Elkton School District #34
Regular Board Meeting
January 8, 2024

Meeting is called to order with the flag salute at 7:00 p.m.by Board Chair Roger Holcomb.

Members present: Roger Holcomb, Candy Weatherly, Lindsey Baker, Doug Byle, Sarah Wood, Randi Smith

Staff present: Andy Boe, Sam Tupou, Edwina Miller, Brian Kruse, Melissa Whitley

Community present: Mark and Lisa Smith, Jeremy Lockhart, Devin Hunt, Karen Zeller, Braden Groth and Nicole Gideon

Student Reports

- FFA Representative – Katelynn Kruse
  - Preparing and practicing for winter leadership development events.
  - FFA members are preparing for the District LE competition and we desperately need judges. Contact Mr. Groth.
  - Three members are completing their state degree applications. It is the highest degree our state association can bestow upon our members. They will present to a group of community members on Feb. 7th. Judges are needed.
  - Highway cleanup is scheduled for January 20th. At tomorrow night's game we will have a pulled pork meal for $8.

- Dr. Zeller and Sophomore Moshe Byle
  - Moshe Byle states that he has Dr. Zeller for both Geometry and Latin. Moshe enjoys the labs and how interactive they are. Moshe states that Dr. Zeller is always calm and always smiling.

Chairman's Report – Roger Holcomb

- Board Member Resignation – Dan Burke, Position #5
  - Presentation of letter of resignation as Board Member Dan Burke effective January 8, 2024.
    - Roger Holcomb – He has been very involved and brings a lot of energy to the board and has always had the kids' best interest in mind. Very kid oriented and I appreciate that.

A motion is made by Doug Byle to accept the resignation of Board Member Dan Burke. The motion is seconded by Candy Weatherly. The motion carries 6:0 with yes votes by Doug Byle, Randi Smith, Lindsey Baker, Candy Weatherly, Roger Holcomb and Sarah Wood.

- Mr. Boe conducted a complete review of policy BBE Vacancies on the Board, and the Full Process for Selecting an Interim Board Member provided by the OSBA.
- The interim board position will be open 1/10/24 – 2/7/24.

Superintendent Report – Andy Boe

- Following up to the sound system at the high school discussed last meeting. We heard you and are working on upgrades.
- Thank you to everyone who worked on the holiday food basket process. It was another great year distribution of food baskets and gifts.

- Rob Hess is present and will give his presentation of the principal search during the personnel section of the meeting.
- Literacy Grant – The grade school team and I have been working with Diane Sweeden to develop our $82,000 grant over 2 years that the state made available for K-3rd grade reading. We've gone through in-depth process and strategy sessions and there are a lot of questions around the science of reading and going back to a phonics-based system. It was a very easy application to write as our K-3 have been teaching that way for several years. We felt really good about the application. We hired Yvonne Owings to do some high intensity tutoring for K-3 and she pulls small groups – outside of Title and Sped kids – they get 30 minutes of high intensity tutoring. That high intensity tutoring is phonics based and is identified in the grant. One thing we did add with Mrs. Sweeden's help is using Dibels more efficiently allowing us to score and test more effectively. The efficiency has increased. We also do Easy CBM and both assessments measure progress.
    - Sarah Wood asks – Do we test on computers?
    - Andy Boe states, no. They do oral reading assessments, and a written assessment and data is input by the staff.

  This culminates to the dollars and will pay for Yvonne Owings, Dibels and curriculum to keep advancing. For older kids that have come to us who didn't receive that phonetic training, we've asked for a few more dollars to help kids grades 4-5 to receive supports. Kids are receiving intervention who need it. We are delivering a lot of reading instruction and intensive targeted instruction and we will start to see those results soon.

  Any questions?

- We will see restroom changes at the high school. We are making the move to 5 single use restrooms. This will also cut down on vaping concerns. We are following guidance of our counsel. We have also ordered vaping detectors. This also impacts the grade school and we are going to install vape detectors the outside middle school restroom. They are already single use restrooms at the middle school.
    - Sarah Wood asks about the status of locker room restrooms.
    - Mr. Boe states that the locker rooms will stay as they are.

Principal Report – Sam Tupou

- It was awesome to see the kids come together during the two weeks before winter break. A highlight for me was the grade school kids coming to the high school to carol. The collaboration was very cool.
- Katelynn Kruse is Student of the Month for December.
- Adulting 101 – We've moved into the essence of courage. This was very timely as we rolled up asking kids to be courageous in the face of challenges and difficulties. We asked the kids to participate in the problem solving and learning to problem solve issues when they leave our school.
- Curriculum: One of the teachers went to a science fair today and we are anxious to see what that was like. That is our next subject for adoption. You will hear more about that next month.
- Knowledge Bowl contest is on Wednesday. They will head to Coos Bay.
- The end of the quarter/semester is on January 25th. We've asked teachers to set aside a finals week to put more emphasis, and we will organize that at our next PD meeting.
- Dr. Zeller is finalizing the senior project presentation phase as we have that locked down we will send out invites to the board and community.
- We are into the league contests for basketball.

  Any questions?

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- Sarah Wood asks – I'm curious, coming into the end of the semester and it's the first year bringing back senior projects, how is it working out. How is it looking in terms of getting projects done?
- Karen Zeller – There are some beautiful projects and it's been bumpy for some. At this point the actual hands-on work for 75% of the projects is completely done and the remaining will be done by the end of the month. They will present to their peers at the end of the month and they've been asked to present 35-40 minute presentations by spring break to the community and board. The paper will begin the second semester. It's been a bumpy ride.

Public Comment

- Mark Smith – I wanted to open a dialogue about the bathrooms. What is the time frame as far as swapping to single use?
- Andy Boe - We don't know. We've ordered equipment that we need. Vape detectors are 3-4 weeks out. Locksets a little longer. I would say by 6-8 weeks we should have the equipment we need.
- Mark Smith - So we're looking at just after spring break. It takes a lot for my two boys to come to me and say they're not comfortable. The situation that happened a week and a day ago, they said dad this does not make me comfortable. My question is, why is it, we put multiple students in an uncomfortable situation, to make a single student feel comfortable, when there are several options for a single student to use. What steps are you using to make my kids comfortableness a priority. I know this is a nationwide thing. What makes an individual more important than the comfort of more. How do we find a middle road. I have a hard time not dealing in 4 letter works (expletive). Is there a middle road we can get to until we can get where everything is legal.
- Andy Boe – It's a national question and a societal question. I think there are places for all of our kids in the interim. There are single use restrooms in the gymnasium they can access there and that is our stop gap until we get to that place. That is our middle ground that you're talking about. The locker room bathrooms will remain gendered until we have to confront that further down the road and that will be open for students as well. That is one of the issues we are not going to tackle right now.
- Mark Smith - Those will remain biologically gendered?
- Andy Boe – Those will remain restrooms that are assigned boy and girl.
- Mark Smith- You're not answering my questions.
- Andy Boe – I can't answer your question, but we have single use locked restrooms that are available to students and that is what we are offering in the interim.
    - Roger Holcomb asks – Are the restrooms in the building gender specific?
    - Andy Boe states if there are students who choose to use restrooms that aligns with their identity they may choose to do that.
- Mark Smith – I'm touching bases on it and I appreciate the info.
- Lisa Smith – I'm worried about the liability on it if something did happen in the restroom it's her word over his and they shouldn't have to worry about that when they go in to use the restroom. My son wouldn't use the bathroom all day. I know you're doing everything you can and I appreciate that.
- Andy Boe – Those timelines are rough and if equipment comes in sooner we will move sooner.
    - Doug Byle – Do we need to allow more time for restroom visits?
    - Andy Boe – We will work that out as we move forward. We are 4 days into a situation that we probably should have thought about sooner.
    - Brayden Broth – The bathrooms in the hallway are they going to single use or two stalls single use?
    - Brian Kruse– They are going to single use with the door entering the hallway.
    - Andy Boe – Those restrooms will be single use. We also have some ADA issues and as we've talked about this more concerns have come up and we are going to tackle them.

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- Mark Smith – I appreciate the information.

A motion is made by Candy Weatherly to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion is seconded by Doug Byle and the motion carries 6:0 with yes votes by Randi Smith, Doug Byle, Lindsey Baker, Candy Weatherly, Roger Holcomb and Sarah Wood.

Curriculum

- Andy Boe states that we are going to move forward with a science curriculum adoption and we will bring it to the board in similar fashion we did math. There was a viewing today in Winston and a viewing on Friday that more staff will attend at the ESD. This is the first step in the process. They will review, decide, and in April/May we will have that brought to the Board. The Board will view, public will view, and then adoption.
    - Edwina Miller states that we will try to get it ordered quickly. The math curriculum we ordered in December has already arrived. That will be nice so the teachers will have the summer to review it.
- Science is one we want to give the public plenty of time to look at. I would love to see a k-12 seamless. That probably will not be possible so I will ask for a K-8 curriculum and 9-12. That is the process we will go through.
    - Sarah Wood states that if we are in the process of readopting the science curriculum can we address the natural resources question so it can be aligned?
    - Andy Boe states that we will discuss that at the Charter Council meeting on January 17th. Science staff will bring the material they selected to the Charter Council and hopefully we can overlay that. The natural resources piece will be defined, and we will know on the 17th what they want that natural resources piece to look like and then we will move forward.

Buildings and Maintenance

Review of teacherage plan – 1075 River Road

- Radon testing came back good.
- Asbestos removal started today.
- Mrs. Zeller teaches on the stage, and she is all over with her classes. We are looking at moving the business office down to the house, gaining a classroom back. We are hoping to have this transition done before school starts next year.
- We are looking at improvements in the sound system in the high school gym.
- Restroom concern discussions have us looking at some of the other issues and reviewing things we've discussed in the past as far as some remodels. Our ADA accessibility in the main building restrooms and an ADA way to get onto the stage for lunches. We haven't been in compliance with today's standards when this stuff was originally built. Codes have changed. The big piece we are looking at right now is remodeling the front office space at the high school trying to figure out a way to combine that with the sick room, boys restroom, dark room, that area, to make some single use restrooms that will comply with our occupancy. For 50 people occupancy you need one restroom and one sink. Those are some pieces we need to work through to figure out what we are required to have for code. We have a lot of old plumbing in the walls which is original plumbing. It will incorporate a lot of pieces and we need to put a plan together and work out a cost. I am calculating the number of stalls we need to be compliant.
    - Sarah Wood asks is it 50:1 campus or building?
    - Brian Kruse states building. There is some leeway as far as how things are spaced out.
    - Sarah Wood says thank you, Brian, and thank you for the sound.

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- Brian Kruse says it's not 50 people that are here it's 50 people in occupancy. We are still trying to calculate the occupancy.

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- Next month we will have renewal and non-renewals of teachers. Notice will be given to teachers if we are going to non-renew. That will be ratified at the March meeting. Look for that information at the next meeting.
- The ESD is close to closing and hiring for the autism support program and should be up and running the end of this month first of next. That is going to happen shortly, and it is exciting news.
- Our guest, Rob Hess, is here to discuss the principal search. Melissa has posted the information for folks to apply on the website and Rob Hess is here to discuss the procedure with you.
    - Rob Hess – I specialize in working with smaller districts. I have worked with Sam before and did recommend him and hopefully that has been working out. The process we use to find fits and matches includes a community survey to provide feedback. It's an electronic survey and we will launch the survey based on the accepted timeline. Those who are screening candidates will see that data and it will help . People who want to be a part of the search can be a part of the screening committee. The final selection will be for the superintendent and the selection committee, and they will make the recommendation to the board. Spring break is the target date for hiring. The link is on your website, and I will get that out through the recruiting processes. Happy to answer any questions.
        - Andy Boe asks – the survey – you will create that?
        - Rob Hess says I will create that and provide you a link. It's designed that it's anonymous but select a role teacher, community, etc. And they can offer comments and suggestions on the survey.
        - Sarah Wood states that finding good people will be the greatest challenge.
        - Rob Hess says finding good people is the most important part of the work. If there is a board member or two who would like to be more involved in the decisions please let us know so we can include you in some of these steps.
            - Lindsey Baker raised her hand and is interested in further involvement.
            - Sarah Wood asks what is the time commitment?
            - Rob Hess shares that there are 3 stages. Screening looking at applicants. Round 1 and a final round of interviews. You can be involved in all stages or just one. If we have a finalist visitation day then anyone in the community can participate in that where they can meet people who are interested.
            - Lindsey Baker – How long will the application be posted?
            - Melissa Whitley reviewed the principal search timeline dates.
            - Roger Holcomb asks how many applicants are you expecting?
            - Rob Hess says that given the size of the community I'm anticipating 8-10. One good person is what we need. I work with districts until they find someone they're happy with. I'm here to support you.
        - Roger Holcomb shares that it's interesting how trends go. In the late 90's we did a superintendent search and we had more than 40 applicants. Elkton is where everyone wanted to go and now it's really hard to find candidates.
        - Rob Hess shares that it's open season on superintendents right now. It's a

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hard job. Finding and keeping good people is the name of the game. I will send a copy of the community survey to Andy to review before it goes live.

Financial/District Reports – Edwina Miller

- Review of the cash flow projection sheet
- The audit is completed and has been sent to you. There were no major findings. All adjusting entries were very minor and there were 5 of them. The change you will see will pertain to the bond expenditures.
- Mileage rate has increased to $0.67/mile.
- Review of Resolutions 24-9, 24-10 and 24-11.

A motion is made by Sarah Wood to accept Resolutions 24-9, 24-10 and 24-11 as well as accept the 2022-2023 audit. The motion is seconded by Doug Byle. The motion carries 6:0 with yes votes by Randi Smith, Doug Byle, Lindsey Baker, Candy Weatherly, Roger Holcomb and Sarah Wood .

A motion is made by Candy Weatherly and seconded by Doug Byle to accept the donations and grants as presented. The motion carries 6:0 with yes votes by Randi Smith, Doug Byle, Lindsey Baker, Candy Weatherly, Roger Holcomb and Sarah Wood.

Coming Events

January 15, 2024 No School - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 17, 2024 Charter Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
January 19, 2024 Regular School Day
January 25, 2024 End of Semester 1/Quarter 2

Mr. Boe shares that the Glendale basketball game has been rescheduled to Monday, January 15th, normal game times. It is what worked for the officials through we typically don't like to do that on a holiday.

Mr. Boe states that this is the first resignation we've had for a board member. We will have some dates coming to you as we move forward. Lindsey, you and I will chat about the principal search. We may have to have some early 6:00 starts or special meetings.

Candy Weatherly asks why are we doing this process which seems like it's more for a superintendent search.

Andy Boe says we can cut some of these things out. If we get 2-3 candidates there's no reason why we can't move forward. The survey piece is a big piece. We have to complete that and then look at that information.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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