

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT
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BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING April 24, 2017 (Work Session Meeting)

A Work Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, April 24, 2017 in the Board Room, District Office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carol Hinds called the Work Session BOE Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Carol Hinds

Director Dee Lindsey

Director Chris Richardson

Director Richard Smith

Also present: Superintendent Douglas Bissonette
Communications Director Melissa Hoelting
Elizabeth Middle School Principal Pam Eschief

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Carol Hinds led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE

Elizabeth Middle School Education Showcase

Elizabeth Middle School that Principal Pam Eschief shared highlights from the school year with the board, including:

- Sixth grade boys and girls sports were introduced this year. There has been a lot of interest and a great turnout. Sixth grade sports helped students form new friendships and made the transition to middle school easier for many students.
- Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) is a leadership program for eighth graders. The students work on committees to help them develop leadership skills and be accountable for things. The group does a lot of community-based programs, including Fright Fest at Halloween, bringing more than 40 desserts to a local dinner for veterans and hosting a chili dinner before the spring play.
- In April, 83 students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS).
- EMS counselors coordinate Students of the Month. Teacher talk about the Students of the Month at lunch in front of their peers. This has helped with morale and it also encourages students to earn the recognition.

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- Students receive YES cards from teachers for doing positive things as part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) program. Principal Eschief and Assistant Principal act as waiters and serve the kids pizza and drinks as a reward.
- This year EMS collected \$801.32 through their week-long Pennies for Patients drive benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

5.0 APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/BLANKET MOTION

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

Motion moved by Director Richardson

Motion seconded by Director Smith

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

The motion carried 4-0

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2017 Elizabeth Schools Board of Education meeting.

Motion Moved by Director Richardson

Motion Seconded by Director Smith

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

The motion carried 4-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 2017 DAC Survey Results and Homework Discussion

DAC Survey Results

This spring parents were asked to complete the District Accountability Committee's (DAC) online survey. The survey results are intended to be used as a tool to identify improvement opportunities for individual schools and for the district. DAC Committee Chair Lori Marshall presented the results to the board. This year there were 433 survey responses, which is down slightly from the previous year. Survey results show emails from the school and School Reach calls are still the best way to communicate with parents. Parents continue to feel the safety measures in place at schools are adequate. The number of parents who feel communications from their child's school is effective dropped by 4.46% to 81.71%, compared to last year's results. Through the survey, parents indicated the three greatest needs in the district are: teacher retention, improvement of technology and teacher development.

Homework Discussion

At the December and January DAC meetings, parents and teachers discussed their observations about homework at the elementary and middle school levels. DAC members looked at homework studies but focused on the personal views of the members and how they believed homework fits into the lifestyles of Elizabeth families. Opinions ranged from "*the current homework is fine*" to "*there shouldn't be homework at all.*" DAC Chair Lori Marshall presented common themes from the DAC homework study:

- Some homework is good, but there is too much homework in schools now.

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- Teachers, especially at the middle school level, believe that homework is necessary to prepare students for high school and college and that it reinforces study habits.
- Parents of children in kindergarten through second grade only want reading homework. By third grade, parents felt 10-20 minutes of homework per night was acceptable. Parents felt that 30 minutes to one hour of homework was OK in middle school.
- Parents don't want homework to be busy work and they'd prefer to have homework that's completed throughout the school week as opposed to being due the next school day.

7.2 Class Size Report

The annual second semester class size report for 2016-17 was reviewed by the board. Overall, class sizes are good with low student-teacher ratios. At elementary level, smaller class sizes make more of a difference. A district the size of Elizabeth Schools has very little control over class sizes, and class sizes are largely determined by enrollment. Some core classes at the middle school and high school are larger than what's preferred, particularly in core classes. Some elective class sizes are large – like band – and that's acceptable.

Director Lindsey inquired about the possibility of a summer Spanish program and augmenting band/orchestra with a summer program for students between elementary and middle school.

7.3 Superintendent Update

Elizabeth High School's second Big Help Community Service Day is Wednesday, April 26. This is a student-led service project. Students have worked very hard since January to make sure the entire school is involved this year. Students and staff will volunteer at 29 locations in Elizabeth and the surrounding community to paint, pull weeds, help teachers at Running Creek Elementary, participate in activities with assisted living residents, and so much more.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 8.1-8.2.

Motion Moved by Director Lindsey

Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

The motion carried 4-0

8.1 Extra Duty Assignments

Aaron Stone, Assistant Track Coach, EMS

8.2 Resignations

Maria Carollo, Teacher, FHS

Karen Lewis, Bus Driver, Transportation

Katherine Aragon, Kids Club Program Leader, FHS

Eva Belnap, Sped Para, RCE

Patrick Gray, Psychologist, Districtwide

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9.0 Action Items

9.1 A motion was made to approve the new policies JRCB Privacy and Protection of Confidential Student Information and JRBC-R Privacy and Protection of Confidential Student Information-Regulation as second and final reading.

Motion Moved by Director Smith

Motion Seconded by Director Lindsey

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

The motion carried 4-0

10.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

No Discussion Items

11.0 BOARD PLANNING

The next regular board meeting will be May 8, 2017.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

ABSTAIN

Deb Spenceley, President

[Signature]

Carol Hinds, Vice President

[Signature]

Chris Richardson, Secretary

[Signature]

Dee Lindsey, Treasurer

[Signature]

Richard Smith, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Melissa Hoelting