

EASTERN LEBANON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
180 ELCO Drive, Myerstown, PA 17067

Virtual Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Meeting

April 6, 2020

The Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President, Jack Kahl at 6:00 p.m.

The Eastern Lebanon County School Board met in a Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Session virtually via Zoom with President Jack Kahl presiding and Mrs. Denise Thomas leading the Opening Exercises.

Roll Call

Board Secretary, Gloria Hill called the roll. The following members were present: Mrs. Gray Hayes, Mrs. Noll, Dr. Smith, Ms. Stettler, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Weaver; and Messer's Kahl, Kramer and Ondrusek. Also, in attendance were the following from the administrative team: Mrs. Vicente, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Haas, Mr. Marks, Dr. Gerhart, Mrs. Hower, Mr. Lin, Mr. Soden, Mr. Entrekin, Mrs. Shoemaker, Mr. Sweigart, Mrs. ~~Himmelreich~~, Mr. Miller, Mr. Boltz, Mr. ~~Dresch~~; Gloria Hill, Board Secretary; Bill McCarty and Dave Walker, Solicitor; residents; and representatives from PFM.

Mr. Kahl announced the District is recording the meeting using District equipment. All recordings are posted on the District website in approximately 7 to 10 days. Mr. Kahl also inquired if anyone in attendance was recording the meeting; it is noted no one indicated recording the meeting.

Board President Communications

On a motion by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Mr. Ondrusek and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, Item A was approved:

- A. Approved, pursuant to School Board Policy 003 to suspend the restriction in School Board Policy 006.1 that the majority of School Board members shall physically be present when a Board member attends through electronic communications in scheduled public meetings during the Governor's declared state of emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, so long as the following requirements are met: all School Board members participating remotely in any public meeting must be able to hear all other attendees, and all others in attendance at the meeting must be able to hear the School Board members participating remotely.

Board Committee & Rep Reports

- Personnel Committee – Mrs. Thomas
  - No scheduled meeting at this time.
- Curriculum Committee – Dr. Smith
  - No scheduled meeting at this time. Dr. Smith will be in discussion with Mrs. Davis on the results of the review of textbooks for the new year.
- Policy Committee – Mr. Ondrusek
  - No meeting scheduled at this time.
- Technology Committee – Mrs. Noll
  - No meeting scheduled at this time.
- General Services Committee – Mr. Kahl
  - Update on renovation project included: UGI communications and planning are taking place remotely; preparing bids for May; more updates and information to come.
- Finance Committee – Mrs. Gray Hayes
  - The next meeting is scheduled to take place April 15 at 6:00 pm.
- IU13 Rep Report – Mr. Ondrusek
  - An emergency meeting scheduled on March 30 was canceled; the next board meeting will be held in May.
- PSBA Rep Report – Dr. Smith
  - The campaign on Charter Funding resulted in 120 schools signing resolutions; items featured on PSBA's website include: advocacy guide, and proposals for the 2020-21 platform.
- CTC Rep Report – Mrs. Weaver
  - A virtual meeting was held March 17; the interest rate for the funding passed last month was locked in at 1.89%.
- HACC Rep Report – Ms. Stettler
  - No meeting has been held or scheduled as of today.
- Lebanon Co. Tax Collection Rep Report – Ms. Stettler
  - Next meeting to be held is tentatively set for May.
- ELCO Education Foundation – Mrs. Weaver
  - The last meeting was held on March 11; canceled the ELCO Family Science Night on March 13, due to closure of school; ideas being collected for future contact with local businesses; possible meeting to be held in May.

Presentation – PFM

Presentation by Scott Shearer and Benjamin Kapenstein took place to review information for board approval on tonight's agenda (Item VII A).

Public Comments – Items On the Agenda

- Tom Ferrari, Schaefferstown – commented and inquired on Items VII, A and B

Mr. Kahl thanked Mr. Ferrari for his comments; and questions asked will be answered via email to Mr. Ferrari.

**ACTION ITEMS****Finance Committee – Mrs. Tracy Gray Hayes, Chair**

Separate votes for Items A and B were requested.

On a motion by Mrs. Gray Hayes, seconded by Mrs. Weaver and approved by Roll Call vote, with a vote of 8 Ayes and 1 NO vote by Mr. Ondrusek, Item A was approved:

Roll Call:

Mrs. Gray Hayes – Aye  
 Mrs. Noll – Aye  
 Mr. Ondrusek – No  
 Mrs. Thomas – Aye  
 Mrs. Weaver – Aye  
 Ms. Stettler – Aye  
 Dr. Smith – Aye  
 Mr. Kramer – Aye  
 Mr. Kahl – Aye

- A. Approved the resolution, as presented to the Board, approving the sale and issuance of the Eastern Lebanon County School District General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2020 and Series A of 2020, in the combined maximum authorized amount of \$10,850,000, for the purposes of financing the refunding of the outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012 of the School District, and the capital projects of the School District, as set forth therein. (Board Attachments)**

*Background: This debt issue refinances the 2012 Bonds for interest savings and adds approximately \$4M in new money at projected record low interest rates for use on the High School renovation project.*

On a motion by Mrs. Gray Hayes, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, Item B was approved:

- B. Approved the authorization of the design of additions and renovations to the ELCO High School by AEM Architects, Inc., and authorized AEM Architects, Inc. to submit PlanCon Part ‘1’ to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for additions and renovations to the ELCO High School**

*Background: This is a requirement of the new PlanCon program.*

**NON-ACTION ITEMS****Finance Committee – Mrs. Tracy Gray Hayes, Chair**

*The Board reviewed and discussed the following item:*

- A. Recommend for approval an agreement with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) to provide computer service for Fund Accounting module, Payroll module, and Personnel module for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, at a cost of approximately \$24,500. (Board Attachments)**
- Background: Cost is billed per student and the agreement price is estimated for next year. This is an annual license renewal.*

**Superintendent’s Report**

Mrs. Vicente shared the following:

- The meal distribution for the first few weeks was strictly to students who qualify for Free and Reduced meals. The average number of meals distributed was 372 meal boxes containing 5 breakfasts/5 lunches. However, with recent changes made by the government we are now feeding all students in the ELCO District who RSVP via the ELCO website. As of today, we have 722 boxes being prepared for the next distribution on Wednesday.
- Donations were received by community organizations (ELCO/Myerstown Rotary, Wenger Foundation, etc.) to support the food distribution program. Thank you!
- Our Tech Staff distributed approximately 1,000 iPads with the help of admin; continued support is available by the Tech Staff to students and families during this time of remote learning. Information is available on the ELCO website.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of online learning extensions has gone well; hard copy of materials are available upon request.
- Spring break dates: Friday, April 10 thru Monday, April 13; instruction will resume on Tuesday, April 14.
- All expenses incurred by the District during the pandemic are being tracked by the Business Office.
- Parents/families with no connectivity will be provided paper packets of materials by contacting the District.
- Admin Meetings to discuss planning of all functions of the district are ongoing.
- All school districts have received information from PDE regarding guidance for seniors and graduation, etc.

Continuity of Education Plan

Mrs. Davis shared a template of the plan, which is ongoing.

- Plans will be shared and posted on the ELCO website.

Upcoming Dates/Announcements:

- On Monday, March 30, 2020, Governor Wolf announced that all Pennsylvania schools will remain closed until further notice.

Public Comments – Items On/Off the Agenda

- No comments were made.

Board Announcements/Comments

- Mrs. Thomas – thanked the Rotary and Wenger Foundation for their contribution and support.
- Mr. Kahl – 'Hello' music video by our Middle School faculty and staff was great; super way of communicating to students and parents; he also stated his great concern for students during the school closure.
- Mrs. Gray Hayes – amazed to see the efforts by the school district using media to communicate to families.
- Dr. Smith – commented on the efforts and unified response by faculty and staff.
- Mr. Ondrusek – thanked the Tech Department for their assistance in setting up Zoom.
- Mrs. Noll – thanked the admin and staff for the successful distribution of iPads.
- Mrs. Gray Hayes – commented on the insight the admin had last year to provide iPads to all students this year; truly is commendable.

Old Business

- No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

- No New Business was discussed.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Noll and approved by a Voice vote, all voting Aye, President Kahl adjourned the meeting at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria J. Hill  
Board Secretary