

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT
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BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING January 9, 2017 (Business Session Meeting)

A Business Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, January 9, 2017 in the Board Room, District Office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Deb Spenceley called the Business Session BOE Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Carol Hinds
Director Dee Lindsey
Director Chris Richardson
Director Richard Smith
Director Deb Spenceley

Also present: Superintendent Douglas Bissonette
Chief Finance Director Ron Patera
Technology Director Marty Silva
Communications Director Melissa Hoelting

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 amended agenda.

Motion moved by Director Smith

Motion seconded by Director Richardson

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye
Director Dee Lindsey – aye
Director Chris Richardson – aye
Director Richard Smith – aye
Director Deb Spenceley – aye
The motion carried 5-0

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6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 A motion was made to approve the minutes from meeting December 12, 2016.

Motion Moved by Director Richardson

Motion Seconded by Director Lindsey

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Technology Update

Technology Director Marty Silva shared information about new features that will be rolled out to help simplify the online registration process and enable parents to upload transcripts, proof of residency and other related documents. This year, approximately 65% of student registrations were completed online. Registration window for returning students is generally July through September. New students can register at any time.

Elizabeth Schools is in the process of upgrading its Internet service. With the upgrade, the district will move to a gigabit connection that will increase throughput significantly. In simple terms, the upgrade will take the district from a two-lane to a 10-lane information highway. Silva's team is working with EducationSuperHighway, a nonprofit that helps school districts find the most competitively priced broadband solutions.

Director Lindsey asked about choke points. Silva said there are some, including district and FHS to RCE to EMS and EHS to EMS. The district plans to upgrade connections between each site. Speed tests should indicate a 15 megabits/second connection. Data ports give the best measurement.

Silva mentioned the contract with the district's current website provider is ending and the process has begun to find a new website vendor, which will include a new website. The district currently pays about \$6,000 a year now for website hosting – that will likely increase with a new vendor.

7.2 Chief Finance Director Update

Chief Financial Officer Ron Patera reviewed checks over \$5,000 and financial statements. Expenditures in December included payments for technology hardware, the last payment for the Elizabeth High School track rebuild, the EHS athletic trainer and services related to the Singing Hills Elementary wastewater treatment system.

Beginning with the January 2017 payroll, the district's match for the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) will increase from 19.15% to 19.65%. As a result, employee benefits will start to inch higher as a percentage of the expended budget beginning with the January statement. By January 2018, the district will be required to contribute 20.15% to PERA for each employee. Employees contribute 8%.

2017-18 Budget Outlook

Elizabeth Schools begins budget planning for the upcoming school year in January. Patera provided a preliminary outlook on the 2017-18 budget based on the governor's initial budget that was submitted in

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November. Given current information, Patera projects the district will receive about \$55,000 more in new revenue next year. Of that, about 20% will go to Legacy Academy, leaving approximately \$44,000 in potential new dollars to fund increased capital and labor costs.

Rising special services costs continue to add pressure to the budget. Last year, additional funding from the state for high needs students dropped significantly by more than \$100,000 while costs to the district continue to increase.

Last fiscal year was the first time in more than a decade the district needed to subsidize the food service fund due to increased unfunded federal mandates. The transfer to the operating fund for extracurricular activities also continues to grow due to the addition of sixth-grade athletics and compensation increases.

Minimum wage is also going up incrementally over the next few years and will impact the district's budget.

Cash Flow Shift

The funding each school district receives is determined through a very complex formula and then allocated on a per-pupil basis. That funding is provided first by local sources of revenue (property and specific ownership taxes, such as vehicle registration taxes). The balance of the funding comes from the state's general fund.

Several years ago, during the Great Recession, the assessed value of property decreased and state dollars were contributing a larger percentage of the funding to cover the lower local contribution. Now that assessed property values have increased, local sources are once again contributing a larger percentage of the funding. The increased funding coming from property taxes does not result in a net increase in funding to school districts.

Funding that comes from the state is paid to districts in equal amounts throughout the year. However, with the shift to a larger percentage of funding from local sources, a greater portion of the district's funding will come in larger sums as property tax revenues are received in March, May and June. This shift could create a cash flow issue for Elizabeth Schools next January through March. As a result, the district may take advantage of the state treasurer's interest free loan program that was created specifically for these situations. Even school districts substantially larger than Elizabeth Schools with access to large mill levy overrides exercise this option and it's fairly routine.

7.3 Superintendent Report

Superintendent Douglas Bissonette continues to advocate for teacher salary equity in rural districts and there's been growing awareness and interest across the state. The *Elbert County News* recently ran an article on the topic that was picked up by the *Colorado Springs Gazette*.

Superintendent Bissonette is fine tuning messages. Messages will focus on the benefits for students – driven by students. Bissonette is also sharing the information internally and will present to the Elizabeth Schools Teacher's Advisory Council on Jan. 12.

7.5 Board of Education Update

Director Lindsey acknowledged Elizabeth Schools Transportation Department for continuing to be voice for safety in transportation.

Director Lindsey also shared information about Colorado education grades that were recently released. Colorado is getting an F for school funding and is currently ranked 41st in the country. The rank hasn't

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changed much; however, five years ago Colorado was \$500 per student below the national average for funding and is now \$2,600 per student under the national average.

8.0 Public Participation

No public participation

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 9.1-9.7.

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

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

9.1 New Hires

Maurine Smith, Program Leader, Kids Club

9.2 Resignations/Terminations/Non-Renewals

Suzy Sadak, Bus Driver, Transportation

Kris Larson, Teacher, EHS

9.3 Transfers/Changes

Sarah Patterson, Cook, EHS

Timothy Scott, Trip Driver, Transportation

Sherrie Keithline, Lead Custodian, EHS

Linda Deleshaw, Custodian, EHS

Jonlon Bankert, Cafeteria Para, RCE

Katherine Terry, Title I Teacher, RCE

Misty O'Neal, Sped Para Attendant, RCE

9.4 Extra Duty Assignments

Rebecca Carnahan, 6th Grade Girls Basketball, EMS

Melanie Kaumeyer, Choir/Orchestra, EMS

Shannon Stone, Extra Class, EHS

9.5 Substitutes

None

9.6 Sick Bank Request

9.7 Monthly Financial Report

10.0 Action Items

10.1 Ratify Inclement Weather Closure

A motion was made to ratify the 1/5/17 inclement weather closure.

Motion Moved by Director Lindsey

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Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

Director Deb Spenceley – aye

The motion carried 5-0

11.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 Advocacy priorities

Teacher salary equity and advocating for more in-depth study of how school districts are funded are areas the Elizabeth Schools Board of Education will focus on in the coming months.

Board members will participate in the Colorado Association of School Board (CASB) Days at the Capital. Days at the Capital are held every Wednesday from February 15 through April 19. Elizabeth Schools' official district day is March 8. These events provide school board members a chance to experience the legislative process firsthand and to help strengthen the voice of school boards. Board members also will participate in the CASB winter legislative session in February.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m. in the board room at the district office.

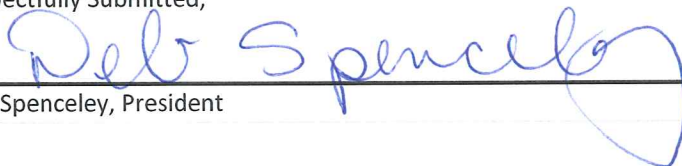
12.0 BOARD PLANNING

The next regular board meeting will be January 23, 2017.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

The regular board meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deb Spenceley, President

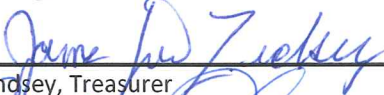
APPROVED

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Carol Hinds, Vice President



Chris Richardson, Secretary



Dee Lindsey, Treasurer



Richard Smith, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Melissa Hoelting, Communications Director