

MINUTES
of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the ENUMCLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT #216
6:30 p.m.
November 6, 2017

I – PRELIMINARY

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by April Schroeder, President of the Board of Directors, at 6:30 p.m. at Black Diamond Elementary School.

B. Roll Call:

All board members were present excluding Mrs. Merrill who was excused. Superintendent, Mr. Nelson, was also excused. Deputy Superintendent, Chris Beals, sat-in as acting Superintendent in the place of Mr. Nelson. Both student board representatives were present.

II – COMMUNICATIONS

A. Black Diamond Elementary School Presentation:

Mrs. Schroeder introduced Black Diamond Elementary School Principal, Gerrie Garton. Mrs. Garton thanked the board for coming and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The presentation was based on the book *What Do You Do with an Idea*, by Kobi Yamada, which was narrated throughout the presentation by Sara Davis. This book is the theme for Black Diamond Elementary this year and symbolizes the ideas for the brand new building, as well as ideas for new strategies to close the achievement gap and better ensure equity of all students.

Third grade teacher, Susan Lurnen, began by explaining the important ideas involved in the design of the new building, ensuring that the building could remain a gathering place for the community and contain historical elements from Black Diamond, as well as promote collaborative learning, movement and visual arts. The large gym area, gable style roof, horizontal siding, student learning areas in the hallways, doors connecting classrooms, and a room dedicated to art instruction are all intentional design elements to fulfill those ideas. The stage is built to look as though you are heading into a mine tunnel, the beams used to create the effect are those from the previous school gym, and a history wall is filled with photos of the old mining town as well as the original elementary school. Mrs. Garton beamed that the architects really listened to the core values of Black Diamond Elementary and delivered a spectacular learning space.

Shannon Cunningham presented a flip grid video highlighting student opinions of the new school. Some children mentioned the outdoor play areas and updated playground, while others were impressed by the elevators for those in need, the folding partition between the gym and cafeteria, the common learning areas, the use of the boards from the old gym, the classrooms, and even the backpack hooks! Mrs. Cunningham ended by extending gratitude to the school

board and the community voters for gifting Black Diamond with a beautiful space to work and learn.

Jeff Kurtz, third grade teacher, provided some background information to classroom placement, as a transition into the next idea to be presented. The goal is to have a balance of genders, learning capabilities, behaviors, etc. in each room. While classroom placement for first through fifth grades is based on data collected from previous school years on each student, classroom placement for kindergarten is more difficult because there is no previous school year data for each child. School counselor, Derek Tulluck, added statistical data showing that the achievement gap begins before students enter kindergarten.

Kindergarten teachers Debbie Evans and Kerri Mullis presented their idea that changed the process of deciding classroom placement for kindergarten this year, in order to have better balance and promote better learning to close that achievement gap. Using 30 minute conferences with each family, two in-class days of teacher observation, and a day for a trial run, kindergarten classrooms were decided. Rather than dividing students into classrooms prior to the first day of school, the classrooms were decided on the fourth day of kindergarten attendance, so that individual student data could be used to balance the learning abilities in each room. Like in the book *What Do You Do with an Idea*, their idea spread.

Speech pathologist, Rebecca Parish, joined the idea and became a part of the parent conferences, and was able to pull each student for screening prior to their first day of school. This allowed for early intervention for those students in need. For those not needing an IEP, classroom intervention has been put into place and great strides are already being made.

Title 1/LAP teacher, Brenda Harris, also became involved, spending one hour as kindergarten reading support. During this hour, seven to eight adults are available to the kindergarten classrooms. Those reading above level receive support and advanced lessons while the rest of the class receives a lesson. Students performing below grade level receive extended lessons from Mrs. Harris' team.

Counselor Derek Tulluck also spends time in the classroom to support social-emotional learning with weekly lessons. Mr. Tulluck stated how critical it is to develop strong mental health at an early age to aid in academic success. This supports the district's strategic plan of promoting success of the whole child.

Gerrie concluded by bringing the board back to the theme *What Do You Do with an Idea* and stated "you make an impact." With this new strategy for kindergarten placement and earlier interventions, Black Diamond Elementary hopes to make a greater impact in the closing of the achievement gap as the students grow.

The board was able to ask questions and engage in conversation regarding the presentation.

Mrs. McGann stated she loved the collaboration with the presentation and thought it was amazing to get a jumpstart on early intervention strategies. She was impressed with how the idea spread to so many and really supported the whole child and helped build trust.

Mr. Stanwood enjoyed that the system is providing young, brand new kids, exposure to so many staff members, creating relationships with adults and supporting social-emotional intelligence. Mr. Stanwood stated that social-emotional health is the biggest indicator for happiness and commended Mr. Tulluck for his efforts.

Mrs. Schroeder thanked the presenters for their dedication to ensure struggling learners have a successful start.

Student representative Peyton Brueher stated the ideas shared captured the strategic plan well. She enjoyed that the new process for kindergarten allowed for the staff to learn who the students were as kids, not just students, and gave staff a chance to see where kids thrive and where they need more help.

B. WSSDA Annual Board Conference

The board had a discussion and reviewed plans for the upcoming annual board conference November 16-19, 2017.

III – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Beals stated that no executive session was needed.

IV — BOARD PROCESS DEBRIEF

The board debriefed the meeting.

V — ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned 7:27 p.m.

President, Board of Directors

Secretary, Board of Directors