

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING May 22, 2017 (Work Session Meeting)

A Work Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, May 22, 2017 in the Board Room, District Office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Deb Spenceley 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

Director Deb Spenceley

Also present: Superintendent Douglas Bissonette
Chief Financial Director Ron Patera
Communications Director Melissa Hoelting
Elizabeth High School Principal Bret McClendon

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Deb Spenceley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE

Elizabeth High School Education Showcase

Elizabeth High School Principal Bret McClendon shared a few highlights of the year:

- On May 13, 162 students graduated from Elizabeth High School. This year there were 12 valedictorians (4.0 GPA or higher) in the graduating class and seniors earned more than \$2 million in scholarships and awards. The day before graduation, seniors, dressed in their graduation gowns, walked through the elementary schools they attended and then met at the middle school to walk through the halls together. Staff and students alike expressed appreciation for the opportunity to see the seniors walk through and cheer for them.
- Moving the date of graduation this year went well for the students. It saved senior track athletes the unnecessary decision of choosing between their commencement ceremony and the state track meet. A number of EHS senior athletes took home state track championship titles. The girls team placed second in the state and the boys team placed third.

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- Last year 250 students had the opportunity to participate in first Big Help Day. This year, every student who wanted to participate did – nearly 700 students! The schoolwide community service project was a very positive experience that students really enjoyed and said was a great opportunity to give back to the community. Students and staff volunteered at 28 locations, including the high school where students painted murals in the library and weight room.
- The new audio/visual course, EZTV, has been a great addition to the curriculum. In year one, the program exploded and enrollment is near capacity for next year.
- Starting this school year, Colorado switched the mandated college entrance assessment for 11th grade students from ACT to SAT. Pre-test preparation was offered to students to help ease the transition. Once test scores are in, the school will conduct a curriculum analysis to identify areas where added support can be provided to students.
- Pikes Peak Community College has been working with Arapahoe Community College (ACC) and the high school to enable EHS students to take ACC articulated and career and technical education (CTE) classes. The agreement will allow additional dual credit college classes to be offered at EHS, beginning in phases. ACC is a lot closer, making it easier for our students if they choose to attend classes at the college campus.
- Gifted and Talented teacher Leanne Cook will provide career and future planning to individual students next year. About 50 percent of EHS students go to college, but the percentage would likely be higher if students had help planning their future. Mrs. Cook and EHS counselors will work together to help students explore all their options.
- The new track is complete and the first meet was held in April. A school record was broken on the track opening day.
- More than 60% of students are involved in some club, activity or sport; however, EHS leadership would like to see higher participation. Athletic and Activities Director Gentry Nixon will work to increase participation rates.
- The re-roof project is underway and there are currently three staging sites for roof materials. The project will be completed over the summer.

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 Lindsey

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds – aye

Director Dee Lindsey – aye

Director Chris Richardson – aye

Director Richard Smith – aye

The motion carried 4-0

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6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2017 Elizabeth Schools Board of Education meeting.

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

The motion carried 4-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Preliminary Budget for 2017-18

Chief Financial Director Ron Patera presented the 2017-18 Proposed Budget to the board. The district remains financially sound, but budgetary challenges remain. State funding has not kept pace with inflation. The board's desire to maintain educational excellence while being financially responsible is the goal in the preliminary budget.

Capital purchases and projects recommended for the next school year:

- Complete the roof replacement for Elizabeth High School
- Complete the wastewater treatment system at Singing Hills Elementary
- Apply sealant on exterior walls at Elizabeth High School and Singing Hills Elementary
- Replace current lighting in Elizabeth High School gym with LED lighting
- Replace several HVAC units at Elizabeth High School
- Purchase technology throughout the district, including Chromebooks and carts, desktop computers, laptops, projectors, and additional Wi-Fi access points
- Develop a District Master Plan for facilities
- Repair water tower located at transportation
- Replace HVAC software at Running Creek Elementary

With the preliminary budget as presented, the district is expected to end the next fiscal year with a General Fund balance of approximately \$1,803,300. The final 2017-18 budget will be presented to the board for approval on June 26.

7.2 State Treasurer's Interest Free Loan Program

The district notified the state treasurer's office of its intention to participate in the interest free loan program for school districts. The program helps districts manage cash flow when the district's fund balance gets low prior to receipt of property taxes paid in March, May and June. The official notification to the state will allow Elizabeth Schools to take advantage of the loan program, if needed and approved by the Board of Education next fiscal year.

7.3 Superintendent Update

Students in 4th through 12th grade participated for the second year on the Student Advisory Council. The council is a partnership between staff and students. Council members represent students' perspectives on issues important at the school and district level so everyone can better understand student opinions and insights. Students also get to see and experience things happening as a result of their input and work. This school year the students discussed things like the transitions from 5th to 6th grade and 8th to 9th grades, and ideas about teacher fairness.

Elizabeth Schools received good financial news last month in three areas. The Colorado State Legislature signed the School Finance Act which allocated \$60 more in per pupil funding, or about \$125,000 for Elizabeth Schools, than was expected based on earlier projections. Senate Bill 267, the rural sustainability bill that Superintendent Bissonette twice testified in support of, passed. The bill will bring the district about \$331,000 in one-time funding. In addition, the Colorado Department of Education

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awarded the district a \$229,285 reimbursement for high-cost special education students, covering about three-fifths of the total request. The district has experienced a sharp increase in SPED-related costs and the reimbursement will help address some of the added expense.

These additional one-time funds will have a positive impact on the district; however, a systemic, statewide funding problem still exists. It will take a significant amount of ongoing state and local funding to bridge the inequity in teacher salaries between Elizabeth Schools and larger neighboring school districts.

Following the departure of the drama/band teacher, Elizabeth Middle School decided to post for two separate positions – one for drama and one for band. There was a good pool of candidates for band, but not for drama. The opening was changed from a drama to robotics/technology position. Schedules will be revised if the robotics/technology position is filled.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 8.1-8.4.

Motion Moved by Director Hinds

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

8.1 New Hires

Brittany Story, Teacher, EMS

Robin Neelley, Teacher, EMS

Anne DeWeese, Teacher, EHS

8.2 Transfers/Changes

Erin Rhoades, Playground Para, RCE

Sharla Benkendorf, Teacher, Opportunity Program

Kelly Tarr, Counselor, RCE

8.3 Terminations/Resignations

Karissa Stovall, Teacher, SHE

Andrea Felton, Sped Para, EHS

Kelsey Jansen, Teacher, EHS

Rachel Donnelly, Teacher, SHE

Eric Steinert, Teacher, EHS

Lori Biggs, Teacher, EHS

8.4 Disposition of district property

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9.0 Action Items

9.1 A motion was made to appoint Melissa Hoelting as Elizabeth School District's designated election official.

Motion Moved by Director Hinds

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

10.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

No Discussion Items

11.0 BOARD PLANNING

The next regular board meeting will be June 12, 2017.

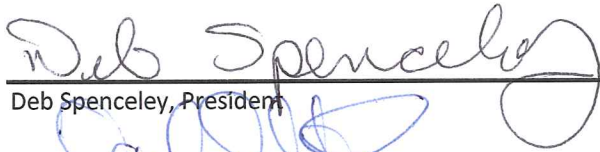
12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

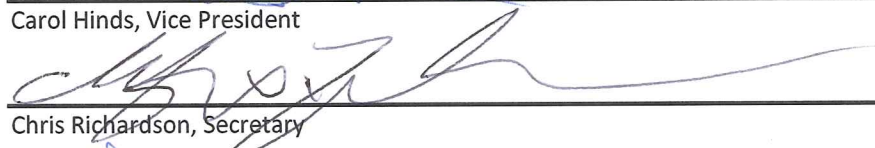
Respectfully Submitted,




Deb Spenceley, President



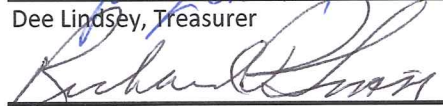
Carol Hinds, Vice President



Chris Richardson, Secretary



Dee Lindsey, Treasurer



Richard Smith, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Melissa Hoelting