

**Eatonville School District  
Board of Directors Business Meeting  
January 31, 2007  
Eatonville High School Library, 7:00 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Welcome and Introductions**

President Tim Patterson called the meeting to order @ 7:00 pm. Also present were, Mr. Bob Homan, Mr. Kirk Heinz, Mr. Bruce Lachney, Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent Ray Arment, Sean Andrascik Student Representative (SR), Ms. Cathy Bryant, HR/ Business Manager and Ms. Debi Hamilton, Recording Secretary. Administrators present included Mr. David Jacobson, Columbia Crest (CC) Principal, Mr. Garth Steedman, Eatonville High School (EHS) Principal, Mrs. Diane Heersink, Eatonville Elementary School (EES) Principal, Mr. Ken Andersen, Eatonville Middle School (EMS) Principal and Mr. Dan Dawkins, Support Services Director. Mr. Patterson and Superintendent Arment welcomed the students, community and staff that were present. They introduced the administrators that were present. They also introduced Mr. John Erickson and Mr. Jay Peterson, from Erickson McGovern Architects and Ms Kasey Wyatt our Construction Project Manager.

**FLAG SALUTE**

President Patterson led the flag salute.

**EHS MODERNIZATION  
Bond Update  
Construction Timeline**

President Patterson gave an overview of the construction/bond process and how we came to this meeting. Mr. Erickson and Ms. Wyatt talked to the board and community about the construction timeline.

**Resolution #513 Overview**

Superintendent Arment talked about Resolution #513 that was passed on 1/24/07, which accepted the Value Engineering Report. It was recommended by the consultant through the Value Engineering Report that the students be moved completely off campus for safety reasons. This would make the job more marketable for bidding, result in a shorter period of construction and save the project budget approximately \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00. It would also be less disruptive to the students and staff.

Superintendent Arment went over the options the district had during construction and how they came up with the final three options, which all fall under moving the EHS students off campus to EMS. He presented those options to the board and community.

**Split Shift. @ EMS** High School Students would come in early. When the HS students leave, the MS students come in and attend school into the evening. He went over some of the pluses and minuses of this option.

**3x3 @ EMS.** Example would be HS students would attend school 10 hour days on Mon. Tues. Wed. MS students would attend school 10 hour days Thurs. Fri. Sat. Supt. Arment touched on the pluses and minuses of this option.

**Shared Shift @ EMS.** The HS students would come to school an hour earlier that they do now. HS students would use the middle school campus for classes such as lab classes the first two hours of school then transition out of the MS building to the portables. The MS students will come to school an hour later than they do now and leave an hour later. There is also a suggestion to possibly move the sixth graders to the elementary campus during this process to make more room. Supt. Arment went over the pluses and minuses of this option. Due to the least amount of disruption, the board is leaning toward the shared campus of EMS.

**COMMUNITY INPUT**

The community was then invited to come to any of the five easels in the room to write down their questions, comments or suggestions. Multiple comments were addressed on the following items;

- Concern about disruption of academic process (EHS and EMS students)
- How sports and extra-curricular activities will be affected.
- Safety
- Transportation
- Housekeeping items such as Restrooms, Lockers, Meals, Parking, over occupancy at EMS, location of administration offices etc.

Other suggestions and comments included:

- Redirection of funds to the HS construction from the other school projects.
- Other alternatives for housing students in the district at other buildings
- Teacher retention
- Pool lockers and should we close down the pool to save \$.
- Raise impact fee's
- Public input on "like to have" list in the future.
- Additional staff at support services
- Is it necessary to have such a large art room?
- What will happen to portables after construction?

All questions and comments were read at the meeting.

**HEARINGS OF INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS**

The board called for public comment. The following people addressed the board: Mark Maddox, Stephanie Rowe, Justin Erickson, Jack Moore, Del Enders, Tod Morrish, Robert Greenaway, Casey Madison and Kelly Griffin. The public comment comprised of the items listed on the boards (see community input). Additional information commented on were suggestions of;

- Extra security personnel and /or fence barriers to keep the students separated.
- Make sure ADA needs are being addressed during construction.
- EMS does not want to loose administrators because of the move.
- The importance of communicating the process to the community in a timely fashion.

**Summary of Past and Future Timelines.**

**Mr. Patterson** clarified for the record the timeline. The value analysis report was presented to the board at the January 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The items were presented in detail. The board took 2 weeks to review and ask questions. Resolution 513 was presented and approved at the January 24, 2007 board meeting. At this time, it was decided to go with the three final recommendations. Superintendent Arment shared the upcoming timeline with the community. He also explained that there will be many task groups for the implementation of many of the items that were brought forth tonight. Some of the groups will be addressing elements of implementation on transportation, caring for staff and students, safety security and supervision, spirit of staff community and seniors, physical plant transition, programs and co-curricular activities, extra-curricular activities, and family and community communications (Internal and external). He noted that there are 180 school days to implement the timeline before turning the school over for the renovation and modernization.

**BOARD COMMENT**

**Student Representative, Sean Andrascik** asked that whatever plans the board accept he hopes they take into consideration the extra-curricular activities. They are important to the students

**Mr. Miller;** expressed his appreciation of the turnout in today's meeting. Mr. Miller commented that these items were discussed in length at the last board meeting. He suggested that the public attend the board meetings or call any of the board members if they have questions or concerns on the process.

**Mr. Heinz:** Asked Ms. Wyatt, in light of the questions and comments shared here tonight and based on her experience with other school projects, if the recommendations she made to the board are the best.

**Ms. Wyatt** stated that based on most of the questions and comments, and keeping safety and the least amount of disruption to the learning environment in mind, she still holds to her recommendation.

**Mr. Erickson and Ms. Wyatt** addressed the board and community about the comment of moving the HS students to an elementary school.

The elementary schools will have to be completely remodeled to bring them up in size to house taller students. The elementary schools are designed for small students. (Bathrooms, furniture etc.)

They cannot move the EMS or EHS students to CC because CC is not large enough to house the number of students that would need to move. Due to the fact that CC is in a lahars zone, we cannot add any portables to the property to accommodate additional students.

**Mr. Heinz:** Commented that the board has been discussing the different phases of the construction process for months. He encourages people to attend the board meetings for updates.

**Mr. Lachney:** Commented that the board and district are on a very compressed timeframe. He encouraged people to attend the board meetings for updates or ask one of the board members. The board members are in contact and communication with students and community members on a daily basis. He expressed his faith that the board will make the best decision for the district in the timeline that they have. He thanked the community members for attending this board meeting and encouraged them to attend others.

**Mr. Homan:** Commented on communication and the perception that the board has already made decisions. Most of the concerns and questions raised belong in the implementation process, which can start after the board makes a decision on which option to go with. The ed spec had Mrs. Schmidt that looked after ADA needs and he feels that she kept the committee on task very well on those items. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday night the board meets. He encouraged the public to attend to keep themselves informed. Now that the ed spec process is complete, the oversight committee will be taking over to make sure the project is being implemented. Community members communicate with us on a daily basis. We are available for concerns and questions. We will step up the communication with community meetings, in school newsletters and bulletins and on the web site. He encouraged the community to keep an eye out for those communications. He expressed that safety and education is foremost whenever the board makes a decision. As soon as this decision is made tonight, the board will start implementation and come up with a road map.

**Mr. Patterson:** Thanked the community for attending. He touched on the public comment session at the 1-24-07 board meeting. The board invites public comment. The board has been addressing ways to implement communication. Please send an e-mail to a board member, ask your building principal, ask the district office. He discussed the many volunteer hours spent listening and the tough decisions that they have to make. He expressed that he hopes the community can appreciate the seriousness and the time the board takes to make those decisions.

He updated the community on the process with the Town of Eatonville.

He informed the community that they had scheduled a meeting with Mr.

Armstrong but the meeting was canceled by Mr. Armstrong and has not been

rescheduled at this point.

Mr. Erickson has a meeting on 2-9-07 with the Fire Marshall.

The district is making a presentation to the planning commission on 2-5-07 He asked if the board had any further comments or questions. President Patterson asked Superintendent Arment to make a recommendation to the board. Superintendent Arment recommended to the board that the district implement the shared option at EMS. Mr. Homan made a motion to accept the shared option @ EMS. There was a second and the motion carried unanimously.

**Mr. Homan** thanked the community for their input. He commented that many of the items that were written down and shared are for implementation. The input will be used for the next phase, which is the implementation phase. He asked them to stay tuned for more to come.

President Patterson thanked the community for attending and called for a 5-10 minutes break. (at 9:16pm) When they reconvene, they will be addressing the Academic, Activity and Athletic Code.

**BREAK**

The board reconvened the meeting at 9:25 pm

**ACTIVITY AND ATHLETIC  
CODE  
Summary of Current  
Standard**

Mr. Patterson explained to the attendees of the board meeting that there would be no action taken on this item tonight. The board is here to listen to input. He invited Mr. Homan, who is the board EC4 committee representative, to give an overview. Mr. Homan summarized the current standard of the Activity and Athletic Code.

**Proposals for  
Consideration**

He summarized the proposals for consideration which were;

- No failures in core academic courses
- Must sustain a 2.0 C average.

**Affects on Participation**

Statistics were provided to the board on the number of student athletes from the HS and MS that would not be eligible if the proposed changes were implemented.

HS 34 students as code now exist. 129 students if changed. MS 46 as code now exists. 50 if code changes. These figures represent students that attend all ASB sponsored activities. There was discussion on the fact that the code was not the same for EMS as it is for EHS.

**Mr. Fountain** the chair of the EC4 committee stated that the EC4 committee and coaches favor the code, as it exists. The committee has voted to maintain that standard. The board moved into hearings of individuals/groups.

**HEARING OF  
INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS**

**Mr. Phil Nordstrom** has been on EC4 committee since its origination. He made the statement, the committee has made a recommendation to the board and they are not listening to the recommendation. It makes one wonder why they are on the committee. He also made the following points.

Not all kids are lucky enough to have parents that care. If the extracurricular sports are what keep them in school, we need to keep them in this environment as long as possible.

He would rather see the students in school with a few Ds than have them not care at all.

**Mr. Fountain:** Urged the board to allow as many students to participate as possible. He asked, "Who do you want these students to be spending time with, good role models that the coaches provide or on the streets?" He stated that Ds for some kids are a major accomplishment. Some students cannot get a C.

**Mrs. Tina Schmidt:** Agrees with the change but feels it should be phased in

slowly over a four-year period. She feels that we need to set the bar higher for students not lower. She shared an example of the standards that they as a family set for a past exchange student that resulted in the student stepping up to the challenge.

**Mr. Mike Moeller:** As a coach, the kids that he is concerned with on a day-to-day bases are the students that are not in sports. As coaches, they strive to teach the students that are playing sports a better standard. The students that are involved in extra curricular activities are going to come out of the experience a better person. They learn to be a part of a team and are valued as part of that team. These are skills that are needed in the work force.

**Mr. Craig Olson:** Wants to support coaches. By changing the code, you are hindering the student that struggles. The policy we have now works. You can dangle a carrot, but if you hang the carrot too far out in front of them they will give up. He has coached kids for years that are struggling and need the sport to keep them focused on their schoolwork. He has employees and feels that employees that have been a part of a team make better employees and good team players in the work force.

**Mr. Bill Guertner:** Has been coaching for a very long time. Students that participate in sports have lower crime rates and longer marriages. The reality is that students do not come to school for math and reading. They stay for other reasons. Because of the higher standard at EMS, he loses students that should be playing. He encouraged the board to do what is best for all students.

**Mr. Andersen** was asked to go over the code at the MS for clarification. No failing grades while participating in sports. Probation for two weeks. If the grade is not raised at that time, they give another week for improvement. If no improvement, they remove them from the team.

The question was asked Mr. Fountain why the difference. The classes at the high school level are harder. There is concern some students will not take harder classes, such as AP classes, because they are afraid they will not do as well and do not want to lose their in-eligibility. There was discussion on this subject.

**Justin Erickson:** Plays soccer, Football and Baseball. Grades have never been an eligibility problem with him. He is speaking for others. He feels higher standards will not make athlete students work harder. He also expressed that he does not think it is fair to the good student athletes who's teams will be negatively affected because some of their teammates will be ineligible. Not all kids have extra support, access to tutors etc. He feels that you need to keep the borderline students involved.

**Roland Litzenburger:** With all due respect, to the coaches, he agrees that we should raise our standards. Schools are for education. He believes students can do whatever they want to. We are telling the students it's OK to throw a football but not to hit the books. If we tell them to attain the level, they will struggle for it. Has not seen any students from this school in NFL.

**Mr. Bass:** Encouraged the board to benchmark with other schools to see what other programs they have. He feels you should really understand the current state of the student body and should compare the student athletes to the rest of the student body. He expressed the need to have programs in place to ensure success. Currently there is a fair number of students that are dropping out that do not participate in athletics and are not affected by this policy. He discussed the graduation rate and gave some information to the board to look over with statistics and studies.

**Tom Martin:** Feels they need more statistics. How have student athletes done after they leave school? Feels the current code is ambiguous. Feels it needs to be firmer in the goal to obtain higher standards. Example of teamwork; Student athlete took it upon himself to tutor other team members

that were struggling. Felt it was admirable. We do not reward the student athletes well enough when they do well in academics. Feels there needs to be programs to reward the student athlete academically.

**Ken Zentz:** He is in favor of high standards academically. He does not think any of the coaches are not in favor of high standards. He teaches AP classes. There are two ways to achieve high standards. Use the carrot, which encourages or use the stick, which does not encourage. If these statistics that are being presented are just for student athletes what are the statistics for everyone else in the school. Why is the school board focusing on athletes, who are a small percentage of the student body and raising the standards of only the athletes. He feels they should focus on the carrot for the whole student body.

**Jim Erickson:** Our athletes have had high GPA's the last few years. Put a face on the statistic. Look at the small # of students that are struggling to be a part. Look at them and who they are. Ask yourself. Will they be better off if they cannot play?

**Mr. Guertner:** Pointed out that the last couple of years they have had academic state champions in soccer, swimming and high GPA in basketball.

**Mr. Rush:** Sees all middle school at risk students. We are not lowering standards. The board will be taking away from our high-risk students if they raise the bar at this time without a program in place. He talked about this being a huge problem. It is dangerous to put a policy in place without a safety net to help kids that will fall through. Focus on academic standards first.

#### BOARD COMMENT

**Sean Andrascik:** If the code changes and students are struggling to keep eligible it could lead to a risk of teachers passing students that are failing so they can participate in sports.

**Mr. Miller:** Great dialogue. Everyone is in favor of standards however, he is not totally in favor of one-size fits all. There are other issues that go with that. Mr. Miller expressed that Eatonville Schools are a good model of how one should proceed with dialogue and ideas. His background is on what makes students tick. The reward system is a short kind of thing. It makes the carrot more important. The peer situation really helps. That may be a possibility of implementation to use the peers for tutoring etc. There are many things to think about.

**Mr. Heinz:** Has thought much about this policy and have talked to many parents. Coming up with a solution or idea for a net is a very good idea. He does not like to see kids fail. He agrees that the home situation for some students is very rough. What can we do as a district and teachers to see those students succeed? We have set the standard where it is at and he believes that most students can step up and achieve. He feels that team environment and teamwork is very valuable for our kids, and they really need that environment. His idea is we already have an education plan for students that have not passed one area of the WASL. Why couldn't we implement an education plan for students, not only athletes, that do not meet the criteria? That as long as the student is in that education plan to move toward that 2.0 and we can track that student to see they are going into the right direction, we should give them the opportunity to participate. They will have a mentor teacher, it could be the coach, which helps them through that process. It is like the probation period but give them a longer time frame and as long as they are progressing they continue to be eligible. If the student chooses not to take that option then they cannot play. They can continue to practice but not participate in any of the games. Mr. Heinz feels we need to raise the standards but we need to provide a road for each child to get there.

**Mr. Lachney:** Expressed that whatever measurement the board decides to implement he would like to see a variance to the principals for the student that

is working toward doing better. We need to create innovative programs to help kids stay in activities.

**Mr. Homan:** Expressed that everyone wants to see kids succeed. He does not want to shoot down the EC4 committee and all of the work that they have done. He realizes that it was a long process that the committee worked through. He expressed that it is valuable to review and the coaches have great points. Good point on focusing on academics but we have to start somewhere. Athletes tend to be leaders so he feels we need to start with them. The road to success needs to be an implementation process. Peer tutor idea has merit. The intention is good and we need to take the time to really look before implementation. Mr. Homan encouraged coaches, students and EC4 members to be a part of the process. Suggest modifying the EC4 committee and add students.

**Mr. Patterson:** If an action is taken on this, we will try to give an appropriate amount of time to prepare for the students that will endeavor to participate in fall sports to buckle down and pay attention in the last portion of this particular school year. He questioned, the athletes that are failing, do we need to make particular accommodations to their training schedule? What sports will be affected by the numbers? He would like to see as much emphasis on academics as athletics. He stated that he did not have all the answers and appreciates all of the comments and input. He suggested if an athlete fails and does not make the GPA maybe the student should not be allowed to participate in varsity sports. Mr. Patterson asked Mr. Homan to gather subsequent input from the board members. He asked that those that attended send their input for the next couple of weeks. What we are endeavoring to do is to enhance the educational experience, that includes sports as well. He commented that he also feels that this meeting was about communication.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Patterson adjourned the meeting at 10:25pm.

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**President of the Board**

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**Secretary to the Board**

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**Recording Secretary**