Elkton School District #34
Regular Board Meeting
February 9, 2026

Board Members Present: Candy Weatherly, Roger Holcomb, Brian Hiatt, Doug Byle
Arrived at 7:40 pm: Cheryl Flick, Rob Roloson and Randi Smith

Staff Members Present: Andy Boe, Edwina Miller, Melissa Whitley

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Board Chair Candy Weatherly

Student Reports

Darwin Hudson, 12th Grade, ASB President

- Preparing for prom and had a discussion about co oping with No. Douglas in the future. Purpose of co-oping is to get more people at the dance and save money.
- Basketball will start winding down soon with the district tournament and then we will start spring sports.
    - Roger Holcomb asks: How did the boys do this season?
    - Darwin Huson: We are 9:9 right now and there is a league game this Friday at Days Creek. After that there may be some play in games for district tournament, and we will see how things go after that.
    - Doug Byle: Did you bring any of your surveys?
    - Darwin Hudson: No, I did not but will get them now.

Ariel Parsons, 11th Grade, FFA Chapter President

- It has been a busy and successful month. Ariel Parsons earned her state degree and will be recognized at the state convention. Ariel also will serve as the Umpqua District Chapter Sentinel.
- Three (3) past chapter members applied for the national degree.
- Two (2) creed competitors will compete at districts. Several others will compete at districts
- The chapter is preparing to celebrate National FFA Week.
    - Doug Byle asks: Who are the 3 doing the American degree?
    - Braden Groth: Katelynn Kruse, Jasmine Parsons and Kendall Holcomb. They won't know until May if they will be awarded.

Darwin Hudson, 12th Grade, ASB President

- For my senior project I am conducting a survey in the community to collect data of the demographics of the Elkton area – political affiliation, age, gender, quality of life, school, town, and I will make a full analysis report and will provide to the board and city council. It will be a comprehensive overview. I have already seen a few things of concern like the street lights that have been out since the snowstorm of 2019. I have paper copies and an online version.

Superintendent. Report

- Legislature is back in session. One of the things I am hearing is the idea of challenging local control as a thing. We have heard that in the past. A lot of legislation to kind of fermenting and getting ready to go around reading intervention and reading instruction and directive from the state. It ties back to the accountability framework I was on, and it was not the intent of the committee to be punitive. We need to keep an eye on it. There are some special interest groups really pushing their agendas. I will keep up with it and keep you informed.
- Before my time in Oregon, me and Sam served on the committee that created the quality of education model. That's another piece they are wanting to challenge, is this the appropriate way to fund schools. That's where the problem is going to be, the legislature needs to come up with a way to fund schools, and the dollars are not there. The most recent economic forecast was really good, and we are not seeing the downtrend we were anticipating. I don't see a lot happening this session, but I see it getting some momentum.
- We will not have a softball team this year and we didn't have any girls wanting to have a co- op.
- At the grade school, there was some shuffling as folks came back from leave. Molly is back in the front office, and she is working 3 days a week, and Sierra Miller is working one day a week to cover that space. Things are kind of back to normal over there and it's good to have that.
- We still are hosting the program for autistic kids at the grade school. They will go back to their home district. Yoncalla, Sutherlin and here. It's been good for the student who is ours and good for all of the students. I hope that continues. I wanted to make you aware of that program. It's housed at the grade school, and I'd be happy for you to come and meet those kiddos.
- Activity busses are running daily. We are using extra duty contracts to haul students to Drain and Reedsport. We will keep doing it. Spring sports can be a challenge, but we will see what happens as that comes around.
- I will attend a COSA meeting on 2/17. It is good to stay in the know.
- The boys playoff situation is crazy. If the boys lose, we will have to play a few games to make it to districts. The Tuesday game could possibly be here.

You have a copy of the Local Service Plan from the Douglas ESD. It is very similar to years passed. We are contracting some things differently so there are a few services that are less. The biggest service is the autism program and the other is technology. Those two are our biggest pieces. We do some specific case special education coordination when needed. We do still receive speech language services one day a week. We had in the past received counseling services through the ESD. With some funding cuts that went away. We elected to do some other things specifically around attendance mentors and those people are meeting with kids around attendance, the importance of attendance and that they know there is someone here to support them. If we have a student who needs counseling services, we will use an online program out of Medford. Their big push is to fund Medicaid to do that. The student has to be Medicaid eligible to do that. These services are broken down by FTE and the

back page shows the survey of services.

A motion is made to accept the Douglas ESD Local Service Plan as presented. The motion is made by Doug Byle.

- Doug Byle asks: What would be our option if we didn't do it?
- Andy Boe: We would have a conversation about why and what they needed to do to get better and then we would get squashed by the big districts.
- Edwina Miller: It would increase the costs of services if we did it outside of the ESD.
- Andy Boe: You could back out of the ESD and get those services outside on contract.
- Doug Byle: But the money from the state would go to the ESD?
- Andy Boe: Yes, you wouldn't get that funding back.

The motion to accept the Douglas ESD Local Service Plan as presented is seconded by Roger Holcomb. The motion passes 4:0 with yes votes by Candy Weatherly, Roger Holcomb, Brian Hiatt and Doug Byle.

- Candy Weatherly asks: Do we have absenteeism?
- Andy Boe: We have common offenders that we are working with. Yes, the attendance has been an issue with illnesses and repeat offenders.
- Brian Hiatt: I know that it is a very drawn-out illness. My own kids missed a whole week of school and then when they went back they get sent home again.

Principals Report

Andy Boe– Creating a program that really starts to look at students getting advanced placement courses for our traditional classes, dual credit, getting upper-level instruction is the idea. Being a charter school and coordinating with the ESD, the goal is to attract students in that mindset to participate in those AP courses. It benefits our local kids as it encourages. We are looking at academic rigor. We will have specific parameters with signed contracts around GPA, attendance, AP success and then if they are not doing those things perhaps this program isn't for you. I'd like to look at a 2nd program built the same way around CTE, work experience, with specific projects, where the students can gain work experience and have something to take with them when they leave us. We will have this framework so the students know grades, gpa, attendance, and academic success is important. Our goal for the AP is 10 students this next year to build our ADM.

- Karen Zeller – Review of CTE Kickstart – recognized AP CTE courses such as Cyber Security and Networking.
- Introduction of Dr. Karen Zeller – Dr. Zeller lives in Cottage Grove and teaches all of our high school math courses, Latin I and Latin II and is a lifelong Latin student. I also teach Biology. I have taught AP courses across the spectrum for 25 years.
- This year we have AP courses in Statistics, Pre Calc, English Lang Composition that are happening within the ELA grades 11 and 12 and they can take the AP exam. Going forward that will split next year in an AP ELA class or regular ELA. The math courses has 1 and 4 students. We have a lot of sophomores and juniors interested in the AP math. We also have an AP Chemistry. Next year we hope to introduce this AP academy track. In doing that, we will expand a little bit of our offerings and most of our faculty will be

involved in that as we expand the program. We are designing it in a way we do not need extra faculty or depriving from courses that students and staff already value.

- AP Capstone Diploma is an enhancement to the regular diploma. The AP Capstone Diploma requires an AP seminar and AP Research courses, and a student would require 4 other AP courses over their high school experience. We would like to run side by side with our UCC college credit programs. The AP program does some things the UCC does not. It has a national recognition and is highly recognized in Oregon as well.
    - Andy Boe: The why is really important and part of it is to make our kids that are in our district right now more competitive and more sellable to go to university or world of work. We want to try not to divide but we also want to challenge, and that's one of the things that we are missing that having rigor is important and here is a pathway. It's a risk-free way for kids to try this out. We are also facing some declining enrollment at our own doing, because we've been closed. Sometimes the students we attract have a variety of needs. In order for them to get to the level of academics we have to do a lot to get there. We want to attract students who would be attracted to the AP experience with a contract.
    - Karen Zeller: Elkton has a history of being one of the more academically competitive schools in the county and there's no reason for us to not been that way.
    - Andy Boe: I know that our visitor tonight shares this, the other conversation is about how to keep kids here and maybe give them the opportunity to stay put and want to be here after university and give back. I think we often times get really silo'd in you're a CTE kid or you're a university kid and I think a lot of our kids are both.
    - Karen Zeller: One of the benefit Sam (Tupou) sees in it is a need to keep our seniors here and they don't see a reason to stay on campus right now only needing 2 courses. If we give them something challenging it would keep them here.
    - Andy Boe: They would still get an Elkton/Oregon diploma, but it would be another cap on that.
    - Doug Byle – Greece?
    - Karen Zeller – There is an invitation for our kids to go to Greece in the spring of 2027. This is separate of the school. We will go to Rome and Pompei. I've taken kids to Italy 3 times before and it's a good trip.
    - Andy Boe: Tthe conversation we just had is around the AP advanced placement at the high school having multiple classes for kids. Sam Tupou and Karen Zeller are spearheading it. We are going to roll out a social media push in the next 6-8 weeks to attract kids to this program.
    - Andy Boe: There is another piece to it around CTE and having kids attracted to that program and putting out a product. Those are the ideas.

Public Comment

Steve Hammerson – School Board Director in Roseburg School District. Has been on the board three (3) years now. In our district I've seen most of the students in the pathway programs are leaving Roseburg and leaving Douglas County as a whole. Our pathway kids are

high GPA and 94% graduation and 20% of those kids are not staying and are leaving with no plans to come back. I see this as a problem within our county. I am of the opinion if we are not growing, we're dying. I see this across the county. Enrollment, population, economy, everything is down. What can our county do better to capture these kids? Douglas County was forever a timber export county and now we are exporting our brightest kids. That's part of the reason I'm running for county commissioner. We in the public school district have an opportunity to capture and direct our kids as contributing members of our county. I'm just visiting all of the school boards and saying hi to the teams. There is decline, decline, decline and it is heartbreaking to see that the hardest working kids cannot wait to get out of the county. I don't see that our county wants to have a collaboration. I wanted to leave my phone number and email address and to say hi, I'm here, I recognize the problem. I will leave my information and if you have any ideas or communication I would appreciate it.

A motion is made to accept the Consent Agenda as listed. The motion is made by Randi Smith and seconded by Doug Byle. The motion carries with yes votes by Cheryl Flick, Rob Roloson, Doug Byle, Brian Hiatt, Roger Holcomb, Candy Weatherly and Randi Smith.

Curriculum
We are working on getting the health and social science material in front of you within the next month or so.

Maintenance

- We had intended to push out another seismic grant for the high school building. Our architect and lead found some things, and it was found that we should back off of that application for this year. More inspection was done on our trust system and our roof to lead us to back away. We are in the process now in discovery of the gym section of the building. The next step is to get a committee together and talk about doing the CMGC. I am weary of that and said I want to know about the project before we engage a contractor. We may end up that way, I am not a huge fan, but I need to know more. That's where we are with that process. Within the next 60-90 days some of you may be contacted to serve on a community committee.
- Door at the grade school new gym: One of the door front windows just shattered out of the blue at 5:00 in the morning. An inside pane shattered. It has been repaired.

Co-Curricular
- We will not be co-oping for softball this year. Maybe next year.
- We have 5 middle school wrestlers participating and 3 high school students participating in wrestling. The consensus around this group is let's keep it at North Douglas. They're set up for it and there are more kids. It's a good thing.

Personnel

A motion is made to extend contracts to Noah Miller as High School Baseball Coach, Angie Hubbard as Middle School Track and Field Coach, Jeremy Lockhart as High School Track and Field Coach. The motion is made by Doug Byle and seconded by Rob Roloson.

The motion carries 7:0 with yes votes by Cheryl Flick, Rob Roloson, Doug Byle, Brian Hiatt, Roger Holcomb, Candy Weatherly and Randi Smith.

A motion is made to authorize the Superintendent to offer contract extensions to licensed teachers with terms and conditions established by Board policy and the applicable bargaining agreement to the below named teachers. The motion is made by Brian Hiatt and seconded by Roger Holcomb. The motion carries 6:0:1 with yes votes by Cheryl Flick, Rob Roloson, Brian Hiatt, Roger Holcomb, Candy Weatherly and Randi Smith. Doug Byle abstained from the vote.

Keely Boe
Sarah Billings
Cathy Byle
Tyler Ciscell
Kim Davis
Samuel Dooley
Kim Fischer
Lori Fisher
Kellee Garcia
Braden Groth
Angela Hubbard
Melissa Knee
Jeremy Lockhart
Steven O'Neal
Ann Parker
Jennifer Peters
Nancy Soleim
Joe Ward
Karen Zeller

Andy Boe explains the new probationary teacher status that will begin next year, that new hired teachers will now serve only 1 year of probation if they have taught in another district before coming to the Elkton School District.

- Brian Hiatt has been asked by community members when do they find out if a coaching position is open?
- Andy Boe: They are posted in house first because all of these coaches have been coaching. All of these positions can be open every year but often we struggle to get coaches. Often there is a parent conversation of a rotisserie of coaches, and it can be bad for a program. What we do now is if you were a coach the year before, and we haven't rescinded your contract, you are on the docket for the following years. I appreciate you asking that.
- Brian Hiatt: I don't think anyone is unhappy with the coaching decisions, I think they are just wondering where they are posted.
- Melissa Whitley: Positions are posted in house 3 days, then if there is not an internal hire, the position is posted on the website, Facebook, at the post office and Riverbanks Speedy Mart.

Financial/District Reports

- Review of cash flow projection sheet
- Receiving budget requests for 26-27 from staff.
- Current incoming taxes reduce this time of year. Everything is status quo – nothing out of the ordinary. We are sitting at 7.26% of the total budget for carryover. There are high hopes that number will be higher. I do not have the calculation of the May true-up yet.
- Review of the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar. The budget meeting for 2026-2027 will be

May 11, 2026.

- We have a budget member position open.

A motion is made to accept the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar as presented. The motion is made by Randi Smith and seconded by Doug Byle. The motion carries 7:0 with yes votes by Cheryl Flick, Rob Roloson, Doug Byle, Brian Hiatt, Roger Holcomb, Candy Weatherly and Randi smith.

A motion is made to accept the donations and grants as presented. The motion is made by Roger Holcomb and is seconded by Rob Roloson. The motion carries 6:0 with yes votes by Cheryl Flick, Rob Roloson, Brian Hiatt, Roger Holcomb, Candy Weatherly and Randi Smith. Doug Byle did not vote.

Regular meeting is recessed at 8:16 to enter into Executive Session under ORS 102.660(2)(d) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Return to Regular Session 8:36 pm

Next board meeting will be held on March 9, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm