

EASTLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #308
Board of Education Meeting
August 30, 2023 6:36 pm
Steven Snider, Presiding

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Alex Kashner, Monica Burkholder, Kayleigh King

OTHERS PRESENT: Michele Hartman, Keali Eich, Bill McLain

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, Preston, Snider, Waller, and Witt voting aye. **Motion carried.**

CONSENSUS ITEMS:

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

- Minutes of the July 26, 2023 regular meeting.
- Payment of accounts payable for the month of August, 2023.

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Teachers Mrs. Eich and Mr. McLain were welcomed. Both teachers thanked the Board for all of their support and the Board shared the sentiment back.

COMMUNICATIONS:

During communications, Dr. Kashner shared that EJSJS earned the designation as a top US High School from US News. This is the 8th consecutive year that Eastland has earned this honor and Eastland was rated the 79th top high school in Illinois, which was the highest in the region. Dr. Kashner thanked and congratulated the students, staff, administration, and community for earning this honor. Board members were reminded about the upcoming school board conference and that if their plans to attend have changed, please let Mrs. Hartman know. Dr. Kashner shared that the Fall Northwest Division Dinner will be held in Prophetstown on October 4th. He commented that the presenter will be Jim Burgett, who is well known for his expertise in school board work.

OLD BUSINESS:

❖ **Approval of the 2023-24 Budget**

A motion was made by **Heckman** and seconded by **Waller** to approve the 2023-24 budget, as presented.

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

❖ **Approval of the Emergency/Crisis and Risk Management Plans**

A motion was made by **Preston** and seconded by **Witt** to approve both the Emergency/Crisis Plan and Risk Management Plan, as presented.

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

❖ **Consideration and Approval of the 2023-24 Student Drug Testing Policy**

After hearing feedback from legal counsel, the Board held a lengthy discussion regarding a policy on student drug testing.

A motion was made by **Dunlap** and seconded by **Heckman** to approve the policy for student drug testing per Administrative directive, via an outside vendor, for 7th-12th grade students any choice activities, as presented.

Roll call vote showed Dunlap, Heckman, Snider, and Witt voting aye; Preston and Waller voting nay. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

❖ **Football Practice Transportation**

The Board was made aware of questions that have arose regarding transportation to football practice when practice is held in Pearl City. Superintendent Kashner shared that the district plans to provide transportation so that procedures match those of Pearl City.

❖ **Approval of Field Trip Request and School Facility Use**

A motion was made by **Witt** and seconded by **Preston** to approve the band/choir to attend a field trip to Six Flags, and for use of school facilities by 6th grade volleyball, girls' basketball parents for open gyms, and Celebrate Lanark, as presented.

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

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

In the Superintendent Report, Dr. Kashner shared that the 6th day enrollment was 723 students, which was up from 703 last year for a 2.6% growth. Reflections on the start of school were shared, specifically, the positive start of the year with kids happy and safe, and the open house being a wonderful start to the year. Dr. Kashner also provided a construction update on the addition at EES. He stated that they predict to be fully "inside" by October 1 and still anticipate a completion date ahead of the deadline.

PERSONNEL:

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

- Hire:
 - Colleen Finn-Henze – EJSHS long-term substitute
 - Parker Lundberg – volunteer volleyball coach
 - Angeline Pontnack – volunteer cheerleading coach
- Maternity Leave:
 - Heather Blackmore – EJSHS teacher
- Postings:
 - Long-term Math substitute at EJSHS, estimated Jan 4 - Apr 5

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

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by **Waller** and seconded by **Preston** to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 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