

Regular School Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
11/25/2024

Present: Director Truscott, Director Fleurkens, Director Sainsbury, Director Waller, Ken Murray, Student Representative to the Board Charles Flynn

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

The 2024-25 School Improvement Plans highlight data-driven goals, targeted strategies and measurable outcomes tailored to each schools' unique needs. These state required plans serve as a pathway for continuous growth, focusing on areas such as academic performance, student engagement and school climate.

2. Call to Order

Due to the work session running longer than expected, the regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

3. Flag Salute

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

4. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Director Sainsbury made a motion to move the Lego Robotics presentations to the beginning of the regular meeting, which was seconded by Director Fleurkens. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

5. LegoRobotics Presentation

Lego Robotics teams from Grant Elementary, Columbia Ridge Elementary, and Parkway Intermediate will compete in the First Lego League (FLL) competition in Pasco, Washington, on December 14. The four teams heading to the competition gave the school board a sneak peek of their entries last night. This year's FLL competition features a series of robotic tasks, along with the presentation of research projects focused on underwater research and exploration.

Nearly 60 teams from communities across Central Washington will participate, each competing for a chance to qualify for the Eastern Washington State Championship.

6. Public Comments

No individuals signed in to address the board.

7. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Director Truscott and seconded by Director Sainsbury. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

i. Meeting Minutes from October 28, 2024

ii. Hires

1. Emma Hewitt, Temporary Part-time Business Teacher at EHS
2. Blade Gray, Assistant Boys Wrestling Coach at EHS
3. Perla Nava, 7 Hr Bilingual Para at EMS
4. April Perry, 7.5 Hr Temporary ECEAP Assistant Para
5. Yanai Zapien Cruz, 3 Hr SPED Bus Monitor for Route 26
6. Jacob Laird, EHS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
7. Nathan Jensen, EHS Assistant Boys Soccer Coach

iii. Donations

1. Stemilt Growers, \$1,000 to be divided equally between Columbia Ridge and Grant Schools. This is to be used to help students with winter clothes needs.

iv. Resolution 2024-2025-2 Columbia Ridge Building Commissioning Report

v. Second Reading of Policies

vi. Accounts Payable & Payroll

b. Approve Contractor to Complete Electronic Door System at Parkway Intermediate

Technology Director Sarah Vasquez is seeking board approval to contract with e3 Solutions of Yakima, Washington, for integrating new building doors with the existing electronic door system. District maintenance staff will install five new doors, and e3 Solutions will handle the electronic systems installation and programming. The total contract cost is \$21,815, with work anticipated to occur over Winter Break. Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve the contract with e3 Solutions and was seconded by Director Truscott. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

c. Approve Quotes for New Kitchen Equipment at Grant, Parkway and High School

Earlier this year, Ephrata Schools received a \$165,000 Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools Grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The grant funds items such as renovations, repairs, new purchases, and improvements to cafeteria and kitchen equipment. In October, the school board approved using a portion of the grant to make necessary electrical upgrades at Grant Elementary, Parkway Intermediate, and EHS. The district will use the remaining grant funds (\$100,000) along with approximately \$20,000 in district funds to purchase new equipment for each school:

- Grant Elementary will receive a Vulcan Oven, commercial dishwasher, reach-in freezer, pass-through heated cabinet, and heated proofing cabinet.
- Parkway Intermediate will receive a Vulcan Oven, commercial dishwasher, and heated proofing cabinet.
- EHS will receive a Vulcan Oven, hot serving table, and pizza table.

Alain Black, Food Service Director, is recommending that most of the purchases be made from Edward Don, with the exceptions of the reach-in freezer (from Spokane Restaurant) and the pass-through heated cabinet (from Bargreen) for Grant School. A motion to approve the new kitchen equipment, based on Alain Black's recommendation, was made by Director Sainsbury and seconded by Director Fleurkens. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

d. Approve 24-25 School Improvement Plans

The 2024-25 School Improvement Plans were officially presented to the Board during the work session. Director Fleurkens moved to approve the plans, and seconded by Director Truscott. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

e. Resolution 2024-2025-3 Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The District is proposing an Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy to replace the current levy, which will appear on the February 2025 ballot for Ephrata taxpayers to consider. This is not a new tax, but rather a replacement for the 2021 voter-approved levy, which expires in 2025. The EP&O Levy helps fund essential services that the state does not fully cover, bridging the gap between state funding and the actual cost of running a school district. The levy dollars fully fund athletics, activities, and extracurricular programs in Ephrata Schools. Additionally, it partially funds elective classes, instructional technology, College in the High School, safety and security, and staff training. A motion to approve Resolution 2024-2025-3, the Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy, was made by Director Fleurkens and seconded by Director Truscott. A roll call vote was conducted: Director Sainsbury – approved, Director Fleurkens – approved, Director Truscott – approved, Director Waller – approved. Director Adams was absent for the vote. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

f. Appoint For/Against Statement Committee Members

The district advertised for individuals interested in writing the For and Against statements for the proposed EP&O Levy to be held in February 2025. The notice was published in the Columbia Basin Herald, on the district's website, and across its social media platforms. Randy Bracht and Kathleen Allstot contacted the district to express their interest in serving on the For Committee for the EP&O Levy. However, no expressions of interest were received for the Against Committee. Randy Bracht has indicated that he is willing to serve as the head of the For Committee, with Kathleen Allstot joining him as a member. A motion to appoint Randy Bracht as the lead for the For Committee was made by Director Sainsbury and seconded by Director Fleurkens. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

8. Non-Action Items

a. Budget Report

Alison Razey, Finance Director, reviewed with the Board the October budget report and the 2023-24 Year End Report.

b. Consider Invitation to Ron Mabry, Washington State Board of Education Member

Director Waller spoke about Washington State Board of Education member Ron Mabry and suggested inviting him to meet with the Board after the first of the year. The Board expressed interest in having him visit the district. Superintendent Murray confirmed he would contact Ron Mabry to arrange the meeting.

c. Legislative Update

Director Fleurkens provided a brief legislative update, stating that following the WSSDA General Assembly, WSSDA's priorities for the upcoming state legislative session have been established.

d. Superintendent Report

1. Allison Razey's efficient work is being recognized not only in our District but also within the NCESD. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Allison.
2. Recently met with Tom Dent, and it's clear that he genuinely cares about kids and public education.
3. Safety upgrades at Parkway are ongoing. A special thank you to Aaron, Ashlie, Mike C and his security team, the Ephrata Police Department, and the community for their efforts in handling the recent safety threat. We are continuing to work with the EPD on the ongoing investigation.

e. First Reading Policy/Procedures

5280 Separation from Employment
6513/6513P Workplace Violence Prevention

9. Adjournment

Before adjourning the regular meeting, Director Waller announced that this would be her final meeting as a school director. She expressed how much she has enjoyed her time on the board and feels confident that she is leaving the board in capable hands. Thank you, Anita, for your many years of service and dedication to the District. Director Waller adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

The December meeting will be held a week earlier, on December 16th.

James Adams, Board President

Ken Murray, Secretary to the Board