

Board Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

via Zoom Meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87417142942>

1/27/2021

1. Call to Order

The Elma School District #68 Board of Directors met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 via Zoom Meetings. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson Bernadette Bower at 6:02pm

2. Flag Salute

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

3. Roll Call

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

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Smith, Erin Walker, Alan Snyder, Carrie Vessey, Julie Crawford, Becki Spivey, Laura Nelson, Kari Eaton, Lisa Arnold, Deanne Woita, Bobbi Smith, Marilynn Curl, Mark Keating, Brandi Thomas, Caleb Bogar, Jeff Monroe, Kelly Rasanen, Mary Roberts, Melissa Crisp, Debbie Woodruff, Jane Allaire, Kim Bouchard, Jessica Medlin, Krista Odermann, Kristi Stewart, Liz Farrar, Robert Beldin, Stacey Trimble, Viva Cristelli, Wendy Beldin, Barb Snyder, Rich Rasanen, Rob Ohashi, Jamie Jo Hiles, Alicia Smith, Sunshine Perry, Kevin Acuff, and Kendis Goldsmith.

GUESTS: Jeff Lambert, Lynn, Lori Ann Hanson, Christina Bridge, Anne Greene, Kelly Monroe, Shelley, T Sanders, Collin Pearson, Kelly Alexander, Avery, S, Sallie McCubbin, Tonya, Mandie, Jodi K, and other unnamed community members.

4. School Board Recognition

Superintendent Kevin Acuff read the following Proclamation:

***WHEREAS**, the mission of Washington's public school system is to assure that all students achieve at high levels and possess the knowledge and skills to be responsible members of a democratic society who enjoy productive and satisfying lives; and*

***WHEREAS**, Washington's 295 locally elected school boards and nine elected educational service district boards are the core of the public education governance system in our state; and*

***WHEREAS**, the districts and regions they lead serve more than one million students, have a combined annual budget of over \$15 billion, and employ approximately 120,000 people; and*

***WHEREAS**, school directors play a crucial role in promoting student learning and achievement by creating a vision, establishing policies and budgets, and setting clear standards of accountability for all involved; and*

***WHEREAS**, school directors are directly accountable to the residents in their districts and regions, serving as a vital link between members of the community and their schools; and*

***WHEREAS**, school directors and educational service districts provide a passionate voice of advocacy for public schools and the welfare of school children; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to recognize school directors as outstanding volunteers and champions for public education;*

***NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim January 2021 as*

School Board Recognition Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed the 19th day of January, 2021

Jay Inslee

Superintendent Acuff also shared the following statement that he wrote:

We recognize our own school board for the following they give of their own time for the betterment of our school, our community, and most importantly our children. The individuals are the epitome of selfless service. Ever since the Board came to its current configuration, they have worked to make themselves into a Board that functions effectively by both honoring our staff and ensuring we are held accountable to creating the best possible educational outcomes. These community leaders have used vacation time from their workplace to do the work of this school district. The Board is allowed to be paid stipends. As a matter of fact, they actually have to take action not to receive those stipends. Each year, they have done so.

During the past 10 months of the pandemic, these exemplary humans have made decisions that are courageous in that each of those decisions were in the opposition to the wishes of some portion of our stakeholders. These wonderful, giving people have participated in negotiations, sat on committees to develop plans to change our school, and the operation of the board for the better. On behalf of the staff of our district and community as a whole, I wish to thank each of you for your willingness to step forward in a leadership role, and I thank you both personally and professionally.

Board Chairperson Bower thanked the rest of the Board and Mr. Acuff for helping them along the way.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Letters

i. Alan Snyder Retirement Letter

Board Clerk Kendis Goldsmith read the following letter:

Mark, Kevin and School Board Members,

I am writing to inform you that this will be my last year of teaching for the Elma School District, and the class I have now will be my last one.

I have truly enjoyed teaching Kindergarten here for my whole career. I want to thank the school district for hiring me in 1985 and allowing me to stay in kindergarten (and keep the same room this whole entire time).

I will certainly miss my family here at Elma Elementary, but most of all, I will miss the students and their families. I figured since I have now had a couple of grandchildren of former students, it's time to move on – haha!

Thank you for 36 years of employment at one of the best jobs ever!!!!

*Sincerely,
Alan Snyder*

Elma Elementary Principal Mark Keating shared that he hoped that everyone had the opportunity to be in Mr. Snyder's classroom because of the way he treats kids and everyone he meets. Mr. Keating thanked Mr. Snyder for being a special person.

Board Chairperson Bower thanked Mr. Snyder for the groundwork that he laid for her children.

ii. Brenna Miller Letter of Recommendation

Board Clerk Kendis Goldsmith read the following letter:

Dear Elma School Board:

On behalf of the interview committee (Wendy Beldin, Christina Bridge, Kendra Dunn, and Rob Ohashi), I recommend the hiring of Brenna Miller for an EHS Volleyball Assistant Coach position. The committee believes Brenna will be of great benefit to the Eagle volleyball program.

Brenna was a four-year player for the Elma Eagles volleyball team. After graduating from EHS in 2015, Brenna went to Grays Harbor College for one year, and then went to study on the east coast at the University of St. Joseph, 2016-2019. She played volleyball, specializing as a setter, on both college teams. At St. Joseph's, she earned Team MVP and the Coaches Award honors, and was a 2-year captain. During her summers, she was a volunteer for the EHS Volleyball program working with the setters. In 2019, she enrolled at Central Washington University and earned her B.S. in Biomedical Science in 2020.

Brenna brings with her a solid coaching resume. In addition to her summer volunteer work with EHS players, she has been a volunteer assistant coach for Capital Volleyball Club (Olympia) and was the Women's 14's Head Volleyball Coach at the Huskies Volleyball Club (Windsor, CT).

In addition to her sport specific experience and ability, Brenna brings strong communication, organizational, and teaching skill sets. She is excited to about this opportunity and it is clear she is a great fit for the program.

*Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Rob Ohashi*

b. Business

c. Personnel

i. Hires

Brenna Miller - HS Asst Volleyball Coach

ii. Retirements

Alan Snyder

iii. Leave Requests

*Brittney Norris - Extended Leave

iv. Resignations

d. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2021

e. Approval of Vouchers

i. GF Vouchers: #159188 - #159230 Totaling: \$287,444.00

ii. GF Voucher: #159231 Totaling: \$2,989.58

iii. ASB Vouchers: #159185 - #159187 Totaling: \$5,034.83

iv. Payroll Vouchers: #159232 - #159262 Totaling \$1,670,367.75

f. Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2021

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

6. Communications and Comments

a. ETO

b. EESP

c. ECOPA

d. Admin

e. Persons to be Heard

f. Good News

Superintendent Acuff shared that many in our school district have received the first of the vaccines which has put our district in a better place. Also, Grays Harbor County has also ramped up vaccinations in our area.

7. Reports

a. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Acuff shared a legislative update that includes many things that are related to Covid19. They will be requiring updates to the reopening plan, a learning recovery plan, and student recovery plans. Second round of CARES act money will be coming in, which would allow for additional personnel to facilitate those activities.

Mr. Acuff had the principals share status of their buildings.

Mr. Keating shared that the third wave of students will be coming back shortly. He thanked the Board for trusting them with this endeavor. K-3 has been attending school for the past several weeks, and while it is not normal, he will take anything they can get. They are happy to have students back in the building. Their focus has been on safety,

building relationships, and student learning. They are shuffling schedules and organizing all of the logistics. There is a real focus on supervision and safety. With the decrease in numbers, they are allowing students to move around the building a little bit more. There have been changes to those attending Eagle Sky Academy. They are also preparing for more cars in the parking lot with additional students to drop off and pick up. He feels that they are ready.

Elma Middle School Principal Sunshine Perry thanked the Board for trusting them with their kids. She also thanked all of those that have been working to get the students back in school. There was a virtual orientation last night that parents were invited to demonstrating what things would look like for students when they return. There are also two in-person orientations happening for new students and 6th grade students. Bags of supplies have been put together for each student. There are labels and signs to keep students safe. They are also ready to go and looking forward to students returning.

Elma High School Principal Rich Rasanen shared that he and East Grays Harbor High School Principal Julie Crawford are waiting to share their plans until next week after the other schools have returned. Freshmen orientation will take place on Friday by appointment.

Ms. Crawford shared that they are excited for students to return. She shared that Eagle Sky Academy have added 50 new students district-wide.

Mr. Acuff reviewed the process of deciding to return to school on Monday. As of Monday morning, we were at 255 cases per 100,000 in our county. There was a release of cases from Stafford Creek Correctional Facility last week that he worked to get off of our case total, but was unable to do so. Therefore, students in grades 9-12 are not able to return at this time. The guidelines for high school to return are about 200 cases per 100,000. Because of the ETO Memo of Understanding (MOU), we are allowed to return 14 days after the previous grade level, which would be February 15th, except that is a holiday and the next day is mid-winter break. So, the next possible date of return would be February 17th.

Board Chairperson Bower would like to request the Board's support to ask ETO to reopen bargaining due to recent changes and most of staff being vaccinated.

Board Member Stephanie Smith agrees that it would be difficult to move forward without doing that. In addition to that, she asked the superintendent to explain what that would look like.

Superintendent Acuff explained that by law an MOU must be done anytime there is a change to working conditions, which includes Covid19. One was bargained last spring and one was also done for this fall. When the fall MOU was done, there was not anything placed in there about a vaccine. Since vaccines have been made available to our staff it does reflect a change in working conditions. It is a wise thing to consider renegotiating because he wouldn't want to see a spike in case rates on February 8th and have to continue to delay another week. It would be appropriate to hear both the district and ETO's perspective.

Board Member Jamie Bailey asked how quickly negotiations could take place. She is not happy that we are not able to go back until February 17th. She shared that it is unfair to the kids and community to delay the return. She is not sure how many staff were vaccinated, but after the first dose there is 80% efficacy. She is concerned about the increased rates of suicide ideation and attempts state and nation wide, and that delaying a return to school anymore could be detrimental to our kids.

Board Member Jody Thompson also would like to reopen negotiations to get back open earlier. She asked if we are reopening negotiations for the two week review or is it the case numbers (if we take out the Stafford Creek case numbers).

Superintendent Acuff shared that the window to remove the Stafford Creek case numbers has passed. He shared that he wrote the letter to the health department for the following reason. First, he feels that we lost an opportunity to educate our kids because of their unwillingness or policy, while he was not asking them to violate their policy. The policy is not helpful to make quick and accurate decisions, especially for a school board, which is his concern. He also answered that ETO has always been very responsive to setting up bargaining sessions and would not anticipate any issues setting up a timely meeting.

Board Member Bailey asked if February 8th is out of the question for a return.

The superintendent replied that unless there is a change to the MOU, it is out of the question.

Board Member Bailey clarified that if there is a change to the MOU, then we could be back by February 8th.

The superintendent agreed and shared that anything is possible if the MOU is changed and the district and union come to an agreement.

Board Member Bailey would hope that something could be negotiated for our community and for our kids.

Board Member Ryan Cristelli agrees with the Board. We need to get the kids in sooner rather than later. If we can work out some kind of arrangements to eliminate the two week between grade levels. The numbers will still have to be looked at when they come in because of the recommendations, but still just waiting two weeks because we are starting February 1st, might be an undue wait. We need to get our students back in to school as soon as possible.

Athletic Director Rob Ohashi shared the athletic update. Season 1 for high school begins February 1st. There will be 7 activities taking place. We are in Phase 1 and if we continue to do so, going into the second week of February golf and cross country would be the only ones that would be able to compete without spectators. The rest could compete if we were under Phase 2. With that, there are still rules with the number of people that we could have at a particular event. The league is scheduling contests. He is hopeful that we will get to Phase 2 and have as full of a season as possible. Middle school sports will start on February 8th. We are going to run activities as normal under abnormal conditions. Kids and coaches will need to be masked up at all times including competition, unless they hear otherwise from WIAA.

Board Chairperson Bower asked if cross country would also be required to mask.

Mr. Ohashi said yes. It is for all activities. There is some discussion about the safety. The WIAA is trying to work with the DOH, but the guideline is what it is right now. The message to our coaches is if they don't feel that the situation is safe to put their student in an activity with a mask, then don't put them out there.

Board Member Bailey asked if the WIAA is feeling confident that sports will happen.

Mr. Ohashi said that we are hopeful that we will get to Phase 2 and we will have competitions. They are planning that things will happen. If anyone has questions, please email him.

Superintendent Acuff shared the roadmap to recovery phase dashboard that shows when we are allowed to have athletic competitions. He reviewed the current statistics. He pointed out that it is easier to stay in Phase 2 once you get there.

Mr. Ohashi shared that the WIAA website has a Covid19 tab that has a lot of information relating to sports and Covid19.

b. Student Representative Report

No report.

8. Unfinished Business

a. * Approval of Multi Sports Facility Proposal

Elma Indoor Batting and Multi-sport Booster Club President Lori Ann Hanson shared that her club was founded in 2017 to raise money to erect a 60'x132' metal building at the baseball and softball fields located on Buswell Rd. Fundraising efforts were slow because the Elma Flight Foundation had started at the same time and there was some confusion about the two groups. They applied for and received the Mariners' Grant in 2018, which helped with field maintenance. They also halted their fundraising activities during the stadium vote because they do support a new stadium. Covid19 has also severely impacted their current fundraising efforts. Last February, they were awarded a \$35,000 grant from Grays Harbor Community Foundation, which included a 6 month start date that was already extended. Due to the circumstances, which are beyond the club's control, they would like to get something started, even if it is not the complete building that they had originally wanted to build. With the school's contribution and the raised funds, they would like to build a covered area with turf flooring. The intentions would be to add walls in the future, and the Grays Harbor Community Foundation and the club's board are on board with this idea. When things

return to normal, having an additional covered practice space will reduce the stress on the current facilities.

Board Member Smith appreciates the group and their efforts. She asked how much the building would cost with the walls.

Ms. Hanson said that the quote from 2019 for a building with a guess for permit cost would be about \$220,000.

Board Member Smith said that right now there is about \$145,000.

Ms. Hanson said correct and shared that both high school baseball coach Travis Vessey and fastpitch coach Ashley Stancil were on board with this proposal also.

Board Member Bailey asked who would oversee the project.

Ms. Hanson said that Rick Gravatt has talked to Maintenance/Facility Supervisor Jeff Monroe about the project. She understands that there would be a lot of decisions that the district would need to make. Her board would be willing to support Mr. Monroe in anyway that was needed.

Maintenance/Facility Supervisor Monroe is aware of the project. He supports anything that will help athletics have an additional facility. He will do what he can on his end to make the building possible.

Board Member Bailey asked if Mr. Ohashi has looked into the project.

Mr. Ohashi knows about the project. He is also willing to do whatever is needed to make the project happen.

Board Member Thompson asked about the size of the building.

Ms. Hanson said that the quote that she has is 80'x60' and 19' tall.

Board Member Thompson asked if it was the size of the play shed at the elementary.

Board Member Cristelli agreed that it is about that size. He added that the new size of 60'x80' allows for further expansion, if funds are available. The building can be added to to make it longer.

Board Member Smith asked if there would be a price difference in building it in two stages versus building it in one.

Ms. Hanson could not speak to that because she hasn't gotten a recent quote for building it with walls.

Mr. Monroe did not know either. The building will become more involved once it is enclosed.

Board Chairperson Bower would like to see a quote for a complete building. If it is something that we could do now to save spending more money later, then she would like to do that.

Superintendent Acuff clarified some items. He recommended that we get specs before going out to bid, which would allow us to know exactly what we going out to bid for. The district has committed money to this, which would make any bid have to be made at prevailing wage. When the project came up, there was a discussion about volunteers. He recommends hiring someone to get specifications of the building that they would like.

Board Member Thompson recommended to Mr. Monroe that he should contact KCDA and North Thurston School District to gain additional information.

Mr. Acuff asked if the plan was to still locate the building between the two fields.

Ms. Hanson confirmed that placement would be between the two fields.

Mr. Acuff shared that the building would be between the two outfields.

Board Chairperson Bower asked for more information before we move forward.

Ms. Hanson has spoken with the Grays Harbor Community Foundation and they have agreed that a complete building or a building without sides can be built. They also said that the school district can take over the project.

Motion made by Jody Thompson to approve the multi-sport facility proposal and ask Kevin to collect bids, specs, and bring back more details by February meeting. Motion seconded by Stephanie Smith. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

9. New Business

a. Approval of VNN Website Contract & Volleyball and Softball Elite Agreements

Mr. Ohashi shared that this is a contract that offers upgrades to two athletic programs. Budget does allow for this expenditure. It allows these coaches to utilize this platform to a greater extent. It allows access to remote trainings. Coaches can also communicate with their team skills, drills, and conditioning. They also get unlimited one way communication to their team.

Board Member Cristelli asked if there was a smaller fee if we did a school wide contract.

Mr. Ohashi replied that if we get to \$1500, then every program can participate. If we get to that point, then we can open it up to everyone, but it is an additional \$900.

Board Member Cristelli asked if other coaches decided to get on the program then it just opens up to other sports.

Mr. Ohashi agreed that would be what would take place.

Board Member Smith asked if this is equitable across all sports.

Mr. Ohashi shared that individual sports are not having to fundraise for this. This is part of the budget that is set for each sport and everyone is able to afford it if they would like to.

Motion made by Stephanie Smith, second by Jamie Bailey. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

b. Approval of Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds & Event Center Graduation Contract

Maintenance/Facility Supervisor Jeff Monroe explained that this is the contract to secure the facility for graduation. Last year, we were not able to use the facility and they did not hold us to the contract.

Board Chairperson Bower asked if anything was requested in light of Covid19.

Mr. Monroe responded that the contract is the same as last year.

Mr. Rasanen explained that whatever the guidance is at the given time will be what we follow.

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

c. Approval of Elma Volleyball Booster Fundraisers

Elma Volleyball Booster Fundraiser Representative Chris Bridge shared that their fundraiser is for Chipotle code that allows for 33% that will be given to the booster club. It takes place on February 13th from 4pm - 8pm.

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

10. Enrollment

Superintendent Acuff shared that this month we are at 1,423, which is up 3 from last month.

11. Budget Report

Business Manager Lisa Arnold shared that our estimated fund balance at the end of the year should be around \$5.1 million. That fund balance could grow a little with additional CARES funding. She also let the Board know that she would need to bring a budget extension to the Board for the electric bus. This should happen in the next couple of weeks.

Board Member Thompson asked when she would need to do the extension by.

Ms. Arnold would like to have it done by March, but she wants to be ready when the bus is ready.

Board Member Thompson asked if the last February meeting would work.

Ms. Arnold thought that would work as long as advertising would be able to be published in time.

Mr. Acuff shared that this is for the electric bus grant.

Board Chairperson Bower asked if we should do it sooner.

Ms. Arnold said that we would need time to advertise so it would have to be the last February meeting.

Board Member Thompson asked if we would need to transfer money from general fund to capital projects for the playshed also.

Ms. Arnold said that we would need to transfer money and she would look at doing both at the same time.

12. Future Agenda Items

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

13. Executive Session

Board Chairperson Bower thanked everyone who attended. The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:32pm for RCW 42.30.110(g) for personnel for 15 minutes with no action to be taken. The superintendent informed me of the following time additions to the Executive Session. At 7:45pm, an additional 15 minutes were announced. At 8:00pm, an additional 15 minutes were announced. At 8:15pm, an additional 10 minutes were announced. The meeting reentered the Regular Meeting at 8:25pm.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Board Chairperson

Board Secretary

Date

*Additions to Agenda