

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
November 14, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

On Monday, November 14, 2022, the regular meeting of the Eastmont School District Board of Directors was called to order by Board President Whitney Smith at 5:30 p.m. in the Kenroy Elementary School Cafeteria at 601 N Jonathon, East Wenatchee.

A Webex link was provided on the District's website for public participation at:

<https://eastmont206.webex.com/eastmont206/j.php?MTID=m9b18e1b76d9a60050058009b14f143be>

**ATTENDANCE**

Present:

Whitney Smith, Board President  
Cindy Wright, Board Vice President  
Jason Heinz, Board Director  
Steve Piccirillo, Board Director  
Meaghan Vibbert, Board Director  
Becky Berg, Board Secretary/Superintendent  
Brandy Fields, Superintendent's Secretary

Also Participating In-person and Remotely:  
District staff and one media personnel

**APPROVE AGENDA/MODIFICATIONS**

Superintendent Berg reported there were no modifications to the Agenda.

MOVED by Director Wright and SECONDED by Director Piccirillo to approve the Agenda for November 14, 2022 as presented. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Instructions for public comment were provided on the Agenda. Public Comments could be made to the Board in three ways: 1) In-person by signing up; 2) By writing and sending regular mail to the Administration Office; and 3) By email to [schoolboard@eastmont206.org](mailto:schoolboard@eastmont206.org).

There was public comment in an email received from Sherry Phay, Board Member from Coupeville School District regarding graduation requirements. Her letter will be attached to the minutes.

## BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION

### A. Board News.

Director Wright shared she went to an elementary school's Veterans Day assembly and it was very well attended/standing room only.

### B. Superintendent News.

Student Recognition –

- Kenroy Students Emily Yarborough, Haddie Post, and Italya Lopez received Inclusive Practice Awards. They shared with the Board their leadership opportunities helping students with daily activities in the Life Skills classroom. The students also introduced their parents in the audience.

Superintendent Becky Berg shared she also attended Veterans Day events and felt there was a clear message of honoring veterans at each of them. The staff did an excellent job.

## INFORMATION

### A. Staff Years of Service Recognition.

The Board recognized the following staff with a Certificate of Appreciation:

- Sandra Andrews with 20 years in August 2022
- Teresa Burns with 25 years in August 2022
- Veronique Paquette with 35 years in August 2022

## BUILDING AND PROGRAM REPORT

### A. Conversation with Kenroy Elementary School Staff.

Kenroy Elementary School staff shared information with the Board on their recent challenges and accomplishments. They also answered questions from the Board.

### B. Kenroy Elementary School Building Report.

Principal Kristy Daley and Assistant Principal Erin Coyle spoke about their staff and their experience at Kenroy.

## CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes. The Board of Directors approved the minutes from the regular meetings held on October 10, 2022 and October 24, 2022.

B. Payment of bills and/or payroll. The Board of Directors approved the following checks, direct deposits, or wire transfers listed on check summaries dated November 14, 2022:

Warrant Numbers	Total Dollar Amount
7129342-7129349	\$1,390.49
7129350-7129391	\$647.60
7129392-7129400	\$6,292.17
7129401-7129581	\$463,265.08

C. Approval of personnel action. The Board of Directors approved the Personnel Action Items dated November 14, 2022.

- D. Approval of a field trip request. The Board of Directors approved the following field trip request:
1. Eastmont High School Jazz & Chamber Choirs to travel overnight to Peshastin, WA in August 2023.
- E. Approval of school improvement plan. The Board of Directors approved the School Improvement Plan for Kenroy Elementary.
- F. Approval of final budget report. The Board of Directors approved the Final Budget Status Report for 2021-22.
- G. Review of student enrollment report. The Board of Directors received the Monthly Student Enrollment Update.

MOVED by Director Wright and SECONDED by Director Piccirillo to approve Consent Agenda Items #A-G. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

**REPORT**

- A. Human Resources Report.  
Executive Director Kayla Brown presented the Human Resources Report. She answered questions from the Board.

**DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM**

- A. Resolution No. 2022-18 Certification of 2023 Excess Property Taxes.  
Superintendent Becky Berg presented Resolution No. 2022-18 Certification of 2023 Excess Property Taxes and shared that it was prepared by our bond attorney and required by law.

MOVED by Director Piccirillo and SECONDED by Director Vibbert to approve Resolution No. 2022-18 Certification of 2023 Excess Property Taxes. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

More information about our Administrative Intern program.  
Superintendent Berg also shared a Shout Out for Executive Director Caryn Metsker for completing her first budget year-end process with the 2021-22 budget!

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Director Piccirillo and SECONDED by Director Wright to adjourn the meeting. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Approval:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

12/12/22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

12/12/22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Island County Juvenile Detention School



Open Den High School Program

Dear Board Members,

Attached is a statement concerning the Washington State Board of Education's (SBE) graduation requirement known as Graduation Pathways and the related waiver of credits option for school districts. We are sharing our concerns now as the credit waiver is due to expire at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. In December the SBE will make recommendations to the Legislature for changes, updates, amendments to graduation requirements and our hope is to continue the language of the waiver and make the graduation credits as optional a permanent requirement. Now is the time to address this issue and let SBE know that going back to the original graduation requirements would be detrimental to our students, our school budgets and our communities. As you are likely already aware, the original requirement goes *beyond* basic education and graduation requirements to earn a high school diploma. Students must meet one of several *additional* requirements to be awarded their high school diploma. This is the case for every student in our state regardless of whether or not they completed all local district requirements including credits. This requirement was suspended during the pandemic in the Emergency Waiver but will be reinstated for the graduating class of 2024 and beyond.

The issue of concern is outlined clearly in the attached position paper. Essentially, the pathways offered to those eligible to graduate are focused on post-secondary education and careers choices in a limited list of options. Students who simply desire to enter the workforce, have no viable option to meet this graduation pathway requirement.

We are pursuing a request of the SBE and our state legislators to amend the Graduation Pathways to be inclusive and equitable for all students, not just for those who are college bound, seeking a high tech career or considering the military.

We are requesting your support through acknowledging this letter and position statement document and by considering joining our endeavor with your own letter of support provided to us - we would greatly appreciate learning about how your school district has used the Emergency Waiver and plans to support students should the waiver expire with no amendments.

Alternatively, we would encourage districts to develop your own position to inform the SBE and your district legislators directly.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

John M. Luvera, Teacher

Sherry Phay, CSD Board of Directors: Legislative Representative

## Graduation Pathway Barriers for High School Graduates

### Historic Context:

Closing our schools to slow the transmission of the CoronaVirus caused education systems locally and nationally to scramble to address the graduation requirements for the high school seniors of 2021. The State Board of Education recognized that the safety restrictions of the pandemic created an inequitable learning environment where meeting graduation requirements would, arguably, be unattainable. Of the many times our own school district and community adapted to the changes in safety guidelines, staff went above and beyond to continue to provide meaningful education for our students due, in part, to the passing of HB1121. Briefly, HB1121 allowed the State Board of Education to "... establish an emergency waiver program to allow school districts to waive certain graduation requirements on an individual student basis after the district makes a good faith effort to help the student meet the requirements." The rationale behind this decision was in recognition that "...the COVID-19 pandemic illuminated the need for an emergency waiver program that would prevent students from being unduly impacted by unforeseen disruptions to coursework and assessments that are beyond the student's control."

During the 2021 House and Senate hearings for this bill, public comment included statements declaring we will likely be dealing with the results of the pandemic for years to come. Those words are proving to be true.

After passing HB1121 and with schools adopting the Emergency Waiver of High School Graduation Credits, we have seen a renewal of that waiver after recognizing the ripple

effects of the shutdown on the public education system. The main impetus behind this bill, lack of access, is how the bill was initially applied. As recovery progressed, further barriers to students attending, progressing and completing their high school education came to light. For this reason, it is essential that an amendment is created to our state's graduation pathway requirements with language reflecting that of the Emergency Waiver of High School Credits. A waiver system that remains available to Local Education Agencies throughout the state (outside of a declared Emergency), should be established. Creating policy reflecting the language of the Emergency Waiver, would permanently support ALL students in our district, as well as aligning with our recently adopted mission of our school district to address inequity.

#### Request for Positional Support:

We are presenting this position today because the Emergency Waiver is due to expire at the end of this school year. To further support this endeavor, historically, our Washington state constitution's Education preamble includes these words "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders..." In 2010, the state of Washington implemented House Bill 1418 tasking OSPI to design a drop-out prevention and recovery educational system. The objective clearly defined by the legislature, intended for ALL barriers to re-engaging with schools and potentially earning a high school diploma to be identified and reduced or eliminated. From this law, the Open Doors educational schools were initiated.

## Rationale:

The Coupeville School serves a population of students through the Open Den School, who's everyday life experiences are affected by identified barriers. Washington state school districts have similar re-engagement programs affiliated with Open Doors. I now know through repeated experience that current graduation requirements are not attainable to many of these students, resulting in repeated disengagement, creating the exact opposite of the intended goals of this house bill.

Student motivations to enroll in Open Den varies, but commonly it is due to the need to work full-time contributing to their household income. Additionally, a lack of childcare, homelessness, mental health issues and discouragement all contribute to disengaging from a traditional high school environment. These indicators resonate with the factors identified in the *Emergency Waiver*; (“...unforeseen disruptions to coursework and assessments that are beyond the student’s control”.)

Open Den’s mission is to engage students who would have dropped out of the traditional public school system or are at high risk to do so. Enrolled students have chosen to re-engage and earn their high school diploma with educational staff working tirelessly to assist and support them in that decision. These students may struggle in the traditional high school environment but recognize the value of earning a high school diploma, it is after all, their state constitutional right.

The Graduation Pathways requirements include passing high-stakes tests in English and math. Meeting optional Graduation Pathway requirements isn’t as simple as providing access to CTE courses at the high school or a seat at the Skills Center. Graduation Pathways under these options do not assist re-engaged students “where

they're at" and do not provide an equitable education opportunity because of their restricted availability. The Pathways are not easily adapted to student's trying to balance life, work or other personal challenges, they do not serve students who are looking to earn a diploma to advance to a managerial position in their service job. The limited options of the Graduation Pathways in its current policy, ignore an entire population of students within our district and others, whose post-graduation goal is to find a living wage job within their community. The Pathways offer little flexibility for rural or small school districts with very limited options for qualified staff to teach industry recognized CTE classes. Our community is not unlike others, with a vast need of unfilled service-job openings which still require a high school diploma.

An amendment to the language of the Graduation Pathways requirement that allows school districts to demonstrate a good faith effort to help individual students meet graduation requirements would be a true act of bringing equity to our school district. To be clear, the emergency waiver was not applied exclusively to students labeled as "at risk" or primarily attending Open Den. Many high school students on the main campus benefited from the waiver and were able to graduate on time. Recent OSPI report Class of 2021 Graduation Pathways, Disaggregated show how a significant number of students are NOT meeting the requirements and, either not graduating or applying the use of the Emergency Waiver. The gap created by students not being served by the Pathways is staggering and reaffirms our district's experience.

As school directors in charge of governing the financial health of our district, it is a hard truth that we must consider program spending when approving budgets. While many districts act as a "clearinghouse" to earn a GED, our district is unique in that it gives



students a chance to earn the education they are entitled to and move forward, advancing in life, and meaningfully contributing to our community. This is accomplished by earning a high school diploma. Creating a permanent process and procedure for administrators to assess and approve waiving the graduation credit requirements for individual students, empowers a school district with flexibility to make the best decisions for THEIR students. Continuing the language and spirit of the emergency waiver in the form of an amendment to the RCW will allow local school boards and administration the ability to authentically encourage and support students to manage life challenges and achieve their own personal wellbeing.

Please consider endorsing this advocacy work for our school district students and hopefully for all students statewide.