

# Board Meeting Agenda

## Meeting Minutes

via Zoom Meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83754586908>

3/24/2021 06:00 PM

### 1. Call to Order

The Elma School District #68 Board of Directors met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 via Zoom Meetings. The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Board Chairperson Bernadette Bower.

### 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: Kevin Acuff, Lisa Arnold, Eric Smith, Mark Keating, Sunshine Perry, Jeff Monroe, Caleb Bogar, Julie Crawford, Rich Rasanen, Debbie Woodruff, Alyssa Maslen, Michelle Hill, Erin Walker, Viva Cristelli, Kelly Rasanen, Emily Bucy, Liz Farrar, Wendy Beldin, Alicia Smith, Bobbi Smith, Kim Weld, Lori Peterson, Greg Scroggins, Mary Roberts, Donna Burgess, Laura Nelson, Denise Boling, Kari Eaton, Suzanne Thietje, Shawnie Rakevich, Marilyn Curl, Cheree Caffall, Jamie Jo Hiles, Stacey Rocky, and Kendis Goldsmith.

GUESTS: Jeff Lambert, Lacey McMeekin, Shelley, Steve Bridge, William McGaffey, and other unnamed community members.

### 4. Consent Agenda

#### a. Letters

##### i. Kim Weld Retirement Letter

Superintendent Kevin Acuff read the following:

*Dear Mark, Greg, Kevin and School Board Members,*

*I am writing to inform you that I am resigning from my position as second grade teacher. My separation date will be May 20, 2021. My retirement date will be June 1, 2021.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and it has been an honor to have the chance to work with so many children over the years. It has been as much a pleasure to learn from them, as it has been to teach them. Thank you so very much for the opportunity.*

*I want to thank the administration for all of their support. I wish the Elma School District staff and students all the best.*

*Please let me know if you need any additional information.*

*Sincerely,  
Kim Weld*

##### ii. Scott Rockey Retirement Letter

Board Clerk Kendis Goldsmith read the following letter:

*Hello all,*

*I would like to inform you that I am planning on retiring August 30, 2021. August 30, 2021 is my separation date.*

*My state retirement date will officially be 6/30/2027*

*I appreciate working at a job that is enjoyable every day, but I have the ability to retire early and am doing so.*

*Thanks for the great years!*  
*Scott Rockey*

- iii. Jordan Decker Hire Letter
- iv. Korey Swarts Hire Letter
- v. Luna Zang Hire Letter
- vi. Evan Valentine Hire Letter
- vii. \* Ed Burgess Retirement Letter

Transportation Supervisor Caleb Bogar read the following letter:

*Dear Elma School Board Members,*

*I am writing to inform you that I will be retiring on July 1, 2021. My last day of work will be June 15, 2021 or on the last day of school in the event we have to make up any weather days. I have enjoyed working at Elma for the past 14 years and feel blessed to have met so many wonderful co-workers but I am excited to begin the next chapter of my life!*

*Sincerely,*  
*Ed Burgess*

- viii. \* Heidi Miller Hire Letter
- ix. \* Ben Rupe Hire Letter
- x. \* Roberta Hudson Hire Letter
- xi. \* Brandi Thomas Hire Letter

**b. Business**

- i. \* AED Surplus

**c. Personnel**

- i. Hires
- ii. Retirements
- iii. Leave Requests
- iv. Resignations

**d. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2021**

**e. Approval of Vouchers**

- i. GF Vouchers: #159400 - #159443 Totaling: \$169,506.90
- ii. GF Voucher: #159444 Totaling: \$1,210.30
- iii. ASB Voucher: #159446 Totaling: \$190.56
- iv. PPT Voucher: #159445 Totaling \$132.98
- v. Payroll Vouchers: #159337 - #159364 Totaling \$1,731,507.28

Motion made by Jamie Bailey, second by Jody Thompson to approve the Consent Agenda. Superintendent Acuff noted that there was a donation to the City of Elma under Business that Board Member Ryan Cristelli recused himself from. Motion passed, 4 yes, 1 abstain. Motion carries.

**5. Communications and Comments**

- a. ETO
- b. EESP
- c. ECOPA

d. Admin

e. Persons to be Heard

f. Good News

Superintendent Acuff read a letter from AESD for Elma High School's accreditation check-in:

*Dear Rich:*

*Thank you for participating in the Washington Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) Third-Year Accreditation Review on February 2, 2021. The AESD Accreditation Panel Sub-Committee uses the review to learn about the progress you and the Elma High School staff have made in implementing recommendations made during your initial accreditation presentation. The intention of this letter is to summarize the sub-committee's commendations and recommendations.*

*The AESD Accreditation Panel Sub-Committee **commended** Elma High School as follows:*

- *Working with 9th grade is powerful and essential.*
- *Continue to use person first language (students with disabilities **NOT** IEP kids or disabled students).*
- *Continue to leverage the use of data and data literacy among the staff.*

*The AESD Accreditation Panel Sub-Committee made the following **recommendations** related to the focus during the remaining three years of your accredited school improvement work:*

- *Continue to leverage the support team when school resumes in person (your "hard to fail approach").*
- *Acknowledge the work you've done during COVID - telling the story to the community and stakeholders.*

*Congratulations for your dedication to and leadership in school-wide continuous learning while working to improve the lives of the students and families you serve. We look forward to seeing you in three more years for your Six-Year Accreditation Renewal.*

*Sincerely,*

*Bob Estes*

*AESD Accreditation State Coordinator*

The superintendent commended the high school on their work.

6. Reports

a. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Acuff turned the time over to Facilities/Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Monroe and Board Member Cristelli to discuss the multi-sports facility.

Mr. Monroe shared that they have been looking at the priorities of the facilities. One of the biggest priorities is lighting. He is trying to save money on the building to have more to put into the lighting, turf, nets, etc. He is looking at the size to go out to bid for. He is leaning toward a steel structure. He will work with Board Member Cristelli and the coaches to figure out the best structure to fit our needs.

Board Member Cristelli is looking forward to working with Mr. Monroe to build a facility that will benefit many youth in our community, as the need is great.

Mr. Acuff thanked Mr. Monroe, Board Member Cristelli, Rick Gravatt, and Lori Ann Hanson for the work that they have been doing on this project for years.

Mr. Acuff thanked the Board for the work that they did to find a new superintendent. It took many hours in the last month. He thanked the Board from the community and staff.

Mr. Acuff also shared with the Board that in the coming days the state department of health and OSPI will reduce the social distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet. He shared that he has been working with the principals to implement this when it is changed by the state. They are working on the logistics, but would like to get more students in school more hours per day. He would like to have a set date to return more students before the first April board meeting, which is April 14th.

Board Member Smith asked if this was figuring out configurations.

Mr. Acuff responded yes. They are working on classroom furniture and to figure out how many students will be in each class per day. They are also waiting for the guidelines for secondary schools and distancing at lunch. He also

noted that there are other schools in Grays Harbor that are not back yet. He attributed the fact that we are back to our staff and Board.

The Board appreciates the staff working hard to get more students in school for more hours.

**b. Student Representative Report**

Elma Elementary Principal Mark Keating reported on the Dance-a-thon PTA Fundraiser. The fundraiser raised over \$12,000. The first event for cohort A was on Tuesday and the second event for cohort B will be on Thursday.

**7. Unfinished Business**

**a. Discussion and Approval to Adopt Policy and Procedure 2030 - Service Animals in Schools - 2nd & Final Reading**

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

**b. Approval of Policy & Procedure 2409 - World Language Mastery-Based Credit - 2nd & Final Reading**

Superintendent Acuff shared that Bobbi Smith requested that the next 3 policies and procedures be tabled to accommodate the needs of East Grays Harbor High School as well.

Motion made by Stephanie Smith to table policies and procedures 2409, 2410, and 2413 for three weeks, second by Jody Thompson. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

Elma High School Principal Rich Rasanen shared that there was an EHB 1121, which is a new law for emergency graduation waivers for the Class of 2021. There will be a procedure that he will write and it will need to be adopted for this school year.

**c. Approval of Policy & Procedure 2410 - High School Graduation Requirements - 2nd & Final Reading**

Tabled

**d. Approval of Policy 2413 - Equivalency Credit Opportunities - 2nd & Final Reading**

Tabled

**8. New Business**

**a. Approval of Resolution 08-2021 - Emergency Waiver of High School Graduation Credits**

Superintendent Acuff shared that this is related to this year and Covid. These are the provisions in case Covid has interfered with students earning their credits.

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

**b. \* Approval of MS Fieldtrip**

Elma Middle School Principal Sunshine Perry shared that this is a fieldtrip that is requested by Lori Carossino for Washington State History classes. There is no funding or bussing necessary. It will compare how Elma has changed over the years.

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

**c. \* Approval of Out of Area Teaching Assignment**

*Aaron Zassenhaus - HS Drama/Theater 20-21*

Technology Director Eric Smith shared that this is one that was missed earlier in the year.

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

**d. \* Approval of Superintendent Candidate**

Motion made by Jamie Bailey for the selection of Chris Nesmith as superintendent of the Elma School District effective July 1st, 2021, pending final background checks and successful contract negotiations. Second by Stephanie Smith. Motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

## 9. Enrollment

Superintendent Acuff shared the enrollment report from OSPI from September through March, explaining that each FTE is how the district's apportionment is decided. We are down about 4 from the previous month. The best news is that we are not dropping. Many districts have dramatically dropped enrollment due to Covid, which is a credit to our staff and programs.

## 10. Budget Report

Business Manager Lisa Arnold shared the budget reports. She is working with Tonja Grandsen in Human Resources on a report to show all of the staff that have been hired through the CARES Act so that she is able to project the cost through the end of the year. She may be asking the Board for a general fund budget extension to be able to expend more funds. She did add more staff in February as students came back to school.

Board Member Thompson asked what our ESSER amount is.

Ms. Arnold does not know the third allocation amount. She believes the estimate is \$1.3 million.

Mr. Acuff added that the first round was around \$350,000. The second round was around \$1.2 million.

She agreed with those numbers.

## 11. Future Agenda Items

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

## 12. Executive Session

Before entering the Executive Session, Board Chairperson Bower thanked the elementary for their work with the fundraiser and thanked the community and staff for their help with the superintendent search. Meeting entered the Executive Session at 6:40pm for RCW 42.30.110(g) for 10 minutes with no action to be taken. At 6:50pm, an additional 10 minutes were announced. At 7:00pm, an additional 10 minutes were announced. At 7:10pm, an additional 10 minutes were announced. At 7:20pm, an additional 10 minutes were announced. At 7:30pm, an additional 10 minutes were announced. At 7:40pm, an additional 10 minutes were announced. At 7:50pm, the meeting reentered the Regular Meeting.

## 13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

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Board Chairperson

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Board Secretary

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Date

\*Additions to Agenda