

Regular School Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
9/23/2024

Present: Director Truscott, Director Fleurkens, Director Sainsbury, Director Adams, Director Waller, Ken Murray, Student Representative to the Board Roberto Araujo

1. **Work Session 5:30 - 6:00 pm**

During the Work Session, the new certified staff was introduced to the Board.

2. **Call to Order**

Director Waller called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm.

3. **Flag Salute**

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

4. **Public Comments**

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

5. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

1. Update September payroll from the estimated to actual amounts. \$3,142,608.12, check numbers 165045758-165045760

A motion to update the September payroll information was made by Director Adams. Director Sainsbury seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

6. **Action Items**

a. **Consent Agenda**

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the updated payroll information was made by Director Sainsbury. Director Truscott seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

i. Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2024

ii. Hires

1. Johnny Dorton, 6 Hr Safety and Security
2. Katelyn Towry, Fall Team Assistant
3. Katie Cummings, EHS School Store Manager and Freshman Class Advisor
4. Susannah McQuade, 6.75 Hr Para at Parkway
5. Nayeli Diaz, 7 Hr Bilingual Para at Parkway
6. Naileah Nunez, One (1) Year Temporary .85 fte Music Teacher at Parkway
7. Vonda Kiter, Route 23 Bus Driver
8. Aurora Lopez, 7 Hr Bilingual Para at EMS
9. Shelley Fairchild, 5.5 HR Food Service
10. Emily Macken, 3 HR Food Service
11. Nicholas Lobe, EMS Assistant Football Coach
12. Erminia Suarez, EMS Assistant Volleyball Coach
13. Pat Gallaway, Rt 13 Bus Driver, 1 Year Temporary
14. Samantha Slabach, 4 Hr Custodian at Grant
15. Mike Warren, 1 Year Temporary Safety and Security

iii. Donations

1. Tiger Boosters \$700 to help fund a new "Homecoming" banner for Basin Street.
2. Carol Moore, \$1,500 to support student and staff needs.

iv. Surplus Old High School Wrestling Mats

v. Ratify EEA Agreement Openers for 24/25

vi. Resolution 2024-2025-01 Final Acceptance of Columbia Ridge Elementary

vii. MOU School Migrant Nurse

viii. Approve Teacher Teaching out of Endorsement

ix. Payroll & Accounts Payable

b. Approve Asphalt Quote for Ephrata Middle School

Adam Roduner, Maintenance Supervisor, is seeking approval for asphalt quotes received for work at Ephrata Middle School. Roughly, 18,000 square feet of asphalt will be placed in the area behind the Ephrata Middle School Complex. During the remodel of the school, the existing

asphalt behind the kitchen was trenched in multiple areas. The new asphalt will create a level surface and expand parking and unloading areas. Adam is recommending that we accept the quote from Eastside Asphalt Inc. with a cost of \$52,000. Director Sainsbury made a motion to approve the quote from Eastside Asphalt Inc. for the asphalt work at Ephrata Middle School. Director Truscott seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

c. Approve Mower Purchase

Adam Roduner, Maintenance Supervisor, is seeking approval to purchase a new lawn mower from the quotes presented. He is recommending purchasing the new mower from John Deere for \$69,146 not including sales tax. Director Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of the new mower from John Deere. Director Sainsbury seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

d. Approve Shop Service Truck

Adam Roduner, Maintenance Supervisor, is seeking approval to bid on a shop service truck that Grant County PUD is putting up for auction. He would like to bid \$30,000 for the truck, with the approval of the Board to go as high as \$37,000 if the bid comes in too low. He has researched this type of service truck and cannot find one comparable for this dollar amount. Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve the bid of \$30,000 with board approval to go as high as \$37,000 if the bid is deemed too low. Director Truscott seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

7. Non-Action Items

a. Facility and Maintenance Update

Adam Roduner, Director of Maintenance and Transportation provided the board an update on construction and maintenance projects that were completed over the summer or are currently underway. Of note are:

- New Roofs: Installed at Grant Elementary and at the Beezley building on the EHS campus.
- Preschool Upgrades: Including new playground equipment, landscaping, fire alarms and occupancy of a new portable that will provide additional space for activities at the school.
- New Storage Facility: A new storage facility is currently under construction across from the EHS soccer complex. The 40 by 100 feet building will consolidate storage for the school district. Right now, the district has one on-site facility, rents two off-site buildings and leases 10 storage containers, which are housed on district property. Construction of

the building will provide capacity for future school construction projects and future district storage needs while saving just over \$2,400 in monthly storage rental costs.

- Electrical Upgrades to EHS, Parkway Intermediate and Grant Elementary Kitchens: This grant-funded work will allow for new/expanded equipment in each facility.
- Grant Elementary Playground: In the near future, Ephrata Schools will go out to bid for installation of new playground equipment at Grant Elementary. The grant-funded work is expected to be complete before the end of the school year.
- Expansion of Sports Medicine Room at EHS: Over the summer, maintenance crews renovated the Sports Medicine room at EHS to provide more space for students and equipment.
- New Buses: The district anticipates receiving two new school buses in the next few weeks. These buses, funded by voter approved levy dollars will help update the district fleet. A new Special Education bus is on order and should be received soon.

b. Small Works Roster

We will be advertising the next 2 weeks for contractors to join our small works roster. We have also recently joined the MSRC to help build the roster as well. Jobs under \$300,000 can be opened up to our small works for quotes and awarded by board approval if there is more than one quote received.

c. Update on Cell Phone Boxes

This year, Ephrata High School (EHS) and Ephrata Middle School (EMS) took significant steps toward improving student engagement by implementing strict “no cell phone” rules during class time. The effort, part of a nationwide trend, aims to minimize distractions and foster a more focused learning environment. EHS Principal Ashlie Miller and EMS Assistant Principal, Levi Spencer provided the board with an update on the broad success seen at both schools. The Board has asked for another update on this later on this school year.

d. Budget Report

Allison Razey, Finance Director, reviewed the budget report with the Board. She explained the Federal Time and Effort requirements to the Board as well. Any employee that is paid with Federal funds must have a Time and Effort sheet filled out each month to verify that they are being paid with Federal funds accurately.

e. Superintendent Report

1. I want to commend our Payroll Department on the great job they did to get the September payroll completed. We have a predominately-new team and they worked very long hours to get payroll submitted on time.

2. Recently attended the NCESD Superintendent Advisory meeting to discuss school finances.
3. Work has begun on the EPO behind the scenes. In November, it will be brought to the Board for consideration.
4. Looking to run a Bond in February 2026, our Facility Study and Survey group will be meeting on Oct. 14.
5. As a district we are working day to day to meet the needs of our students.

f. Legislative Update

WSSDA General Assembly was on Friday, September 20th. Director Fleurkens, Director Truscott and Director Waller were each able to represent our District for a portion of the meeting. This was the first time Director Fleurkens and Truscott participated in this and both felt it was a good experience. They both felt that the proposals this year were in alignment with our thinking and interests. Director Waller thanked them for their involvement and sharing in this duty. Our district can be better served having the Board involved in this process.

8. Adjournment

Prior to adjourning the meeting Director Waller announced that she will be stepping down from her position after the December meeting. She has enjoyed her time on the board but with new demands on her time, she does not feel that she is able to commit the time needed to do the job the way she feels it should be done. The process to fill her position will begin in October.

Director Waller adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Anita Waller, Board President

Ken Murray, Secretary to the Board