

**December 14, 2020**  
**EJCS BOE Meeting Minutes**

A regular meeting of the East Jackson Community Schools Board of Education was held in the East Jackson Secondary School Auditorium and remotely accessible via ZOOM. The meeting was called to order by President, Ken Straub at 6:02 PM. Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Jan Maino and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Board Members Present:** Ken Straub, Mishele Wilkins, Mickey Cromley, and Dan Risner. Remote participation; Jan Maino, Misti Bell and Mike Buckland

**Board Members Absent:**

**Administrators/ Supervisors Present:** Superintendent Doerr, Joel Cook and Kirk Warner. Remote participation; Amy Blackledge, Linda DuBois, Becky Hager, Jeff Punches, and Randy Wilkinson

**Staff Members Present:** Deana Minder, and Ray Hill. Remote participation; Sammy Rebandt, and Business Manager, Kimberly Miller

**Visitors Present:** Jason Worthing with Schweitzer, and Gabe Alvey with Diekema-Hamman  
**Students of the Month requested receipt of award in person.** Their certificates will be postponed until the Board can resume in person meetings without capacity limitations.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

- 1) None

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Maino

Mrs. Wilkins 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 1) **Meeting Minutes**

- A. Regular Meeting – November 9, 2020

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

**Questions, Comments, Petitions from the Public:** None

**Reports**

- 1) **Schweitzer**

- Jason Worthing shared that Series I of the bond work is wrapping up and the crews will be working during winter break on punch lists regarding quality issues. The budget for Series II is in and work will begin in the summer of 2021. The main focus and big item for Series II includes the press box. Mrs. Bell inquired about wish list items being addressed provided there is money available after the completion of the bond projects. Jason responded saying wish list items will be considered once all required items are complete.

**2) Deikema-Hamman**

- Gabe Alvey added that they are working on ideas and pricing for Series II projects including water service upgrades. Mrs. Maino asked if the water upgrades are necessary because of former water contamination at EJE. Gabe indicated that the upgrades are merely upgrades and not due to quality.

**3) Finance Report/Audit**

- Business Manager, Kimberly Miller, presented the Finance Report and shared Audit findings. Paper copies of the audit are available if board members would like a copy.

**4) Board Reports/ Sharing**

- None

**5) Superintendent’s Report**

- The MDE Office of Field Services has reported that East Jackson has completed the Federal Programs Audit and received a “met” rating in all categories. This is a rare occurrence that only happens in the top 3% of schools. Mr. Doerr offered kudos to Mrs. Hager, Mrs. Blackledge, and the EJ staff that helped support this review.
- Mr. Doerr updated the Board regarding the current status of student engagement.
  - a. 100% of K-12 students are being taught virtually. This was prompted by several factors beyond the rising COVID case rates. In Jackson County, the health department is no longer contact tracing for positive cases in the age range of 18 thru 65. Additionally, local agencies are no longer testing asymptomatic close contacts.
  - b. There are 2 district-wide issues of top concern.
    1. At the Secondary School, many students have fallen off from their engagement during remote instruction. Mrs. Maino asked if there were concerns regarding Wi-Fi/broadband access. Mr. Doerr indicated that the principals will elaborate after his report.
    2. Food insecurity; our food service department started a Mobile Food Service program which provides hot lunch daily at 4 sites within the district for our students in need. Once again, we have received support from area food banks to help get additional food to families to cover winter break. Mrs. Maino inquired about the number of meals being distributed and Mr. Doerr shared that 120 meals are delivered each day. He added that communication efforts have doubled, therefore increasing participation from families.
  - c. Our district has been consistently over the 75% attendance threshold required by state statute, as defined by one, 2-way communication per week.

EJE Principal, Becky Hager addressed the Board and shared that there has been an increase with students not logging in and not communicating with their teachers. Before the shutdown, Wi-Fi needs were identified and resolved and over 50 jet packs were distributed. Mrs. Hager added that EJE is ensuring that the teachers have the materials they need for learning management and she praised their organization and diligence in working with the students. She said support staff has been helping teachers when and where needed, such as checking assignments and social workers have been making home visits. Mrs. Hager was pleased to share that the students are much more knowledgeable now of how to log on and access assignments without delay. Something new and enjoyable is the ability for students to record themselves doing the work assigned and sharing with their teacher.

EJS Principal, Joel Cook praised the technology software and access which allowed staff and students to be extremely prepared for the shutdown. He added that 33 Kajeets have been distributed, and this, in addition to the assistance of support staff, ensured that the school is 100% student connected. Mr. Cook addressed the academic drop and stated that weekly calls are being made to all students who have a D or an F. He acknowledged that 60% of students in a virtual learning setting will typically fail at least one (1) class. He went on to acknowledge that this is difficult on students as well as parents and teachers. Mr. Cook shared that there is discussion of creating an asynchronous/synchronous instruction plan next semester. He concluded by telling the Board that EJS has a plan in place for remediation and credit recovery.

**Action Items**

**Resignation** Mr. Cromley moved to accept the **Resignation** of the following employees;

- a. **Andrea Maples**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher; effective November 6, 2020

Mrs. Maino 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

**Resolution** Mrs. Maino moved to adopt the **Juul Litigation Resolution** as presented.

Mr. Risner 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

**COVID** Mr. Cromley moved to review and approve the **Monthly Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan**, as presented. Mr. Doerr offered the public an opportunity for comments or questions and there were none. He shared that all schools in Jackson County are now virtual only and announced that he will be supervising the grading of students.

Mrs. Maino 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

**Other Board Discussion Matters** -

The Board offered sincere appreciation for the work of appointed Board Trustee Dan Risner. They acknowledged his willingness to step in and cover until the Elected Trustee assumes office in January and thanked him for his service to East Jackson Schools and The Board of Education.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Wilkins moved to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 6:44p.m.

Mr. Risner 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0