

ELMA SCHOOL DISTRICT #68

Regular Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

via Zoom Meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86309262840>

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 06:00 PM

Call to Order

The Elma School District #68 Board of Directors met in a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 via Zoom Meetings. The Board Chairperson Bernadette Bower called the meeting to order 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, Jody Thompson, and Student Representatives Brady Johnston and Ella Moore

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Smith, Jessica Burgher, Susan Vento, Barb Snyder, Stacey Rockey, Liz Farrar, Marilyn Curl, Carrie Vessey, Shawnie Rakevich, Sunshine Perry, Michelle Hill, Kim Bouchard, Kaycee Oatman, Denise Boling, Melinda Tuttle, Mark Keating, Bethany Grijalva, Suzanne Thietje, Erin Walker, Jeff Monroe, Kayli Hendricks, Caleb Bogar, Lisa Arnold, Rob Ohashi, Rich Rasanen, Theresa Helland, Julie Crawford, Bobbi Smith, Melissa Crisp, Kim Weld, Jenny Monroe, Jane Allaire, Andel Hoke, Cheyenne Roberts, Mary Roberts, Alyssa Maslen, Tonya Hutchings, Lori Carossino, Laura Nelson, Katie Dunn, Kevin Acuff, and Kendis Goldsmith.

GUESTS: R Carter, Marina Richardson, Shelley Carter, Veronica Hatch, Cindy Miles Heller, Andrew Lightfoot, Christi Murray, Mary Pederson, Kelly Monroe, Melissa Short, Erin Leuschen, Mary Wolfe, Grace Smith, Jennifer Lamont, Jennifer McKinney, Carlee Shelton, Daniel Fisher, Gwen Carrell, Alexandra Alvey, Tenniesa Burnett, Lacey McMeekin, and Matthew Perkinson.

Consent Agenda

Business

Personnel

Hires

Retirements

Leave Requests

Brittney Norris - MS Special Education Para

Resignations

Daniel Fisher - HS Equestrian Coach

Toby Spears - HS Para 6.5hr

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2020

Approval of Vouchers

GF Vouchers: #158732 - #158775 Totaling \$123,629.47

PPT Vouchers: # - # Totaling \$

ASB Vouchers: #158718 - #158719 Totaling \$1,234.10

Payroll Vouchers: # - # Totaling \$

GF Vouchers: #158720 - #158731 Totaling \$42,548.82

GF Voucher: #158776 Totaling \$394.89

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

Communications and Comments

ETO

ETO President Barb Snyder shared with the Board that the MOU received a 100% yes vote.

EESP
ECOPA
ADMIN

Persons to be Heard
Good News

Superintendent Kevin Acuff welcomed back our two student representatives.

Reports

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Kevin Acuff thanked the communications team and parents and community for all of their feedback. *He appreciates both the positive and constructive feedback. Meal delivery is continuing. The communications team is also working on updating the school district app.*

The superintendent and board discussed reopening schools. *As a district, staff, and community, we are committed to getting out students back in class. The superintendent shared the decision making process based upon K-12 Decision Tree, CDC Guidelines, Covid-19 State of Washington Metrics Dashboard Risk and Assessment, and Grays Harbor County Covid Case Count Website and how it is used as our guideline to reopen. The superintendent clarified that his job is to recommend to the Board and they make the decisions. He also addressed having childcare in our schools and not having school in our schools which is based on the state guidelines that allow childcare but do not allow in-person school with the current case numbers.*

Board Member Jamie Bailey asked how current and in sync the data is from the state website to the county website.

Superintendent Acuff said that there had been some reporting issues in the past week, but it seemed to be corrected and usually the data is simultaneous.

Board Member Bailey wanted the clarification if the gray line is actual data or anticipated numbers.

Superintendent Acuff clarified that it is actual data. He also recommended that we see a 7 day downward trend before you can see what is going on. The county recommends 4 weeks of a downward trend.

Board Member Ryan Cristelli has compared surrounding counties and noted that they peaked in August and are now coming down.

Board Chairperson Bernadette Bower remarked that our numbers have been very, very low for a long time.

Superintendent Acuff looked at Thurston County numbers and compared our county numbers.

The Board discussed case rate versus case count and how to compare them.

Board Member Stephanie Smith discussed her conversation with the county health department and how the rate of our county is higher than King County rate has been during the entire pandemic.

Board Chairperson Bower pointed out that there have been outbreaks at businesses and bars. Also, that wherever the person lives is the county that the case is counted toward.

Board Member Bailey shared that she really wants kids back in schools, and asked if numbers were in the right range are all of the buildings ready to start in-person instruction.

Superintendent Acuff responded that the only school that has been asked to be ready is the elementary and it is ready to go.

Board Member Bailey would like to set some dates to get kids back to school provided the numbers continue to decline. She is very concerned about the emotional and social well being of our kids and the toll may be worse than what the virus would do. She would like to see hard dates to get back to school because it puts us out to the end of

October.

Board Member Jody Thompson after looking at our numbers can we look on October 2nd and see if numbers are down with a hopeful restart date of October 12th.

Board Chairperson Bower wanted to know if a week is long enough to be ready.

Superintendent Acuff said yes the elementary can be ready in a week.

Board Member Bailey stated that is only for the primary.

Superintendent Acuff reminded the Board that it is up to them who they bring back.

Board Chairperson Bower wanted to point out that schools need to be "at ready" for schools to come back if our numbers go down quickly.

Superintendent Acuff thinks all schools would need a little more time than a week to be ready and it would be more about logistics (ie. bussing, lunches) than teaching because we already know how to teach in person. He is also concerned about having enough substitutes considering all of the symptoms that would place someone in quarantine.

Board Member Bailey would like explanation as to why we wouldn't just bring back everyone in all schools.

Board Chairperson Bower asked what distance and in-person learning would look like for those families that do not want to go back to in-person learning.

Superintendent Acuff acknowledged that it had been discussed but nothing has been confirmed. He wanted to make a side note that state guidance has been that young learners return first.

Board Member Thompson wanted to know if ready to come back meant hybrid or everyone back on a regular schedule.

Superintendent Acuff said this would be a hybrid model.

Elementary Principal Mark Keating reviewed his hybrid model for the elementary, which includes two groups attending either Mon/Tues or Wed/Thurs with a deep clean on Tuesday night and remote learning on Friday for all. Work would be sent home for the days that students are not physically at school. They are getting all of the details in place and trying to minimize any crossover of students.

Board Member Bailey asked if they plan was for all students or K-2.

Principal Keating is building schedules for all students in mind to minimize changes when all students are on campus. Staffing will also be a concern due to multiple recesses, etc. His building can be ready by October 12th, if it is safe to do so and the Board gives the go ahead.

Board Chairperson Bower proposed having a special meeting next week to vote, with case count numbers trending lower, to set a date for return.

Superintendent Acuff cautioned that it should be done as late as possible to make the most informed decision and recommended the meeting should be October 5th, as that would give a week's notice if they would be starting on October 12th.

Board Member Cristelli pointed out that would give us more time to see the numbers and their direction.

Board Chairperson Bower shared that the data would be from September 22nd.

Board Member Smith asked for clarification if the Board was looking for moderate range numbers or a decline.

Board Chairperson Bower said they would just be looking for a decline in numbers.

Board Member Cristelli noted that if there is a decline for the next two weeks, then cases should be under 75/100k.

Board Member Smith wanted clarification to know if they would be making the decision based on whether the county is in the moderate level or without meeting the recommendation.

Board Member Cristelli wants to be in the moderate level (<75/100k) for the safety and well being of staff and students.

Board Chairperson Bower noted that the trend should be evident in two weeks time.

Board Member Cristelli thinks it can be anticipated based on the trend by October 5th for a return on October 12th.

Board Member Bailey does not want to endanger anyone and feels the numbers are important, but questions our location (Elma) versus county numbers.

Board Member Cristelli spoke of the county map with numbers listed by zip code and to look at the trend.

Board Chairperson Bower pointed out that if numbers are trending down then our community numbers should be down by default.

Board Member Cristelli shared that all numbers are coming from the county health department.

Board Member Bailey said that she did call the health department to ask for just Elma's case numbers and they will not give those out.

Superintendent Acuff also asked them about using zip code numbers to base opening and closing of schools on and they recommended not using that method as that is not how the metric was set up. He also pointed out that the biggest caseload is currently in Aberdeen.

Board Member Smith discussed with the health department Pacific County's data and reasoning for going back to school. North River is not going back as most of the people associate with Grays Harbor County more than Pacific County. If there is any data that can be localized, it should be used.

Superintendent Acuff pointed out that Pacific County is in the low range.

Board Member Smith agreed that is why Pacific County can go back.

Board Member Cristelli said they were in the low 30s per 100,000.

Board Member Thompson agrees that October 5th meeting is a good place to start.

Board Member Bailey agrees that meeting on October 5th is a good idea, but not convinced that we need to be at <75/100k cases.

Board Member Smith would like to see small groups in the K-2 group coming back on campus to get things started with protocols as long as it is within the safe range.

Board Member Cristelli thought that was already happening with small groups.

Board Member Smith thought small pods would be ok, but definitely not a hybrid program.

Elementary Principal Keating having small groups that are not engaging or having a difficult time engaging and those are the ones that are being targeted for small groups and appointments. They are continuing to look for those opportunities to help those kids most at risk.

Board Member Bailey asked if that was being done at all levels.

Superintendent Acuff that yes it was being done at all levels with appointments.

Board Member Bailey very concerned about the kids that are not being engaged at all, especially the high school level.

Special Services Director Stacey Rockey wanted the Board to also consider preschool, instead of K-2.

Board Member Smith said it is definitely part of the conversation and it was just a "misspeak". She asked the Superintendent what the plan is for families that do not want to bring kids back when the time comes.

Superintendent Acuff does not have a specific answer for staffing. High school's plan is all students on one day for periods 1,2,3 and the next day is 4,5,6. There is still the remote day on Friday for help, but there is not a specific plan for those that are not comfortable attending yet.

Board Member Bailey asked if a survey could be done to see who would be coming in and who would be staying home.

Board Member Smith wants to be sure that we are sensitive to all families and think through all groups.

Board Chairperson Bower agrees their needs to be a plan for that.

Board Member Thompson asked if students could still enroll in Eagle Sky Academy if they wanted.

Board Chairperson Bower replied that it was too late.

Board Member Smith wonders if one of our teachers could stay remote for those that do not feel comfortable coming back.

Board Member Cristelli says that it all comes down to numbers.

Board Chairperson Bower would like a survey sent out to "take the temperature" of our families as to who would come back and who would like to remain at home for schooling. She set a tentative date for October 5th for a Special Board Meeting depending on caseload numbers.

Athletic Director Rob Ohashi would like the Board to consider a return to athletics at the next meeting.

Board Chairperson Bower and Board Member Bailey agreed that it needed to be discussed.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative Ella Moore reported that the staff at the elementary are working really hard.

Work Study Session

1. Discussion of Reopening Plan

Reopening Plan was discussed during Superintendent's Report.

2. Discussion of Policy & Procedure 3414 - Infectious Diseases

3. Discussion of Policy & Procedure 3418 - Response to Student Injury or Illness

4. Discussion of New Policy & Procedure 6512 - Infection Control Program

Unfinished Business

1. Approval of Policy & Procedure 3414 - Infectious Diseases - Final Reading

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

2. Approval of Policy & Procedure 3418 - Response to Student Injury or Illness - Final Reading

Motion made by Ryan Cristelli, second by Jody Thompson. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

3. Approval to Adopt Policy & Procedure 6512 - Infection Control Program - Final Reading

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

New Business

1. Approval of Porter Foster Rorick Agreement

Superintendent Acuff shared that our previous contract negotiator has retired and this agreement would replace our negotiations team, while also providing a cost savings. Motion made by Ryan Cristelli, second by Jamie Bailey.

Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

2. Approval of 20-21 COLA

Business Manager Lisa Arnold explained that this is the state COLA to pass through to all employees. Motion made by Jody Thompson, second by Jamie Bailey. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

3. Approval for Equestrian Team to Return to Club Status

After discussion from the Athletic Director Rob Ohashi, EHS Principal Rich Rasanen, the Board, and parents, the motion was tabled until the next meeting for further discussion with more parent input. Board Chairperson Bower asked that Board Member Bailey work with Athletic Director Ohashi and others to work out more details. Athletic Director Ohashi asked that without a coach that there will not be any practices.

At this time, Daniel Fisher rescinded his resignation as the Equestrian Coach until a decision is made. *Motion made by Jamie Bailey to accept the rescinding of his resignation, second by Ryan Cristelli. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.*

Motion made by Jamie Bailey to move to table the Equestrian Team move to club status, second by Jody Thompson. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

*4. Minimum Basic Education Requirements

Superintendent Acuff explained that this is something that happens every year and that the hours that he calculated includes late starts if they are placed back on the calendar. Motion made by Stephanie Smith to approve the Minimum Basic Education Requirements, second by Jody Thompson. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

Enrollment

Superintendent Acuff shared that enrollment is down 52 from budget.

Budget Report

Business Manager Lisa Arnold lost internet and was unable to discuss the budget report. Superintendent Acuff reviewed the fund balance report.

Future Agenda Items

Executive Session

The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:44pm for RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a) for 15 minutes with no action to be taken. At 8:00pm, the Board Chairperson announced an additional 10 minutes. At 8:10pm, an additional 5 minutes was announced. At 8:15pm, an additional 10 minutes was announced. At 8:25pm, an additional 10 minutes was announced. At 8:35pm, an additional 5 minutes was announced. At 8:40pm, an additional 10 minutes was announced. At 8:50pm, the meeting reentered the Regular Meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Board Chairperson

Board Secretary

Date

All minutes italicized were added to provide more detail prior to being approved on 10/14/20.