

EASTLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #308
Board of Education Meeting
January 20, 2021 **6:30 p.m.**
Steven Snider, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diann Cassens, Brian Heldt, Karl Henze, Anthony Preston, Steven Snider, Jennifer Sturtevant, Chad Waller

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Alex Kashner, Monica Burkholder, Angela Mahoney

OTHERS PRESENT: Michele Hartman, Cynthia Feltmeyer, John Grotto, Daniel Kloeping, John Morgan, Lowden Preston

ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the agenda as adjusted, adding Hb-amending the current school calendar.

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Henze, Preston, Snider, Sturtevant, and Waller voting aye.
Motion carried.

CONSENSUS ITEMS:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Sturtevant** to approve the consensus items as presented:

- Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 16, 2020 and the Truth in Taxation Meeting held December 21, 2020, and destruction of the audiotape minutes of the December 19, 2018 and January 16, 2019, February 20, 2019, March 20, 2019, April 17, 2019, and April 24, 2019 Executive sessions, per statute;
- Payment of Accounts Payable for the month of January, 2021 in the amount of \$111,953.05.
- Treasurer's Report.

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Henze, Preston, Snider, Sturtevant, and Waller voting aye.
Motion carried.

BOARD INPUT:

- Economic Interest Statement Listing

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Visitors Cynthia Feltmeyer, members of the high school FFA, and John Grotto were welcomed and asked if they wanted to address the Board. FFA representatives Daniel Kloeping, John Morgan, and Lowden Preston provided updates on the FFA Test Plot. Topics included yield results, how classroom instruction was utilized, and plans for next year. The FFA representatives thanked the numerous donors

to make this a success. Board Member Henze complimented Mrs. Feltmeyer and company for their high marks and work. Superintendent and President Snider thanked the students for presenting and complimented them on a job well done. John Grotto addressed the Board to confirm that they received his letter regarding the tax levy and to ask if they plan to abate taxes with additional funds being allocated to the district through CARES funding. Superintendent Kashner shared that he will address CARES funding in the communications section of the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Kashner shared board correspondence and provided an update on the second round of CARES funding. He commented that while guidelines for this wave of the grant have not been released, it is expected to follow the Spring 2020 guidance. Eastland is allocated to receive \$394,000. Superintendent Kashner shared there are several options including amending the budget, or abating taxes. He suggested the finance committee meet before the February meeting to provide a recommendation.

OLD BUSINESS:

> APPROVAL OF THE 2021-22 EJSHS CURRICULUM GUIDE

A motion was made by **Cassens** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the 2021-22 EJSHS Curriculum Guide, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Henze, Preston, Snider, Sturtevant, and Waller voting aye. **Motion carried.**

> APPROVAL OF UPDATED BUS LANE AND PARKING LOT PLAN AT EJSHS

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Sturtevant** to approve the updated bus land and parking lot plan at EJSHS, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Preston, Snider, Sturtevant, and Waller voting aye. **Motion carried.**

Henze did not vote, as he stepped away briefly.

> APPROVAL OF BUS LEASE RENEWAL FOR 2021-22

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Preston** to approve the bus lease renewal for 2021-22, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Henze, Preston, Snider, Sturtevant, and Waller voting aye. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

> 1st SEMESTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Superintendent Kashner shared the 1st semester financial report, highlighting that the district is on pace to match the budget.

> APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Superintendent Kashner explained the purpose for amending the current calendar would allow time for staff COVID vaccinations. These changes would make January 22nd an early dismissal, and to move the February 12th early dismissal to February 19th. Member Waller expressed concerns on changing the calendar for January 22nd on a short notice and the effect on parents. Kashner acknowledged the effects and stated he is only recommending as it is necessary and the timeline of vaccines was out of his control.

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Preston** to approve amending the 2020-21 school calendar, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Henze, Preston, Snider, Sturtevant, and Waller voting aye. **Motion carried.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Kashner shared updates on the number of students continuing with remote learning, and how the district is working to provide additional academic support to students.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Sturtevant** to enter into closed session at 7:20 p.m. to consider information regarding:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Henze, Preston, Snider, Sturtevant, and Waller voting aye. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Preston** to exit closed session at 7:27 p.m. Voice vote showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Waller** to approve closed session minutes. Voice vote showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

➤ **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL:**

A motion was made by **Helde** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the following personnel, as presented:

- The retirement of **Linda Byers** at the end of the 2021 school year.
- The maternity leave of **Kelsey Thurman** estimated from March 2, 2021 through April 5, 2021.
- The hire of **Kara Jacobs** as EJSHS instructional aide.
- The hire of **Deanna Ames** as EES instructional aide.
- The MOU regarding the retirement of **Colleen Finn-Henze**.
- The hiring of **Brianna Rodgers** as long-term substitute to cover the 3rd grade maternity leave.
- To post the following vacancies:
 - Two (2) Physical Education Teachers for 2021-22 at EJSHS.
 - Speech Pathologist
 - Instructional Aide
 - Lego Robotics Sponsor
 - Play Director
 - Substitute Bus Drivers
 - Substitute Kitchen Aides

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Henze, Preston, Snider, Sturtevant, and Waller voting aye. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Snider** to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

Voice vote showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

These minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Education.

Steven Snider, President

Diann Cassens, Secretary