



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING March 8, 2021 (Business Session)

A Business Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on March 8, 2021 in the Board Room, District Office and Director Guttenberg joined remotely via Zoom.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Carol Hinds called the Business Session BOE Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL:

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Paul Benkendorf
Director Kim Frumveller
Director John Guttenberg
Director Carol Hinds
Director Cary Karcher

Also present: Superintendent Douglas Bissonette, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and BOE Kristen Harris, Director of HR Kin Shuman, Principal of EHS Bret McClendon, Technology Director Marty Silva, Chief Financial Officer Ron Patera, Director of Special Services Tammy Krueger, Director of Special Services Consultant Jeanne Boice-Wiley and District Nurse Lori Clark.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Carol Hinds led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE

4.1 Lori Clark, District Nurse RN/BSN

District Nurse, Lori Clark shared an update on managing COVID this school year by expressing how excited she is the district has been in-person (fully) since August 2020. Beginning January 2021 the district has had (15) positive (or presumed positive) cases, half of which were unavoidable. Of the district 1831 students, only 408 students were transferred to remote learning to date. Teachers are doing a fantastic job with having a combination of students in class and some remote. Parents have been very supportive when their students have had to go remote for exposure and appreciate the rest of the time their student get to be in-person. Since parents appreciate having their students fully in person, they understand the importance of keeping their students home when sick.

BiNax tests were being offered to educators, the state is covering the first two months of receiving the tests. The tests can be used for serial testing or individualized testing. We have been able to be in person without the testing, things are working as we currently have them in place. As people continue to get vaccinated it will only get easier. Survey went out before the vaccine and 74% staff wanted the vaccine, 18% didn't want it and 7.5% weren't sure. Based on survey results only 2% of the ones who said they wanted the vaccine haven't received the vaccine. Due to some staff having symptoms after second dose, it can vary per person; the district is allowing staff to take the day off after the vaccine without using a personal day.

4.2 Tammy Krueger, Director of Special Services and Jeanne Boice-Wiley, Director of Special Services Consultant

Director of Special Services, Tammy Krueger provided an update on the opportunity / ASPIRE programs. Both programs successfully moved from the Frontier building to Maple Street over by IT. The classroom for ASPIRE is set-up just like an apartment, they have a kitchen/living/bedroom room area to help practice life skills. COVID has unfortunately limited the amount the ASPIRE students have been able to get out into the



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community; however, ASPIRE continues to find safe opportunities for them to get out, just not as frequently. ASPIRE students are still making dog cookies/treats to raise funds for their fun activities.

The December opportunity count was (296) students, (8) students in the opportunity program are from out of district, (3) students in ASPIRE and (3) students from the district are in out of district placement. Currently, there are (12) students on CDLS online program that have IEPs, which is down from last semester when there were (25) students.

Filled a vacancy for a Student Behavioral Specialist, it was a much needed position. In addition, Running Creek Elementary filled the Behavior Support Staff position. Mental health services has come a long way, the district has social workers who have been with us for a few years and although the district is still utilizing Summit Psychology for evaluations, the hope is to be able to eliminate work with outside providers to get services for our students.

Special education teachers have had a challenge supporting the online learners without being connected to them in person. Some teachers requested additional PPE to work with students and the district was able to provide the PPE to support the work in person. Professional Development was offered to K-12 special education teachers and speech therapists as a way to help them learn ways to teach the phonics learning. Trauma informed care training for paras and teachers will be coming soon.

5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/BLANKET MOTION

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

Motion moved by Director Frumveller

Motion seconded by Director Benkendorf

ROLL CALL:

Director Paul Benkendorf - aye

Director Kim Frumveller - aye

Director John Guttenberg - aye

Director Carol Hinds - aye

Director Cary Karcher - aye

The motion carried 5-0

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2021, Elizabeth Schools Board of Education meeting.

Motion moved by Director Benkendorf

Motion seconded by Director Karcher

ROLL CALL:

Director Paul Benkendorf - aye

Director Kim Frumveller - aye

Director John Guttenberg - aye

Director Carol Hinds - aye

Director Cary Karcher - aye

The motion carried 5-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 EHS Principal Update



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Principal of Elizabeth High School (EHS), Bret McClendon, provided an update on the new test schedules tried at the beginning of the year. Kimberly Runyan, Assistant Principal at EHS has received the data from students, staff and parents on the two test schedules. The feedback is still being processed; over 400 responses were given on the two schedules. Planning to make a final decision within the next week or so, it will then be shared with students, staff and parents. Changing the school schedule and making it more static will provide more opportunities for internships and other WBL opportunities for students.

7.2 HR Update

Director of Human Resources, Kin Shuman, shared an update on some of the work happening this spring in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. Health insurance plans will be discussed over the next couple of weeks to come up with plan elections and costs for 2021-2022. Staffing is another area of focus, which staff will be returning or leaving and looking to fill any vacancies. COVID has had an impact on hiring, staff are excited the district has been in person, it has been seen as a draw to work in Elizabeth School District. EMS Principal recruitment is going well, hoping to have interviews start by April. Director of Communications and Marketing position is still open; it has been posted, even nationally, hoping for more applicants before submitting resumes for next step in interview process. The district has had (17) fraudulent unemployment claims to date, all have been reported.

7.3 Technology Update

Technology Director, Marty Silva shared an update on CMAS testing which is going well and be continuing once the students get back from spring break. Planning for 100% online students to take the CMAS testing at the schools and being supplied Chrome Books for the testing. The (420) Chrome Books we ordered last year have been fully distributed, now all of our students (K-12) have a Chrome Book we are a one to one district. Continuing educational training is happening across the district as it is requested by each of the schools. With end of year, it has been decided the Chrome Books for high school students will not be collected this summer; it will stay with them until graduation. Network updates continue to be executed; however, trees are becoming an issue with line of site from some of the schools to the network line. Working with homeowners and the town to get the trees trimmed to ensure no connection issues. Lastly, IT is looking at system integration for teachers uploading grades between different systems.

7.4 Financial Update

Chief Financial Director Ron Patera reviewed checks over \$5,000 which includes typical monthly expenditures and are self-explanatory. In addition to the normal monthly expenditures are payments for sports officials, new curriculum, SPED services purchased from an outside organization, SPED services purchased from BOCES, the SRO at EMS and EHS, and then out of district tuition for SPED services. This report reflects activity through the end of January or 58.33% of the way through the fiscal year. General fund revenues after allocations are 35.67%, while expenditures and transfers stand at 54.73% expended. The Pupil Activity fund expenditures are being closely monitored the rest of the year, but the rest of the funds are all within reasonable tolerances of the budget benchmark.

From the last school year to the most recent budget revision, there has been a \$1.7M reduction in the school finance act for the district. Currently the legislature is looking at adding some money back to districts with the current 20-21 supplemental budget. It has passed the senate and now is going to the house for their final vote. Ron will keep the board posted. A large issue that accompanies the decision to provide free lunches to any student this year is taking away the incentive for parents and guardians to complete the free and reduced paperwork. This means districts are not getting appropriate funding for at-risk students within the school finance act.

Budget assumptions for 2021-2022 include high level internal worksheet with enrollment, increased expenses, increased revenues, etc. next month. Preliminary budget will be presented in the 2nd meeting in May and final budget for approval in 2nd meeting in June. As of right now the projected increase, from the Governor's most recent updated budget, in state funding is close to restoring funding to FY19-20 levels, less the 19% flow thru to Legacy. There is a probable increase in our worker's comp and health insurance. There is not an increase in PERA for the employer and still working on enrollment projections. School finance act for FY21-22 still has not been introduced at the legislature.



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Last month the district borrowed \$1,474,278, in comparison to last year's borrowing of \$1,215,000, which given the circumstances is a very small increase.

Lastly, after nearly 3 months on the market there has been some interest in online views of the property, but no further inquiries. The realtor is contacting developers and also other organizations they feel might have some interest in pursuing a presence in the area.

7.5 Superintendent Update

Superintendent Bissonette provided an update on testing and the indecisive discussion on state testing at the moment, speaking up for students and parents who are part of in person districts that have been tracking students progression. Right now there is legislation being discussed to only take one test, either literacy or math 3-8th, instead of having the grades take both tests.

End of sport season B, the EHS boys' basketball team is going to the playoffs and two wrestlers are going to the state championships. Season C sports including gymnastics, boys' soccer and volleyball have started. Season D will run likely into June and will include baseball, track and field, girls soccer and girls golf. The choir and theater departments have been active with performances; even with the theater production being streamed live. The live stream used is different than what is used for sports; however, it was exciting to provide the opportunity.

Parent teacher conferences next week will be a combination of in-person and online, however, could be impacted by weather conditions. The district wanted to make sure any parents who wanted to meet face to face had the opportunity. Collaboration between Department of Education and Rural School Alliance featured a podcast on the power of in-person learning, which featured Elizabeth School District. There have been discussions around whether or not the district will keep an online learning option for next year, likely, it will not be offered. Lastly, once restrictions start lifting, the district will be looking at their response; in-person graduation has been approved, prom is under review and the district will continue to collaborate on the lifted restrictions.

8.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public participation

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 9.1-9.5.

Motion moved by Director Karcher

Motion seconded by Director Frumveller

ROLL CALL:

Director Paul Benkendorf - aye

Director Kim Frumveller - aye

Director John Guttenberg - aye

Director Carol Hinds - aye

Director Cary Karcher - aye

The motion carried 5-0

9.1 New Hires/Re-Hires

Sara Bong, Special Ed Paraprofessional

Kyle Summers, Student Behavior Specialist

9.2 Employment Separations

Rosa Pacheco, Custodian, Elizabeth High School

9.3 Extra Duty Assignments



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Robert Leonard, Head Wrestling Coach, Elizabeth High School
Kelsey Ubben, Assistant Basketball/Volleyball Coach, Elizabeth High School
Adam Keele, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, Elizabeth High School
Aaron Hedman, Head Boys Basketball Coach, Elizabeth High School
Kyle Summers, Student Behavior Specialist, District Wide

9.4 Requests for 110 Day Transition Years

Nancy Connelley, Office Manager, Elizabeth Middle School
Shannon Stone, Teacher, Elizabeth Middle School

9.5 Monthly Financial Report

10.0 ACTION ITEMS

10.1 A motion was made to approve the classified sick bank.
Motion moved by Director Guttenberg
Motion seconded by Director Benkendorf

ROLL CALL:

Director Paul Benkendorf - aye
Director Kim Frumveller - aye
Director John Guttenberg - aye
Director Carol Hinds - aye
Director Cary Karcher - aye

The motion carried 5-0

10.2 A motion was made to ratify the 2/25/2021 inclement weather closure.
Motion moved by Director Karcher
Motion seconded by Director Guttenberg

ROLL CALL:

Director Paul Benkendorf - aye
Director Kim Frumveller - aye
Director John Guttenberg - aye
Director Carol Hinds - aye
Director Cary Karcher - aye

The motion carried 5-0

10.3 A motion was made to approve the disposition of district property.
Motion moved by Director Benkendorf
Motion seconded by Director Frumveller

ROLL CALL:

Director Paul Benkendorf - aye
Director Kim Frumveller - aye
Director John Guttenberg - aye
Director Carol Hinds - aye
Director Cary Karcher - aye

The motion carried 5-0



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11.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion items

12.0 BOE PLANNING

Dates for the Board of Education 2021 Retreat, will be considered, looking at Saturdays in April.
The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2021, at 6 p.m.

13.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

The regular board meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Hinds, President

Cary Karcher, Vice President

Paul Benkendorf, Secretary

Kim Frumveller, Treasurer

John Guttenberg, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Kristen Harris