

**EASTLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #308**

**Board of Education Meeting**

**April 19, 2023 6:30 pm**

**Steven Snider, Presiding**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diann Cassens, Brian Heldt, Anthony Preston, Steven Snider, Chad Waller, and Augusta Witt

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Alex Kashner, Monica Burkholder, Kayleigh King

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michele Hartman, Justin DeSpain, Jeremy Flikkema, Casey Flikkema, Joe Hammer, Teresa Hammer

**ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA:**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Preston** to approve the agenda as adjusted, moving H-a to G-a.

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

**CONSENSUS ITEMS:**

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

- Minutes of the March 15, 2023 regular meeting.
- Payment of accounts payable for the month of April, 2023.
- March Treasurer's Report

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

**BOARD INPUT:**

During board input, economic interest statements for members were reviewed, signed, and turned back in. Upcoming BOE dates were shared including seating of the new BOE on April 26th, Graduation on May 21st, BOE training on May 23rd, in addition to the regular meetings on May 17th and June 28th.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

President Snider welcomed visitors: Tim Kaus, Jeremy and Casey Flikkema, and Colleen, Kellen, Erin and Kaden Henze and asked if they wanted to address the board. Casey Flikkema expressed concern that the Board is not sharing information as some other district websites show and that when she contacts the Board to share concerns they "pass" her to someone else. Mrs. Flikkema also spoke against the staff childcare proposal stating that she feels there are too many unknowns with the proposal including costs, use of the classroom without rent and that while childcare costs have risen, it is the parent responsibility and not the districts to provide another benefit.

**Karl Henze entered at 6:34 pm**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

The PreK board report was shared.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

❖ **Consideration and Approval of School Photography Change**

Dr. Kashner shared that he met with Mrs. Hammer and was impressed with her pricing, customer service possibilities and quality of her work. Mrs. Hammer spoke and shared her potential pricing for school photos and it is in line with past prices. Dr. Kashner commented that he is happy to have a local option.

A motion was made by **Witt** and seconded by **Preston** to approve Teresa Hammer Photography as the school photographer for the 2023-24 school year, as presented. Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heldt, Henze, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

**Motion carried.**

❖ **Approval of the 2024-25 School Calendar**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Preston** to approve the 2024-25 school calendar, as presented.

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

**Motion carried.**

❖ **Approval of the 2023-24 Consolidated District Plan**

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Cassens** to approve the 2023-24 consolidated district plan for state grant purposes, as presented.

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

**Motion carried.**

❖ **Approval of Staff Daycare Proposal**

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the staff daycare proposal, as presented.

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

**Motion carried.**

❖ **Approval of the Amended Budget Hearing Date and Notification**

A motion was made by **Cassens** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the amended budget hearing date for June 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm, and to post notification as required by statute, as presented.

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

**Motion carried.**

❖ **Approval of Renewal of Student Accident insurance**

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Preston** to approve renewal of student accident insurance with AIG via Clark Carroll Insurance, as presented.

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

**Motion carried.**

❖ **Consideration and Approval of Employee Health/Dental/Vision Insurance**

Dr. Kashner shared that the original quote was a 24% increase on health insurance premiums, but through additional leg work, overall premiums increased by less than 6%. This renewal continues with the same health reimbursement agreement and includes 2 plan options. One is a PPO and the other a health savings account (H.S.A). Due to the savings in the H.S.A premiums, the district will again give a percentage of those saving back to the employee via a H.S.A contribution. Dr. Kashner thanked the insurance committee for their work throughout the process. Switching carriers on the ancillary plans allows for the same coverage and plans, but now includes orthodontic care.

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Waller** to approve renewal of health insurance with BlueCross BlueShield and ancillary insurance with Principal, via broker J.Krug & Associates, as presented.

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

**Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

❖ **Approval of School Field Trip Request**

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Witt** to approve the following field trip requests, as presented.

K to Discover Center in Rockford

1<sup>st</sup> grade to Hands on Museum and Krape Park in Freeport

2<sup>nd</sup> grade to Wetlands in Thomson and Timberlake Playhouse in Mt. Carroll

3<sup>rd</sup> grade to Niabi Zoo in Coal Valley

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

**Motion carried.**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Kashner shared the final 2023 Tax Computation report. He commented that EAV rose higher than anticipated and shared that the overall tax rate will decrease again, this time to 3.98. He commented that for comparison purposes the tax rate was 4.325 four years ago.

Dr. Kashner recognized outgoing board members Karl Henze, Diann Cassens, and Brian Heldt. Between the three there were over 36 years of dedicated service to Eastland! Everyone thanked them for their service.

### **CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Waller** to enter into closed session at 7:22 pm 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).
- Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

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 **Preston** to exit closed session at 8:05 pm.

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

A motion was made by **Preston** and seconded by **Waller** to approve closed session minutes.

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

### **PERSONNEL:**

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Waller** to approve personnel as follows:

- Hire:
  - Vicki Meinsma - EJSJS Custodian
  - Chelsea Hasken - 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball coach
  - Karin Myre - cheerleading sponsor
  - Tracy Seigner - homebound tutor
  - Kaden Henze - JV girls; basketball coach
  - Rhonda Wade - long-term special education substitute
  - Kennedy Burkholder - summer student part-time worker (library/technology)
  - Peyton Clouse - summer worker (custodian)
  - Summer School staff:
    - EES Teachers: Mindy Hayden, Karin Myre, Beth Wilkinson, Keta Foltz,
    - EES Aides: Courtney Carroll, Rachel Sneek, Renea Noordhoff, Tiffany Horbaczewski, Robyn Joens
    - EES Office: Jessica Hinrichs
- Resignations:
  - Tyler Oakley - EPC assistant football coach
  - Shawna Reynolds - EES instructional aide, effective at the end of the school year
  - Logan Gibs – EJSJS special education teacher, effective May 5, 2023
  - Tony Diehl – EJSJS Custodian, effective June 2, 2023
  - Zach Hook – 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball coach
- Postings:
  - EJSJS Special Education Teacher
  - Summer Worker (Technology)
  - EES Instructional Aide

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Snider** to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Voice vote showed all ayes. Motion carried.

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

---

Steven Snider, President

---

Augusta Witt, Secretary