we bring more students back to school. With many losing their jobs, we do not want to negatively effect kids and their access to food.

Board Member Stephanie Smith liked the verbiage that was added to the transition portion of the document that even when trends increase that there could be a pause in expansion and the school would not be required to reduce in-person learning.

Superintendent Acuff said that is a great point and it was even spoken about in the news conference today.

Board Member Smith asked about the test positivity. In the previous document that we were using, the test positivity was off on the side and it could be used as a guideline if you wanted to. With the test positivity being in the document, did they comment on that at all?

Superintendent Acuff responded that this is not a new decision tree and it is guidelines. They want the Board to look at all of the guidelines to make a decision, which include case numbers, test positiviy, and trends. This gives more freedom in decision making. It also has new verbiage in regards to case numbers, adding an "about" 200 for the return of high school students.

Board Chairperson Bower also likes the new verbiage that involves looking at the surrounding community. Previously, we had to use the county numbers as guidelines.

Board Member Jamie Bailey appreciates the recommendation of the superintendent. She is concerned about the kids that are struggling with grades right now. What are we doing between now and February 1st for those kids that are struggling with grades?

Elma Elementary Principal Mark Keating shared that for grades 3-5 students are still coming in. For those students that are not engaging, he and Assistant Principal Greg Scroggins are doing some home visits. They are doing their best to reengage some of those students. Some teachers are doing individual or small group zoom meetings. Special Education Department and ELL are working hard to continue to provide services for students. At the elementary level, the basic needs are the most important needs to be met. They are doing the most they can without being in the home.

Elma Middle School Sunshine Perry shared that they have a help desk at the middle school that is available during school hours. They help with virtual schooling. The teachers reach out to families when they have a student that is failing. They also have a team that helps students and families that are struggling. The plans become individualized for students that are struggling.

Elma High School Principal Rich Rasanen stated that they are going to start providing transportation for some students when needed. The ELA paraeducator that was hired tonight will also provide support for those students.

Board Chairperson Bower asked if the high school was still coordinating help for students that are struggling.

Principal Rasanen replied that the high school maintains a spread sheet when a student is reached out to in any way.

East Grays Harbor High School Principal Julie Crawford said that she works individualized with students and teachers are meeting via zoom. The secretary/paraeducator tracks students down when needed. They are watching their kids carefully. They do have students that are not participating and they are changing their plan to try and get them involved.

Board Member Jody Thompson thanked the principals for the update. While she does not want to wait, she would like to emphasize to continue to reach out in the small groups and up to 15 per state guidelines. She would like to encourage the contact with the high school and middle school students until the students can come back at the start of the semester. She is concerned about grades for the high school students. Last spring, the students were given a pass, but that is not the case this year.

Board Chairperson Bower agrees and would like to increase the group size as much as possible, with the four weeks until the next semester. She wants to make sure that we are doing as much as we can now to help students.

Board Member Stephanie Smith agreed with Board Member Thompson that coming into school makes a big difference. She pointed out that the document says that kids who are struggling can be brought in and the next four weeks are very important.

Board Member Ryan Cristelli is looking forward to get kids back in to school. He has only heard positive things about the young learners going back. The semester will also be a good transition for staff. The start of a new semester will also be good for logistics and grading. He also agrees that getting any students in now that are struggling would be good for students.

Board Chairperson Bower pointed out that we have a big mix of families in our district and that larger groups of students coming in would be very impactful. She thanked the superintendent for his quick response to the news conference.

New Business

1. Approval of Girls' Basketball Booster Fundraisers

Booster Representative Kari Sample shared her fundraisers, which are spirit wear, Krispy Kreme donuts, and concessions (if those are able to be done).

Superintendent Acuff clarified that the athletic director signs off on fundraisers to make sure that there is not a cross over between other groups doing the same fundraiser at the same time.

Motion made by Ryan Cristelli, second by Jamie Bailey. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

2. Approval to use Northwest Leadership Associates for Superintendent Search

Board Chairperson Bower explained that this is the company that they would like to use to find a new superintendent.

Motion made by Jody Thompson, second by Stephanie Smith. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

***3. Approval of Pierce County Careers Connection Memorandum of Agreement**

CTE Director Christi Kershaw explained that this is an agreement to a new dual credit opportunity.

Superintendent Acuff pointed out that dual credit is one of the criteria that is counted towards winning the award like the Gates Foundation Award.

Motion made by Jody Thompson, second by Jamie Bailey. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

Board Chairperson Bower thanked CTE Director Kershaw for always championing for students.

***4. Approval of 20-21 EEA MOU Covid19**

Superintendent Acuff explained that this is for coaches in the district. It was a negotiated agreement that Rob Ohashi helped with. Coaches and activity leaders will be receiving their pay through many different avenues.

Motion made by Ryan Cristelli, second by Stephanie Smith. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

Enrollment

Superintendent Acuff reported that enrollment is at 1420, which is one less than last month. There has been a lot of discussion of what the Legislature might do to assist school districts and funding. He also discussed how transportation funding works.

Board Member Smith asked about the kids from Eagle Sky Academy and how many students will change at semester.

EGHHS Principal Crawford said that at the quarter most students that wanted to come back to school were transitioned back into class. She does not know how many will want to at the semester.

Board Chairperson Bower asked how many students have been transitioned back from Eagle Sky Academy.

EGHHS Principal Crawford said there have been about 40-50 that have left Eagle Sky Academy. While there have been some struggles with the program, the students that transitioned out of Eagle Sky Academy needed regular teacher contact.

Superintendent Acuff clarified that we do not lose state funding for those students that are in Eagle Sky Academy. However, we do have to pay for each student that is in the Eagle Sky Academy program. The cost is about a \$1,000 per student per semester.

EGHHS Principal Crawford pointed out that we are charged month by month and anyone who leaves that program we are no longer charged for.

Budget Report

Business Manager Lisa Arnold reviewed the budget report. She explained that there are many unknown factors due to Covid-19. The ending fund balance right now is \$5,000,000. She is still reviewing the projects that still need to be done.

Board Member Thompson thanked Lisa for the report. She wants to definitely look at our projects with the amount of our fund balance.

Board Chairperson Bower thanked Lisa for pointing out the extra staff that we have budgeted for.

Elma Middle School Principal Sunshine Perry wanted to share how the counselors help the needy students in our district during the holidays. EGHHS provided for every student, but our other 3 buildings with the donations provided by the Flight Foundation were able to provide gifts for families. They also partnered with Summit Pacific and they provided a family size holiday meal. The Rusty Tractor also gave gift certificates for individual meals and they are receiving gift certificates from the Farm Stand. She wanted to thank the counselors and businesses that supported our families.

Board Chairperson thanked Sunshine and those that helped with our needy students.

Future Agenda Items

Curriculum Adoption Policy
Health Curriculum 6-12 Adoption
ELA Adoption Committee
Anti Racism Committee
Equestrian Team/Club Status
Student Representative

Executive Session

The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:15pm for RCW 42.30.110(g) for personnel for 10 minutes with no action to be taken. At 7:25pm, Board Chairperson Bower announced an additional 15 minutes. The meeting reentered the Regular Meeting at 7:40pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

***Additions to Agenda**



Board Chairperson



Board Secretary

Date