

Regular School Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
11/27/2023

Present: Director Correll, Director Key, Director Sainsbury, Director Waller, Director Adams, Tim Payne, Student Representative Charles Flynn

1. Call to Order

Director Adams called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Flag Salute

Director Adams asked all present to stand for the flag salute.

3. Public Comments

There were no individuals signed in to speak to the board.

4. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

There were no changes or additions to the published agenda.

5. Public Hearing on Bond Alteration

Director Adams closed the regular meeting at 6:02 pm to go into the public hearing on the 2019 bond alteration.

Corey Plager and Tim Payne spoke to the reason for the public hearing. The District's 2018 bond election resolution, which the voters approved at the February 12, 2019 special election, listed specific capital improvements to be paid from the District's 2019 bonds and any State of Washington construction financing assistance, which improvements are collectively referred to in this hearing as the 2019 Projects. Recently, District Administration has identified certain state and local circumstances that may require an alteration to the 2019 Projects.

Since the adoption of the 2018 bond election resolution, the 2019 election, and the issuance of the District's 2019 bonds, the following state and local circumstances have occurred related to the 2019 Projects:

(a) Due to significantly higher costs than originally budgeted and the lack of additional available money, it is impractical for the District to carry out a portion of the 2019 Projects, specifically,

the modernization of Grant Elementary School and renovation of the Performing Arts Center and gymnasium. As a result, the District has approximately \$6,200,000 of unspent State Financing Assistance (the “Unspent State Financing Assistance”).

(b) Debt service on the outstanding 2019 bonds may be reduced through a legal defeasance of a portion of the bonds, thereby achieving a savings to the District and a corresponding reduction of future excess property taxes for District taxpayers.

Based on these circumstances, and after research and analysis:

(a) District Administration recommends that the Board alter the 2019 Projects to permit the District to use the Unspent State Financing Assistance to pay principal of and interest on (i.e., legally defease) a portion of the outstanding 2019 bonds (this is known as “Defeasance”).

(b) District Administration also recommends that the Board adopt a new resolution that amends the 2018 bond election resolution to incorporate these Alterations. The District has available at the District Office a three-ring binder that consists of a variety of documents related to the 2019 Projects, the state and local circumstances and the Alterations. These documents are available for review upon request.

Director Adams asked if anyone present would like to speak concerning state and local circumstances that should cause any the alterations to the 2019 Bond. Phil Stadelman asked how the taxation to the tax payers will work in regards to the defeasance. Corey Plager advised Phil that the District would notify the County Treasurer of the changes to the taxation rates each year during the defeasance process.

Director Adams asked if there were any others who wish to speak concerning state and local circumstances that should cause any alterations to the 2019 Projects. There were no others to who came forward to speak.

Director closed the public hearing at 6:39 pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

6. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

Director Correll made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Sainsbury seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

i. **Approve Minutes from 10/23/23 Meeting**

ii. **Approve Minutes from 11/13/23 Meeting**

iii. **Hires**

1. Juan Castillo, EHS Girls Assistant Wrestling Coach
2. George Nygard, EHS Boys Assistant Wrestling Coach
3. Brian Olivera, EHS Boys Assistant Wrestling Coach - 1 Year Temporary
4. Katelynn Towry, Winter Team Assistant
5. Jason Bomhold, Route #20 Driver
6. Hayley Bradley, 6.5 Hr Para at Parkway
7. Anthony Cortez Morales, 6.5 Hr Behavior Technician
8. Frank Moore, EMS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
9. Sara Van Velkinburgh, 4.5 Hr Bus Monitor for ECEAP Route #7
10. Paul Detrick, 8 Hr Night Custodian at EHS

iv. Superintendent Accepted Resignations/Retirements

1. Kerrie O'Brady, 7 Hr Para at Tiger Cub Preschool, effective 11/16/23, accepted 11/09/23

- v. **Resolution 2023-2024-2 Update Petty Cash Accounts**
- vi. **Surplus EHS Weight Room and Soccer Equipment**
- vii. **Approve 9-12 Grade Health Curriculum**
- viii. **2023 Tech Recycling List**
- ix. **Approve Awarded Grant from FFA and CASE Curriculum**
- x. **Approve Applying for the 2023 Healthy Kids Healthy Schools Grant**
- xi. **Payroll & Accounts Payable**
- xii. **Second Reading of Policies**

b. Approve Modification to Ephrata School District Brand

Sarah Morford, Communication Director, review the updated Brand Identity Guideline with the Board. This updated document includes new legal language suggested by our Trademark/Copyright attorney that explicitly states the district's ownership of the three marks (The Tiger, the E and the Paw). Our Trademarks/Copyright on each design are expected shortly. In addition, guidelines have been loosened to allow more flexibility based on comments received by local vendors.

Of note:

- We've removed the language that required a buffer between our logo and other design features.
- We've allowed for fan gear, that is not for school purposes or for our athletic teams, to use any font at their discretion. We will continue to hold ourselves to our approved fonts or those that are similar.
- We have removed restrictions on where the logo should appear in relation to our district name or school names.

- We have authorized our logos to appear on various colors, other than our standard orange, gray, silver, anthracite, white and black. If using orange, we are requiring that our orange be used consistently to avoid confusion.

Prior to approaching the board with these revisions, our branding team (Bryan Johnson, Sarah Vasquez and Sarah Morford) met with our local vendors to gain their perspective and insight on these changes. The feedback from these meetings was positive and the loosening of restrictions appreciated. Director Waller made a motion to approve the modifications to the Brand Identity Guidelines. Director Key seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion passed.

c. Approval to Purchase Laptops and Backpacks for Open Doors

Charlotte Throgmorton, Big Bend Open Doors Administrator, is seeking approval to purchase computers and computer bags for the program. The Big Bend Open Doors program, a re-engagement program for Ephrata High School students who are credit deficient, was fortunate enough to obtain a \$50,000 grant called Comprehensive Graduate Rate Continuous School Improvement Grant. With this grant, one of the allowable costs is to buy laptop computers, which are needed by the Ephrata High School students to participate. Three quotes were obtained for the purchase. We would like to purchase the needed equipment from Dell Technologies as that is where the computers were purchased from that Big Bend has on site. Director Sainsbury made a motion to approve the purchase of the computers and bags from Dell. Director Key seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

7. Non-Action Items

a. Breakfast After the Bell Discussion

We have been having meetings regarding breakfast after the bell since the October board meeting to address the issues created by it. At the start of the year, we were doing our best to meet the State requirements for this program. Prior to this year breakfast was served prior to school starting and our model this year was to serve breakfast after the first bell. We have found that each building was doing this a little different from each other so we are looking on how we can modify the process so that we are meeting the needs of the students and staff at the buildings and being consistent in the buildings. We are going to change the bell time at a couple of buildings so that we can change when instruction can begin so that our students are getting the most instructional time they can. Our plan is to come back, review the data on this change, and start looking at how to best run this program for the next school year. We do know that kids eating breakfast at school has had an impact on their social and emotional well being and that they are not reporting that they are hungry by 10:30, which has been the case in the past.

Public comments on this:

1. Phil Stadelman thanked Tim for the update
2. Michelle Ramirez, EEA President wanted the Board to know that staff in the buildings want their kids back. Some classes are missing 30 minutes per day due to breakfast after the bell and over the year this can add up to 13 total days being missed. Staff is asking that breakfast be served prior to the bell as well as after.

b. Budget Report

Allison Razey, Finance Director, reviewed the year-end financial report with the Board. She highlighted that the ESSER cliff is coming and that we made wise decisions on how our ESSER funds were spent on one time expenditures rather than funding a program that would not be possible at the end of the ESSER funds being available. Our food service program is now operating in the black.

c. Superintendent Report

1. WSSDA Conference - Tim, Josh, and Mike recently attended the conference in Bellevue. The breakout sessions this year were more informative this year.
2. The December meeting will be on the 18th rather than the normal 4th Monday, which is during the Holiday break.
3. We are still working on projects that need to be done so Tim is applying for a \$500,000 Urgent Repair Grant to complete these projects.

d. First Reading Policy/Procedures

e. Recognition of Bill Correll

The Ephrata School District has been blessed to have Bill Correll sitting on our board for the past 37 years. He always kept the 3 S's in the forefront of his decisions - Students, Staff and then Stuff. All who have had the pleasure of working with him have always appreciated his calm and steady guidance. His history of Ephrata is unending and will be greatly missed. Thank You Bill for your dedication to the Ephrata School District and community.

8. Adjournment

Director Adams adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.