

**Eatonville School District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 7:00pm
Eatonville School District Board Room**

CALL TO ORDER

President Timothy Patterson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Also present were;

Mr. Robert Homan, VP and Legislative Representative

Mr. Kirk Heinz, Director

Mr. Bruce Lachney, Director

Mrs. Paulette Gilliardi, Director

Superintendent Raymond Arment

Ms Cathy Bryant, HR/ Business Manager

Ms. Debi Hamilton, Recording Secretary

Ms. Hayley Bennett, Student Representative was absent.

Guests present were Mr. Peter Jones, Olympic Associates and Mr. Ron Seehafer, Greene Gasaway Architects.

FLAG SALUTE

President Patterson led the flag salute

**APPROVAL OF CHANGES
AND ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

The following were changes and additions to the agenda.

Deletion of Agenda Item 4-B

Addition of Agenda Item 8-B

Addition of a second board comment section after the executive session.

Addition of Agenda item 10, Approval of \$1,000.00 Donation from Holiday Relief Fund.

Addition of Agenda item 8-C Closing Year End Report.

Mr. Homan made a motion to approve the changes to the agenda. There was a second and the motion carried.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATES
Mr. Peter Jones- EHS**

Peter gave a brief overview of all of the projects that are taking place and are ongoing. There was discussion. Mr. Lachney asked that we have a future work study to go over all of the financial data on each project.

Mr. Ron Seehafer-EES

Updated the board on the construction progress at EES. The board asked that the contractor provide a designated bathroom stall for teachers as they do not have one at this time. Mr. Seehafer assured the board and teachers present that can be accomplished. There was discussion about the false fire alarms at EES that is disrupting the education process. Mr. Homan wanted to make sure any charges from the Town of Eatonville for false alarms are charged to the contractor. Mr. Seehafer assured the board that the contractor would be "on the hook" for any false alarm charges.

Mr. Ron Seehafer-WES

Updated the board on the WES project. WES is being held up by Pierce County for the permitting. Erickson McGovern has been working diligently with Pierce County on the permitting process. Have received site development permits which will cover abatement, demolition and site work. Hoping to see permits this week. There was interactive discussion about whether the hold up will affect the budget. Mr. Seehafer stated "Right now No and we are not anticipating that it will." He explained their strategy on the permitting process so they will be keeping the contractor busy. There was discussion about the new well that may need to be done at WES. GGA will be making a proposal to the district soon and hope to get the drillers proposals in a couple weeks and have the new well drilled in 4 – 6 weeks. There was some discussion on where the monies will come from to drill the well. The failed well is not a capital projects issue. It will come from the maintenance budget. Superintendent Arment relayed to the board that a resolution will be at the next board meeting for the sale of the remaining bonds.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was submitted to the board for approval. Mr. Lachney made a motion to approve the consent agenda. There was a second and the motion carried.

A. Approved School Board Minutes:

1. Minutes from 11-25-08 meeting

B. Approved Certificated Human Resources Recommendations:

1. Resignation of Stephanie Welsh, EHS-English/Language Arts Teacher, effective end of 2008-2009 School Year.

C. Approved Classified Human Resources Recommendations:

1. Employment of Tami Gebhart, Support Services Assistant, (additional assignment) 4 hours per day), effective 12/11/08.
2. Resignation of Tami Gebhart, WES-Para Educator, to accept new assignment above, effective, December 2, 2008.
3. Resignation of Beverlee Martin, EHS Secondary Secretary/Data Records Mgmt. Coordinator, 8 hrs per day, effective 1/2/2008

D. Approved Extra-Curr. Appointment/Resig. Recommendations:

#	Position	Name	Start Date	End Date
		None		

E. Financials

1. November 2008 Payroll **\$1,265,289.69**
2. Dec-2008 Pre-approved Gen Led. Fund Vouchers **\$300,000.00**
3. Dec-2008 Pre-approved ASB Fund Vouchers **\$22,000.00**
4. Dec-2008 1st Run of Capital Projects Fund Vouchers
\$1,085,176.16
5. Dec-2008 Pre-approved 2nd Run of Capital Projects
\$2,000,000.00

**ANNUAL ORGANIZATION
Call for Nominations for
President**

President Patterson called for nominations for Board President for the 2009 Year. Mr. Heinz made a motion to nominated Mr. Patterson for board president. Mrs. Gilliardi made a second to the motion. A roll call vote was taken by the recording secretary Ms. Hamilton. The results are as follows:

- Mrs. Gilliardi – Yes
- Mr. Lachney – Yes
- Mr. Homan – Yes
- Mr. Heinz – Yes

Motion to re-elect Mr. Patterson as President for the 2009 year carried

**Call for nominations for
Vice President**

President Patterson called for nominations for Board Vice President for the 2009 Year. Mr. Lachney made a motion to nominated Mr. Homan as the Vice President for the 2009 Year. Mr. Heinz made a second to the motion. A roll call vote was taken by the recording secretary Ms. Hamilton. The results are as follows:

- Mrs. Gilliardi – Yes
- Mr. Lachney – Yes
- Mr. Patterson – Yes
- Mr. Heinz – Yes

Motion to re-elect Mr. Homan as Vice President for the 2009 year carried.

Mr. Patterson made note that Mr. Homan would also continue to be the Legislative Representative until June 2009 when the position comes up for re-election.

**HEARING OF
INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS**

.Colleen Arthur, Teacher from Eatonville Elementary was present at the board meeting representing Teachers and Parents of Eatonville School District. They would like to know the status of the superintendent contract. Mr. Patterson addressed Mrs. Arthur and assured her that they are moving in the negotiations and endeavor to work for the best of the district.

**REPORTS
Principal Reports**

For the boards review- Mr. Homan had questions about Mr. Steedman's report. He

would like more information on turnin.com and has concerns that to take an AP class the students would have to pass the WASL.

Enrollment Report

For the boards review. Enrollment reports for Dec-08, revised reports for Sept-08, Oct.-08 and Nov-08 were presented to the board for their review. There were no questions.

Year End Unreserved Balance Fund Report

Ms. Cathy Bryant handed the board a final report for School Year 07-08. Cathy and Ray will be briefing the staff with the financial report. Ms. Bryant went through each area of the financial report. There was interactive discussion and questions. Unreserved Fund Balance is at 5.9% so the district has met the board's threshold. The board asked Ms. Bryant what the biggest challenge is as we move forward. She relayed that it is trying to get hard information from OSPI so we can forecast and plan properly. The board thanked Ms. Bryant for the report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Arment explained that Eatonville School District was chosen by a charity, the Holiday Relief Fund to receive \$1,000.00 (10 \$100.00 certificates) in Safeway Gift Certificates to be distributed to needy families in the district. Superintendent Arment is recommending approval to accept this donation. Mrs. Gilliard made the motion to approve the \$1,000.00 donation. There was a second and the motion carried.

BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Gilliard: None

Mr. Lachney: Bob and Bruce talked with Ray, Cathy and Mrs. Hayward about engineering course curriculum. Suggested it may be appropriate to hold off a year because of hiring issues. Talked with some staff in the governor's office The levy equalization will go down in the next few years. The skill center is on hold. Suggests we look into Vocational Tech curriculum and make sure we are putting our eggs in the right basket.

Mr. Homan: Would like an update from the SEAG. Would like to congratulate Kathy Hugh for the State Patrol School Bus Inspection Certificate of Achievement.

Mr. Heinz: None

Mr. Patterson: None

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Mr. Coats came to a cabinet meeting to talk to the administrators about students with severe food allergies. We also talked about the concerns about moving forward on the science engineering program.

We have changed out 48 tires on the buses. Did not find any recaps or mismatched tires on the front steering. Made the decision to change the tires that are on the edge of being changes with the weather coming up. The buses are good to go. On behalf of the board Mr. Patterson thanked Debi Hamilton for the refreshments and her hard work and thanks for the stockings. Mr. Patterson related. "As you are all aware this is our only scheduled board meeting this month. I want thank you again for your time that you donate to the community. I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and as we go into the new year with the completion of our schools, it is an exciting time for the district and a challenging time also.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Contracts
Legal
Personnel**

At 8:08pm, Mr. Patterson announced that the board will be taking a five minute break and then adjourn into executive session. He announced that they will be in executive session for approximately one and half hour and that additional board comments and action may be taken after the executive session.

The executive session adjourned and the regular business meeting reconvened at 9:32pm by President Patterson.

BOARD COMMENTS

(I have been instructed by the board to type the board comments that have to do with the Superintendent Contract verbatim)

Mrs. Gilliard: Um, I would just like to say that I am looking forward to negotiating directly with Mr. Arment...and would like to see that move forward as quickly as possible. **Mr. Patterson:** OK. I would also like to note that we would like the uh, uh the board minutes, to reflect uh the comments of the board verbatim, please. **Mr. Lachney:** Happy Holidays. Merry Christmas. (**Mr. Patterson:** Thank You.) **Mr. Lachney:** And to all a good night. **Mr. Patterson:** Mr. Heinz. **Mr. Heinz:** I just have a couple of things. Mr. Heinz commented on a relative that bought a mat lift on e bay from the Auburn School District and will hopefully donate it to Eatonville Middle School. Mr. Patterson asked that it be run through the Superintendent. Mr. Heinz also talked about an incident with his student at the HS who did not pass a quiz and did not have access to the paper that she did not pass. Mr. Heinz also asked to see the quiz and the paperwork had been shredded. There was discussion among the board.

Mr. Patterson: Cautioned the board that there is a perception that they are always a board member as opposed to a parent and that we as well as other parents need to pursue the proper channels of communication. We take it up with the educator first, then the principal, the superintendent and then the board. Mr. Heinz assured the board that was what he was pursuing.

Mr. Lachney: Talked about Marilyn Rasmussen and how supportive she has been in this community. There was board discussion about her loosing the election, and how to recognize her. It was suggested that she be invited to a work study and present her with a certificate.

Mr. Patterson gave the floor to **Mr. Homan:** (Verbatim) OK, Umm. When Mr. Bainsler came out and, you know this, this letter, even though Ray didn't see it, other people in the district have seen it and there has been some conjecture and (pause) things of that nature about who the, who the people who have agendas are on the board and what have you. I prepared a statement tonight that I'd like to basically read for the record Umm because I, when I got on this board or when I was running for the board, Umm I think its incredibly important for us as board members to not to have our ethics, our integrity and our morals questioned at any point in time and when they are I feel very strongly about just justifying my position so with that being said I am gonna, I'm gonna read this and uh then I will be done. Over the past couple of weeks the accusations to the school board have come into question by the person Mr. Arment chose to negotiate his contract and speak to us on his behalf. The things said in those letters are not only incorrect from my perspective but they are hurtful and damaging at best. The things have been said about the board are things like we have personal agendas or fiduciary responsibility is in question and the board is bent if not broke. First of all I would like to address the agenda statement. I for one recently have been accused for having an agenda for getting rid of Mr. Arment. Let me clarify this issue right now by stating this. Six to eight years ago, or there abouts, when the teachers of this district had issue with Mr. Arment and uh issued a no confidence vote for Superintendent Arment I spoke in be.. in favor of supporting him at that particular meeting. Next I applied for a position on the board that was vacated and overwhelming rumor at that time was quote. " I was in Mr. Arment's back pocket." So because of that I withdrew from consideration um of the appointment on the board because I felt that my ethics, morals and integrity were questioned and I felt that was an important piece of being on the school board. I ran two years later all the while sitting on a facilities committee whose sole purpose was to pass a bond and get a new school built. Or schools. Well two years later I was elected and with the help of the entire community and thousands of hours spent (pause) with my esteemed colleague Tim Patterson, we finally passed an overdue bond that should have been passed years ago. Now two more years have passed and after all that's been done without so much as asking for a thank you I have now been accused (pause) of having an agenda of getting rid of Ray. (Pause) Let me tell you what our agenda has been as a board. (Sigh) We've wanted gifted programs started at Columbia Crest because of Mr. Lachney. We've wanted to keep schools open at Columbia Crest even though maybe at the time it wasn't great financial decision because it was important to us as a board to keep neighborhood schools open. We passed a bond for the first time in 28 years. Tim chaired two levy

committees to pass the last couple of levies. We volunteer for business week. We help out with the sports (at the) schools. We assist in getting extra money so we can operate a pool in town. We assist in getting the Champion Program started through Connections at Pierce County Parks. We help get the ball rolling for Junior Achievement. We work with coaches on improving fields. We occasionally attend SEAG meetings, a group we formed by the way. And in conclusion we sacrifice hundreds of hours every month fielding phone calls and questions from staff and the public that they feel they cannot get answered anywhere else. There are current and past board members that sacrifice their livelihood on a daily basis because of potential decisions they make on this board. You also have two people on this board who dedicate their lives to public service and have done nothing but have the interest of the kids and the citizens at heart. These are the type of agendas I believe this board has. To make it clear that my agenda has been and always will be the same, its to see that my kids get the best education they can, in the best buildings they can and to hand their hand them their diploma (pause) when they graduate. (Clear his throat) As for fiduciary responsibility there's not a meeting that goes by, obviously Cathy will test (ify) to that, that we do not ask question from where and how the finances are spent. We have meeting after meeting with administration asking questions that we are elected to ask and making decisions we can bet (pause) we can with the information we get. Now lastly about the board itself. (Voice breaks) I've got to pause here for a second. It is in its truest sense of the word a board. (Pause) We bring different experiences, (pause) different perspectives and attitudes to this board. We respect each others opinions, we listen to each other and value each and every one who sits on this board. We take it all in and make a collective decision. Now, we may not always agree behind closed doors but we do always speak with one voice and support each other in public. That is what you elected us to do. I know. I I don't know, but in my opinion there is no one else I would rather serve with than this board and this group of people. (Pause) (Sniff) I am almost done. (Clear throat) Finally I will say again. If anyone has any question where I stand on this issue ask me. Including you guys, Superintendent Arment. And I will tell you with the best of my ability in a business like and professional manner where I stand. It's never my intention to hurt people by what I do or say. (Pause) I hope that I live the same way that I have taught my kids to live and that is to always treat people the way you want to be treated. To be honest and forthcoming, to have good morals. (Pause) (Sniff) I've got an allergy. Great integrity and you can always be proud of what you have done. And that, that completes my statement. **Kirk Heinz:** Thank You. Nicely Nicely Done. **Paulette Gilliardi:** Thanks. **Tim Patterson:** Thank You. Uh finally I would like to echo Mr. Lachney's comment that on behalf of the board that I would like to extend our thanks and an invitation to Marilyn Rasmussen. She deserves recognition and thanks for her time on behalf of the entire community of Eatonville and the greater Eatonville area. Um.....her replacement has some very large shoes to fill. I also would like to extend and I think the board should perhaps get a card or something. But congratulations should go out to Garth and Shannon Steedman on the birth of their twins. (It is) very rewarding to be a parent. And very challenging. And I wish both them and their children the best of luck and the best of health. I'd also like to echo Mrs. Gilliardi's comment that I look forward to working directly with Mr. Arment during the contract negotiation and look forward to seeing him serving as superintendent of Eatonville Schools into the foreseeable future. I think you have done a tremendous job and the school district is better because of your service. Thank you and I extend the floor to Mr. Arment. Anything you would like to say Sir? Um I'd just like to say its been a very fruitful executive session and I appreciate the uh boards comments and Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. **Mr. Patterson:** Alright. **Mr. Heinz:** With that said I would like to make a motion that if the board is not able to negotiate a contract with Mr. Arment by the first board meeting in January, we will start a search for a new superintendent. **Mr. Patterson:** Can you clarify by the first meeting? **Mr. Heinz:** The first meeting in January.

There was a second to the motion and the motion carried.

**Motion on time limit on
Superintendent Contract &
Superintendent Search**

ADJOURNMENT

President Patterson adjourned the meeting at 9:47pm

Timothy R. Patterson, President

Raymond F. Arment, III, Secretary to the Board

Debra Hamilton, Recording Secretary