

Regular School Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
1/27/2025

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Flag Salute**

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

3. **Administer Oath of Office to Casey Devine**

Superintendent Murray administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Director #3 Casey Devine.

4. **Public Comments**

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

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

There were no changes or additions to the posted agenda.

6. **Action Items**

a. **Consent Agenda**

Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Devine seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

i. **Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2024 and January 16, 2025**

## **ii. Hires**

1. Heather Bruggman, 6.5 Hr Learning Center Para at EHS
2. Rosa Placido Barajas, Temporary English Language Development Specialist, Temporary position until the end of the 24/25 school year.
3. Raven Bair, Temporary 6.5 Hr Special Education Para at Grant School
4. Dan Molitor, EHS Head Boys Golf Coach

## **iii. Accounts Payable & Payroll**

## **iv. Donations**

1. Vitalant and BCFIN are offering STEM Grants to schools that successfully host at least two blood drives during the calendar year. EHS HOSA qualifies for the Yellow Tier, earning \$1,200 for the blood drives held in May and November of 2024. Although EHS HOSA fell slightly below the required 40 units, Vitalant has graciously approved the grant due to the school closure that impacted the scheduled blood drive on November 15. While Vitalant was able to host a blood drive at the ERC that day, not all participants attended.

## **b. Approve City Tourism Application**

Bryan Johnson, Ephrata High School Athletic Director, on behalf of the Ephrata High School has applied for a Tourism Funding Grant from the City of Ephrata. The Ephrata Tourism Commission has recommended \$8,950 in funding for the Ephrata School District to support sports tournaments, events and EHS graduation. These events bring approximately 40,000 people to Ephrata to stay overnight, purchase food and gas, and shop at local retail and entertainment venues. The Ephrata City Council is expected to take final action on the approval of this grant at their February 5 meeting. Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve applying and accept the award of the grant from the Ephrata Tourism Commission. Director Devine seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

## **c. Expanding Health Science Grant from OSPI**

Ephrata School District was recently awarded \$95,000 to support the Ephrata High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Health Science Program. Funds will be used for staff salaries, professional development, HOSA - Future Health Professionals expenses, field trips, guest speakers, curriculum, and equipment. Career and Technical Education Courses in this program include Intro to Health Science Careers, Medical Terminology, Human Biology and Sports Medicine.

**d. Approve ORFF Musical Instrument Purchase for Grant School and Columbia Elementary**

Sharon Scellick, Director of Teaching and Learning, Marshall Bilodeau, Grant Music Teacher, and Alicia Keeghan, Columbia Ridge Music Teacher, presented a request to purchase new ORFF musical instruments for Grant School and Columbia Ridge Elementary School. ORFF refers to a specific approach to music education developed by Carl Orff during the 1920s, which integrates music, speech, and drama into lessons, resembling natural play among children. Both elementary music teachers are Level III ORFF certified, a distinction that reflects their advanced training and expertise in this educational approach.

The proposed purchase includes:

- Four soprano xylophones per school
- Four alto xylophones per school
- Four bass xylophones per school
- Rolling carts for each set of instruments
- Low bass bars covering a variety of notes

Three quotes were requested, and the recommendation is to purchase the equipment from Mad Robin Music & Dance, LLC. The total estimated cost for these instruments is \$29,000.

Funding will be sourced as follows:

- \$6,000 from a Washington Music Education Association grant
- The remaining balance from Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) grant

Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve the purchase of the ORFF Musical Instruments for Grant and Columbia Ridge Schools from Mad Robin Music & Dance, LLC. Director Devine seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

**e. Resolution 2024-2025-4 Building Commissioning Report for Ephrata Middle School**

Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-2025-4 Building Commissioning Report for Ephrata Middle School. Director Devine seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

**f. Resolution 2024-2025-5 Acceptance as Finally Completed - EMS**

Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-2025-5 Acceptance as Finally Completed - Ephrata Middle School. Director Devine seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

## **7. Non-Action Items**

### **a. District Wide Attendance Update**

Deb Knox, Assistant Director of Teaching & Learning and State & Federal Programs provided the board with information regarding the district's efforts to increase student attendance across all Ephrata Schools.

Following the pandemic, schools across the state saw an increase in chronic absenteeism, meaning that they missed two or more days of school per month, for any reason. According to the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, chronic absenteeism has a direct impact on student success in school and life. Students not reading at grade level by third grade are four times less likely to graduate. Further, those chronically absent in any two years between grade eight and 12 have more than a 50% chance of not finishing high school.

Improving attendance rates became a consistent focus for Ephrata Schools during the 2023-2024 school year. The district has a goal to improve the percentage of regularly attending students by 5 percent from June 2024 to June 2025 and is regularly tracking progress towards that goal. The district realized a 5 percent gain from the 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 school years and is on track to see the same gains.

### **b. Budget Report**

Allison Razey, Finance Director, reviewed the budget report with the board.

### **c. Superintendent Report**

1. January is School Board Appreciation Month, on behalf of the Ephrata School District, I want to say how fortunate we are to have such a sound and responsible board to help direct the work we engage in.
2. Our EPO levy work is well underway; I have had the opportunity to present to almost all of our staff members. By the time the February 11th comes around, I hope to have done our levy presentation with all staff members and several outside organizations in Ephrata. Thank you to Sarah Morford for the phenomenal job she has done on the mailer we sent out this month.
3. We did a flag day send off for our Columbia Ridge and Parkway Intermediate Lego Robotics teams that were headed off to their state competitions recently. You could see the joy and how special it was to the students who were involved in this.
4. The secure vestibule at Grant is getting close to being completed. A lot of the work got completed over Christmas Break, and we are now moving into camera and electrical lock systems. The same work will be taking place at the High School as well. It will be more of a remote vestibule that will be monitored by camera.
5. Our next Facility Study meeting will be taking place on February 3rd.

**d. Legislative Update**

We are following a few bills that can have some significant impact to us related to special education, Senate Bill 56307, House Bill 1310 and Senate Bill 5263. There are some similarities between the bills and they all will increase our multiplier. There are also Senate and House Bills that address the MSOC funding. Still very early in the session but we will keep our eyes on the progress of the bills of interest to us. Charles Flynn, Student Representative to the Board, reported that the legislative conference didn't have as many opportunities for advocating this year compared to last year, but it was very helpful in learning about and understanding the big three issues for our District, MSOC, Special Education and Transportation funding. Another big takeaway Charles had was the dignity index that was presented. The most important thing about the index is treating everyone with dignity in everything you do.

**e. First Reading Policy/Procedures**

6801 Capital Assests Theft-Sensitive Assets  
Updated Restraint and Isolation Form

**8. Adjournment**

Director Sainsbury adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.

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Josh Sainsbury, Board Vice Chair

Ken Murray, Secretary to the Board