

EASTLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #308

Board of Education Meeting

May 17, 2023 6:30 pm

Steven Snider, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Dunlap, Chelsey Heckman, Jane Martz, Anthony Preston, Steve Snider, Chad Waller, Augusta Witt

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Alex Kashner, Monica Burkholder, Kayleigh King

OTHERS PRESENT: Michele Hartman, Rachael Nielsen, Lonny Nielsen

ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA:

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Dunlap** to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

Motion carried.

CONSENSUS ITEMS:

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Preston** to approve the consensus items as adjusted:

- Minutes of the April 19, 2023 regular meeting, April 24, 2023 and April 26, 2023 special meetings. Correcting April 19 minutes to include the hiring of Paige Waller as part-time custodian and the April 21 minutes to have the title of Teacher Contract:
- Payment of accounts payable for the month of May, 2023.
- April Treasurer's Report
- Declaring items as surplus
- Designate Superintendent Kashner as the financial agent for the district.

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

Motion carried.

BOARD INPUT:

During Board input the BOE reviewed a first draft of proposed 2023-2024 meeting dates. Dr. Kashner shared that the district typically meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, but he is proposing three changes for the months of July 2023, August 2023, and June 2024. He suggested moving those three months to the last Wednesday of the month as moving the date back in those months will allow for additional time for budget allotment. President Snider asked members to review their schedules and provide input for final approval next month. Dr. Kashner shared that graduation will take place on Sunday, May 21st at 1 pm and the end of the year staff breakfast will be on Tuesday, May 30th at 8 am.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

President Snider welcomed visitors. The Board recognized guests Lonny and Rachael Nielsen. Elementary Principal King recognized kindergarten teacher Mrs. Nielsen for being selected as a teacher of distinction by the local Regional Office of Education. Principal King stated that Mrs. Nielsen is a constant supporter of kids needs and is willing to do whatever is necessary for

student success in and out of the classroom. Mrs. Nielsen thanked Ms. King and her husband for support and the BOE for the recognition. Mrs. Nielsen also spoke on how she loves the kids, the district, parents, and the administration for all of their support. The BOE thanked Mrs. Nielsen for her work and congratulated her on this terrific honor and stated how well deserved it is.

COMMUNICATIONS:

During communications, Dr. Kashner shared a thank you note from the Carroll County Transit for a fundraising donation and the Board thanked the PTO for their work in hosting a Color Run. Multiple Board members commented on how well the event was run and how the community is looking forward to the event continuing for several years to come.

OLD BUSINESS:

❖ Approval of the 2023-24 School Fees

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Dunlap** to approve the 2023-24 school fees, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

Motion carried.

❖ Consideration and Approval of Adding a Graphic Design Course for 2023-24

Dr. Kashner shared that this course will teach valuable skills in a very marketable area. Amongst other skills, this course will also incorporate concepts of the yearbook and marketing principles. Principal Burkholder commented that through an interest survey, over 14 students had expressed interest in the course. Member Dunlap and Vice President Preston asked if this would correlate with the Whiteside Graphic Design Course. Principal Burkholder stated that this would be in addition to as this will give students the opportunity to explore graphic design to determine if they want to enroll in the course at Whiteside. Member Martz asked if this would increase staffing needs. Dr. Kashner shared that through rearranging the schedule, no additional staff would be required and a staff member has already expressed interest in teaching this course.

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Preston** to approve the addition of a graphic design course at the high school level for 2023-24 school year, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

Motion carried.

❖ Approval of Food Cooperative Bids

A motion was made by **Heckman** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the 2023-24 food cooperative bid with the Northern IL Independent Purchasing Cooperative, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

Motion carried.

❖ **Approval to Request Fuel Bids**

A motion was made by **Witt** and seconded by **Heckman** to let bids for fuel for the 2023-24 school year, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

❖ **1st Reading of Updated PRESS Policies**

The Board heard a first reading on PRESS policy review recommendations for 2:110, 3:40, 4:60, 5:30, 5:90, 5:125, 5:150, 5:260, 6:135, 6:230, and 8:20.

❖ **1st Reading of the 2023-24 School Handbook**

The Board heard a first reading of the parent-student academic and athletic handbooks. Dr. Kashner thanked the committee led by Mrs. Burkholder for their efforts and highlighted a few of the proposed changes. Pending board approval, students in grades 4-12 will no longer be required to use school issued backpacks. This was based on a recommendation from the technology department as most backpacks now include protective padding for devices and this allows students the freedom of choice. Students that would like to still utilize the backpacks from the school will be able to.

❖ **Approval of Resolution to Abate Working Cash**

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Dunlap** to approve a resolution abating the working cash fund of Eastland CUSD 308, Carroll, Stephenson, and Ogle Counties in IL, to use for payment of construction in the O/M Fund, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Kashner shared a request from a community member regarding junior high cheerleading. He stated that Eastland used to have junior high cheerleading, but like most districts in the area, have not had the numbers or a consistent coach to continue. Through a discussion with the BOE, it was decided to determine if there is enough student interest to bring the program back as they want to provide opportunities for students. Member Heckman suggested that it is possible that a junior high program will help drive interest in the high school program. Dr. Kashner will ask his team to survey current junior high students for interest and present his findings at the June board meeting.

Dr. Kashner highlighted potential staffing changes for the 2023-2024 school year. He is going to monitor class sizes to determine recommendations for specific grades on whether an additional section is needed. Additionally, he shared a proposal that would allow a staff member to retire mid-year without disrupting student learning. Dr. Kashner recognized that teacher stating that she has been terrific for kids and wants to help in the transition to make it as smooth as possible. The district will be posting for a reading teacher at the elementary level and will have

two interventionists at the elementary level until mid-year when the current reading interventionist retires. Dr. Kashner stated that this will provide additional support for our students and the district will make good use of this time.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Dunlap** to enter into closed session at 8:02 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).

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Heckman** to exit closed session at 8:25 pm. Voice vote showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by **Preston** and seconded by **Dunlap** to approve closed session minutes. Voice votes showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

PERSONNEL:

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

- Hire:
 - Carson Heckman – summer worker (technology)
 - Brighton Haverland – EPC assistant football coach
 - Matt Leitzen – EPC volunteer football coach
 - Kevin Howell – EPC volunteer Jr High football coach
 - Tim Pauley – EPC volunteer Jr High football coach
- Resignations:
 - Devin Servin - EPC Jr High football coach
- Postings:
 - Elementary Teacher
 - Instructional Aide
 - EPC Jr High football coach

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Martz, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Snider** to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 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