

**MINUTES
of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the ENUMCLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT #216
6:30 p.m.
May 7, 2019**

I – PRELIMINARY

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Bryan Stanwood, President of the Board of Directors, at 6:38 p.m. at the Enumclaw Middle School library.

B. Roll Call:

All board members were present except Mr. Gamblin, who was excused.

II – WORKSHOP STUDY SESSION

A. Secondary Instructional Leadership Cadre Recognition:

Mr. Nelson reminded the board of an incredible project and initiative new to the district this year. Inspired by the board's theory of action, the Secondary Instructional Leadership Cadre was created to use a group of teachers from Enumclaw Middle School, Thunder Mountain Middle School and Enumclaw High School to transform the way students learn and to create experiences that are irresistible, deep, exciting and authentic. Mr. Beals explained this group of educators met face-to-face with each other and different educators around the globe, participated in online learning, and sought out research to bring new ideas of learning back to students in Enumclaw. This learning is ongoing, limitless, and will have a lasting impact. To honor their work, the Cadre was presented with a gift featuring an infinity symbol, to represent the continuous influence their efforts will have on other educators and the students of the Enumclaw School District.

Mr. Nelson and the cabinet then took a moment to recognize an educational partner to the Enumclaw School District, whose efforts, vision and guidance have been transforming the use of digital tools to break down barriers and enhance instruction and learning in Enumclaw. Jeff Utecht has been an incredible asset in leading the educators of our district in new ways of teaching and learning through the use of technology. The board had a vision in 2014 to pass an Instructional Technology Levy, the incredible patrons of Enumclaw supported that vision, and Mr. Utecht's partnership has helped that vision translate into new learning experiences for Enumclaw educators and students. Mr. Utecht was presented with a gift and thanked for his commitment and partnership in enhancing learning in Enumclaw.

B. Enumclaw Middle School Presentation:

Mrs. Barrett thanked the board for coming and for their vision to transform learning for students in the Enumclaw School District. She shared that the presentation tonight is aimed to share how the strategic plan and theory of action are put to work at Enumclaw Middle School through co-teaching, co-planning, active learning and active engagement. Students are encouraged to recognize what they are learning, how much progress they are making, and what the next steps are in their educational growth, all while experiencing new teaching strategies to engage students and utilizing digital tools.

To share how the English department is incorporating new tools and strategies for learning at EMS, teachers Casey Anderson and JB Blair were welcomed. Mr. Blair explained that his 8th grade students

took on blogging this year in an attempt to make their learning experiences more rigorous and relevant. The students have been both nervous and excited to have an audience of peers to assess their writings, rather than just the teacher. Students are able to choose topics they are passionate about and learn to add respectful and valuable feedback to the writings of their classmates. Mr. Blair noted that blogging has also opened doors for collaboration with classrooms at Enumclaw High School. Students in Mr. Muprhy's AP Senior Government class were invited to engage on the blogs when the topic surrounded the U.S. Constitution. Opening up student work to the review of peers and upperclassmen has sparked students to take greater care in how they are writing!

Mrs. Anderson shared how she is using books with connections to real life experiences to engage students in the act of reading and reading with a purpose. Her goal is to connect the social-emotional piece of each student to the reading materials. By teaching students to connect their lives to the lives of characters in books, students are able to learn about themselves and become better people. Mrs. Anderson shared that her students are displaying emotional growth, critical thinking and problem solving based on lessons learned through literature!

Mrs. Barrett shared that it is a goal of EMS to develop critical thinking while building passion in students. To demonstrate how passion is promoted, EMS Choir and Orchestra Director, Nicole Laborte, was welcomed to present. Ms. Laborte discussed how the middle and high schools have aimed to restructure instrumental programs to better transition students and retain participation. The music department made the decision to push to connect with elementary students sooner and more often to spark passion for music and preserve interest. They have also pushed to include middle school students in high school extra-curricular activities such as marching band and winter guard! The department has now been successful in creating district wide band and orchestra events, as well as an upcoming full-scale musical production in partnership with EHS teacher Darrell Miller and drama students. The musical will take place on June 7th and 8th. Ms. Laborte added that retention strategies at EMS have been making a difference, as there are 24 freshman in the EHS Orchestra, and 18 of those freshman were 8th grade students at EMS last year!

Mrs. Barrett next welcomed student leadership teacher, Karl Karkainen, to discuss how EMS aims to build character in students. Mr. Karkainen shared his goals in teaching leadership are to promote self and social awareness, self-management, self-efficacy, and social management and engagement. He explained how he uses personality quizzes to better connect students with themselves and teach them to better understand one another's differences. Students are then taught how to differentiate personality from character. Personality is who you are and character is the choices you make, or what you do. His classes focus on skills like active listening, creating goals and recognizing abilities, as well as developing skills in conflict resolution to aid in self-awareness and growth. Through the use of technology, leadership students produce The Timberwolf Show, which just aired its 182nd episode, to reiterate concepts and promote good character decisions for all students at EMS.

All classrooms are aiming to utilize more technology in their lessons to engage students in more purposeful and different ways than ever before. Mr. Nuttle, a science teacher at EMS, was welcomed to share how he is using technology in his classroom. Mr. Nuttle shared a driving slogan for EMS educators is "Assessment + Feedback = Impact!" To support this idea, Mr. Nuttle asks students to use Google Forms to report science lab work which then allows for faster, digital feedback. Other examples included students creating infographics and videos to provide more meaningful learning opportunities.

Assistant Principal, Paul Dumontet, addressed the board to explain how EMS is building capacity in students to resolve conflict and promote healthy and positive relationships. EMS has been intentional about using restorative practices and providing space, opportunities, soundbites and sentence structures to promote conflict resolution. EMS has also actively worked with the School Resource Officer, Amanda Reeves, to remind students of her investment in their wellbeing. Mr. Dumontet also invited school counselor, Kristina Grundmanis, to update the board on the EMS Safe Schools Ambassadors program.

Mrs. Grundmanis was proud to announce that in its third year, the Safe Schools Ambassadors program continues to grow. This year there are five staff members taking on the role to work with small groups of students on a monthly basis. This helps to create solid bonds and build connections between students and educators. The Safe Schools Ambassadors aim to recognize conflict and learn to diffuse situations before conflict can arise or escalate. The students are taught active listening skills, skills for redirection of bad behaviors, reasoning skills, and how to recognize when to get more help. Each student submits an action log detailing their experiences in noticing an action is needed, taking action, and completed follow-through on that action. Mrs. Grundmanis was proud to announce that action log activity has doubled since the beginning of the program, meaning students are more active in standing up for one another, resolving conflicts, and promoting overall inclusion.

The board was able to ask questions and discuss different areas of the presentation before moving onto the next portion of the evening.

C. Enumclaw Schools Foundation:

Mr. Nelson thanked the Enumclaw Schools Foundation (ESF) for their vision and work to enhance the Enumclaw School District. It is a goal of the Enumclaw School District Board of Directors and cabinet to break down barriers and make connections to the civic world of Enumclaw. This year, the Board hosted a joint meeting with the City Councils of Black Diamond and Enumclaw to bring together those supporting and championing public education. That sparked the idea of a joint meeting between ESF and the district, to align the district's strategic plan and theory of action with the mission of ESF, to further build a partnership supporting the best learning experiences and environments for all students of the Enumclaw School District.

Mr. Nelson prepared packets for ESF including articles which will frame the work done in the Enumclaw School District to support the strategic plan and theory of action. The board, cabinet and leadership team will be emphasizing work from Brene Brown, who believes in the importance of bravery, courage, vulnerability, and authenticity in becoming and creating the very best leaders. The first article included in the packet for ESF is actually a chapter from a Brene Brown book. The second article focuses on the "Secrets of Strategic Thinking." Mr. Nelson also explained the "Square Squad" idea to focus on the opinions of those who hold value and will promote accountability. These three pieces were key components in the board retreat this year and will help to launch the 2019-2020 word of the year: *vision*, which will be supported by the slogan "*choosing courage over comfort*."

Mr. Beals and Mrs. Burnes then shared a list of initiatives the district will focus on in the 2019-2020 school year. Each of these initiatives aims to work toward experiences and ways of learning to truly engage students in authentic and infinite learning. The two then shared ideas of how ESF may join the district to support these initiatives and opportunities for partnerships in championing the theory of action throughout the school year. One idea was to include ESF in a community breakfast featuring speaker Will Richardson, who will be presenting to teachers for "District Day" as they are welcomed back in late August for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Nelson thanked the ESF Board for their partnership and expressed his excitement to have such a unique partnership with a foundation supporting staff and students. He added that he is eager to continue to learn how the two entities can help each other in the common goal of creating the best educational system possible. He again thanked ESF members for volunteering, coming to board meetings and being the biggest champions of the district!

III — BOARD PROCESS DEBRIEF

The board debriefed the meeting.

This meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

President, Board of Directors

Secretary, Board of Directors