BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE
MINUTES OF MEETING FINAL
May 18, 2015 (Working Session Meeting)

A Working Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, May 18, 2015, in the Board Room, District Office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER
President Deb Spenceley called the Business Session BOE Meeting to order at 7:04pm.

ROLL CALL:
The following BOE Directors were present:
Director Carol Hinds
Director Dee Lindsey
Director Chris Richardson
Director Deb Spenceley

Also present: Superintendent, Douglas Bissonette
Executive Administrative Assistant/Communication Director, Michele McCarron
Chief Finance Director, Ron Patera

Director Chip Swan was not present

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Deb Spenceley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE
No Education Showcase

5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/BLANKET MOTION
A motion was made to approve the agenda.
Motion moved by Director Richardson
Motion seconded by Director Hinds

ROLL CALL:
Director Carol Hinds - aye
Director Dee Lindsey - aye
Director Chris Richardson - aye
Director Deb Spenceley - aye
The motion carried 4-0
6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES
6.1 A motion was made to approve the minutes from 5/4/15 as written.
Motion Moved by Director Richardson
Motion Seconded by Director Hinds

ROLL CALL:
Director Carol Hinds – aye
Director Dee Lindsey - abstain
Director Chris Richardson - aye
Director Deb Spenceley - aye
The motion carried 3-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS
7.1 Preliminary Budget
Chief Financial Officer Ron Patera presented to the board the Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Elizabeth Schools and many districts are still working with inadequate funding from the state. Budgetary challenges still remain as the state slowly starts to restore funding that was dramatically reduced by the negative factor. Since the state’s implementation of the negative factor the Elizabeth School District continues to make significant financial changes including reduction in staffing levels, elimination of the child care program, increases in current fees, the implementation of new fees, and deferment of capital infrastructure and maintenance. The state also implemented several mandates such as Educator Evaluation System, PARCC Assessments, Common Core Standards, READ Act, Readiness Act, all of which were mandated without resources. The district estimated that enrollment is expected to decline by approximately 95 students. This also impacts the district’s funding. The board values a financially responsible plan, educational excellence, and putting students at the heart of everything we do. Decisions made in developing the preliminary budget were consistently aligned with these board values. The board also asked the district to improve staff compensation and to address some of the most urgent and critical infrastructure needs. In order to address these issues the board expressed their comfort level for the district’s ending fund balance to be between $1.4M-1.5M at the end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

7.2 Superintendent Report
Superintendent Doug as Bissonette gave an update to the Board on the “Student-Centered Accountability Project”. Mr. Bissonette is working with several other rural districts on this project and the proposal to the State Board of Education (SBE). The project seeks to provide a framework for selected rural districts to create an accountability system that is more tailored to the needs and values of our students and rural communities. The focus and accountability by the state is not working for the rural and smaller size districts. Mr. Bissonette indicated the presentation to SBE went very well. SBE was positive and receptive to the proposal. More work still needs to be done on defining the project and how it will be implemented.

The district has received additional resignations by teachers since the last board meeting, bringing teacher turnover slightly above the state average to 16%. The administration expects more resignations as other districts attract teachers from our schools. The main reason for the departures continues to be compensation. Mr. Bissonette spoke about the negative effects of teacher turnover. It is an ongoing and serious issue for the district.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 8.1 through 8.3 as presented
Motion Moved by Director Lindsey
Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

ROLL CALL:
Director Carol Hinds – aye
Director Dee Lindsey - aye

APPROVED
Director Chris Richardson - aye
Director Deb Spenceley - aye
The motion carried 4-0

8.1 Terminations/resignations/non-renewals
Carolyn Burgener, Head Custodian, EMS
Katharine Rothe, Teacher, EHS
Colby Elliott, Teacher, EHS
Shawna Postma, Teacher, SHE
Kent McKee, Teacher, EMS
Stephanie Beals, Teacher, EHS
Paul Guillan, Teacher, EHS
Christine Collings, Counselor, EHS
Alicia Laughlin, Counselor, EMS
Mary Hart, Counselor, EMS
Patricia Rightmire, Child Care Floater
Renae Ramos, Bus Driver
Tressa Saum, Bus Driver

8.2 Transfers/Changes:
Pam Eschief, EMS Principal

8.3 Extra Duty Assignments

9.0 Action Items
No Action Items

10.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS
10.1 Policy BEAA Electronic Participation in School Board Meetings
The Board discussed policy BEAA having board members participate in board meetings electronically via phone. There have been challenges with board members calling in and the cell phone coverage dropping. Some members felt this was disruptive to meetings. The board will continue to allow electronic participation, but will look into other technology, such as skype.

11.0 BOARD PLANNING
The next board meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2015

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION
No Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT
The board meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.
Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Spenceley, President

Chip Swan, Vice President

Chris Richardson, Secretary

Carol Hinds, Treasurer

VIDEO CONF - RECORDED "Yes" VOTE

Dee Lindsey, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Michele McCarron