

EASTLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #308

Board of Education Meeting

September 15, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Steven Snider, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diann Cassens, Brian Heldt, Karl Henze, Anthony Preston, Steven Snider, and Augusta Witt

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Alex Kashner, Monica Burkholder

OTHERS PRESENT: Michele Hartman, Scott Johnson

ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Cassens** to approve the agenda presented.

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

CONSENSUS ITEMS:

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

- Minutes of the Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting held on August 18, 2021, and the destruction of the audiotape minutes of the February 19, 2020 Executive session, per statute;
- Payment of Accounts Payable for the month of September, 2021 in the amount of \$699,269.44.

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

BOARD INPUT:

Details about the upcoming NW Division meeting on October 4th at Dixon were shared. Registration will be completed soon, so the Board was asked to RSVP to the district office. Member Cassens shared that she was pleased to hear Superintendent Kashner speak at the Carroll County retired teacher association meeting and commented that he did a wonderful job. Superintendent Kashner shared that he was happy to attend the meeting and was impressed by the turnout and the group's continued support of education.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Visitor Scott Johnson, Architect, was welcomed and introduced.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Pre-K Board report was shared. He also recognized three board members for their accomplishments through IASB. Diann Cassens has earned New Master Board member status, while Anthony Preston

achieved level 2 status, and Steve Snider maintained his Master Board member status. Superintendent Kashner commented that to achieve those levels it takes a lot of extra time, and he thanked the entire board for their work to stay at a high level. Master Board member points are earned by attending IASB division meetings, governing meetings, legislative leadership programs, as well as, holding positions of leadership within the association. Superintendent Kashner shared that the district is currently exploring branding opportunities to have a consistent logo. The current plan is to present options to the community and students for input this fall.

OLD BUSINESS:

> APPROVAL OF THE 2021-22 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Preston** to approve the FY22 Risk Management Plan, as presented.

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

> 1st READING OF BOARD POLICY UPDATES

Updates to Board policies 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:20, 2:30, 2:120, 2:125, 2:130, 2:150, 2:200, 2:220, 2:230, 2:240, 2:250, 3:30, 3:70, 4:15, 4:40, 4:60, 4:140, 4:170, 5:10, 5:30, 5:40, and 5:125 were shared. All of the proposed changes were recommended specifically through PRESS review and are grammatical and wording changes for the most part.

Chad Waller entered the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

> APPROVAL OF THE 2021-22 GRANTS

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Witt** to approve the FY22 Esser III, Title I, Title II, Title IV, 3 Circles, and Ag Incentive Grants, as presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

> APPROVAL OF POSTING FOR SNOW PLOW BIDS

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the posting of bids for snow plowing, as presented.

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

> CONSIDER AND APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH EJSHS SECURE ENTRANCE PLANNING

The Board heard Architect Scott Johnson present information on a proposed security entrance and office remodel at EJSHS. The proposed timeline would see final renderings in December, with bids out in January, and work to begin in June. This project would add a safety entrance, new office area on the ground level, and a remodel of the current office area into a classroom and meeting area. Superintendent Kashner commented that safety is a priority and a secure entrance would enhance that component. Adding an additional classroom as we continue to grow is also extremely helpful. After brief discussion, it was noted that approval tonight is to continue the planning process and get true estimates of the cost. Kashner also clarified that reserves would be used to pay for the project.

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the posting of bids for snow plowing, as presented.

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

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Kashner shared an enrollment report. Eastland's sixth day enrollment is at 715, up from 703 the past year. In 2016, enrollment was 626. He commented that enrollment growth is a great problem to have, but still can be a concern. Superintendent Kashner will start leading discussions on possible solutions for classroom space.

Legislative updates were shared. Superintendent Kashner highlighted a few that will have an impact on the district including media literacy and mandatory teaching of internet safety, including sexting. Media literacy must be taught starting in 2022-2023 school year with a focus on teaching social responsibility and civics, including using facts and reasoning. Internet safety, and sexting will be addressed in the 8th grade exploratory course.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Heldt** to enter into closed session at 7:16 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, Waller, and Witt voting aye. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Witt** to exit closed session at 7:35 p.m. Voice vote showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

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

> APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL:

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

- The resignation of **Rebekah Randecker** as EES Instructional Aide.
- The resignation of **Marcie Blevins** as EES Instructional Aide.
- The hire of **Christina Pasch** as EES Instructional Aide.
- The hire of **Michele Kindberg** as a Bus Driver.
- The hire of **Mary Willhite** as a substitute Bus Driver, pending certification.
- The hire of **Kristoffer Manthei** as a substitute Bus Driver, pending certification.
- The hire of **Jeanette Ashby** as a long-term substitute, covering a maternity leave at EJSHS.
- Maternity leave for **Ally Owen**, estimated from January 17 - March 11, 2022.
- Approve the following postings:
 - Instructional Aides
 - Substitute Bus Drivers
 - Substitute Kitchen Aides

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

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Waller** to adjourn at 7:40 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