

**MINUTES**  
**of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**of the ENUMCLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT #216**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**May 8, 2018**

**I – PRELIMINARY**

**A. Call to Order:**

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Nancy Merrill, Vice President of the Board of Directors, at 6:33 p.m. at Enumclaw Middle School.

**B. Roll Call:**

All board members were present, except Mr. Stanwood and Mr. Gamblin, who were excused. Student board representatives, Peyton Bruer and Foster Barnhart, were also excused.

**II – WORK BOARD STUDY SESSION**

**A. Enumclaw Middle School Presentation**

Principal Jill Barrett began the meeting by thanking the board for the opportunity to present. It was just one year ago that she was in front of the staff and community of the district, hoping to be the next principal of Enumclaw Middle School. Mrs. Barrett explained that the focus of the presentation would be centered around three points, EMS as achievers, the Timberwolf family, and EMS as instructional learners and leaders.

To support EMS as achievers, Mrs. Barrett shared testing data to present the board with the academic successes of the middle school. The data sets compared EMS with the district as a whole, as well as other districts in the state, over a three year period. The test scores were compiled between the 2015 and 2017 school years. EMS was shown to score above the state average in all middle school grade levels for both reading and math. Science is only tested in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, and EMS tested well above the state average in that subject as well. Mrs. Barrett shared that these data points are huge celebrations for the district. While the students are testing very well as a whole, Mrs. Barrett shared that there are still areas for improvement within the subset groups. The two largest subset groups at EMS are special education students, and students from low income homes. Within those subgroups, there has been an amazing decrease in the achievement gap in the area of science. When compared to non special education and non low income test scores, special education and low income testers are less than 10% behind! EMS is working hard at closing the achievement gaps in reading and math, using what has been learned in the science classrooms.

Mr. Nelson added that this aligns with the “whole child” goal of the district’s strategic plan: identifying the achievement gaps, identifying the reasons for those gaps, and then working toward closing those gaps.

Mrs. Barrett then introduced Assistant Principal Paul Dumontet, to discuss who EMS is as a Timberwolf family. Mr. Dumontet shared that EMS strives to be an inclusive and welcoming

school led by student voice. This year was the first year that the EMS ASB students were asked to come up with a theme for the school year. The students chose “choose love.” Several presenters, including students as part of the Safe School Ambassadors Program and student leadership classes, will share with the board how EMS is ensuring that the theme remains present and authentic throughout the school year. Presenting first, was EMS teacher and athletic director, Mindi Dribnak.

Mrs. Dribnak shared that this year EMS has worked hard to add two new sports seasons as opportunities for student involvement. Girls cross country was added, as well as boys soccer. Mrs. Dribnak expressed her gratitude for being able to provide additional options for extra-curricular activities and was happy to report that the addition of these sports did not take away from volleyball or wrestling participation, which occur simultaneously during the school year. Mrs. Dribnak introduced a student athlete, a part of the new cross country team, Emma. Emma described cross country as an inclusive sport, stating “anyone can run, and it’s not all about winning.” She added that her teammates are happy to be getting fit and healthy and are great at encouraging each other. Every Friday, coach JB Blair designs a “fun run” and the athletes get to run to a place in town, like QFC, and stop for snacks before running back to the school. Staff is even invited to join and Mrs. Barrett has participated! Mrs. Dribnak added that sports are a great way to increase attendance and grades and decrease behavior issues.

School counselor Kristina Grundmanis was next to present to the board. Mrs. Grundmanis is the current coordinator for the EMS Safe School Ambassadors program. The Safe School Ambassadors are a group of students trained to notice signs of mistreatment and exclusion among peers, as well as negative acts towards campus. Three students, Harrison, Megan and Rachel, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade Safe School Ambassadors, shared their focus on the social element of middle school, and ways they have learned to decrease student and peer mistreatment to provide a safe environment for learning. When the students notice any negative interactions with peers, they have been trained to take action in positive and safe ways. These skills include distracting, supporting, getting help, balancing and reasoning. One of the most common signs of mistreatment in middle school is exclusion seen in the lunch room. The Safe School Ambassadors have worked hard to ensure that no student eats alone. Not only are they trained to invite students to their tables, they have also facilitated two lunchroom “mix-it-up” days, where lunch tables are labeled differently and students are encouraged to eat with new groups of people. Mrs. Grundmanis added that there are currently around 30 Safe School Ambassadors and each keeps an action log of positive interventions to ensure that everyone is actively and continuously promoting the theme of “choose love.”

Mr. Nelson addressed the students to share that the skills they are learning now will follow them and become lifelong skills!

Transitioning from Safe School Ambassadors to student leadership, teacher Karl Karkainen was introduced to the board. Mr. Karkainen is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts teacher and he also teaches student leadership classes. Currently, there are approximately 150 students participating in his student leadership classes, which is roughly 1/3 of the students at EMS. The main curriculum for the school year was based around character dares, encouraging students to actively show compassion, patience, humbleness, etc. Each character dare included a specific challenge and

the students selected accountability partners to ensure active and intentional participation in supporting the EMS theme “choose love.”

Mr. Karkainen discussed that when the ASB students chose the theme for the year, they also discussed ways to reiterate the theme throughout the school year. This is done through weekly Timberwolf Shows on Mondays, as well as monthly discussions in classrooms. Each month’s discussion has a different topic, courage, integrity (online), and confidence, are just a few examples of these monthly discussion topics. Two ASB students, Audrey and Mercer, were invited to share their experiences as ASB leaders. Audrey shared with the board her creation of the “birthday gram” at EMS, where she creates a special birthday note, attached to a piece of candy, to be handed out to every student on his or her birthday. She is planning to make nearly 250 this month to cover the Summer birthdays to ensure that no student is left out. Mercer shared her participation in the Timberwolf show, and shared a clip of her discussion of the book *Wonder*, and how it can help to teach students to always be kind.

Mrs. Barrett transitioned the presentation to the third topic for the night: EMS as instructional leaders and learners. Mrs. Barrett gave credit to the EMS staff for believing what they do makes an impact on student learning. She thanked the board for the opportunity for EMS to become a 1 to 1 school for students with Chromebooks. It has been a great opportunity to come together to incorporate technology into the classroom to increase and enhance student learning. Each month, teachers are able to come together and share tidbits on technology with one another and once a month the staff participates in Genius Hour with Bob Kilmer and Tracy Brown to learn new ways of adding technology to the learning process. Mrs. Barrett then invited science teacher, Rebecca Cheney to show the board what is being done in science courses to increase student involvement and interest.

Mrs. Cheney believes that the decrease in the achievement gap for science is related to creating relevant and authentic experiences for learning, so that the students can relate to the lessons in a real-life way. As an example, Mrs. Cheney used the teaching topic of Newton’s Law and forces of motion. To be sure to engage students in learning, the science team created a lesson involving car crashes. Students were instructed to design and create a car using specific materials that could keep an egg from breaking during a collision. After the first test run, students were given the opportunity to redesign based on the outcome of their collisions. They then used Google forms with follow-up, test-like questions to monitor student learning of the topic. The Google forms give instant feedback on student answers, and the students are given an explanation of why the answer was incorrect. Mrs. Cheney believes that connecting her lessons to real-life experiences creates a more authentic and transferable learning experience.

Mrs. Barrett thanked Mrs. Cheney for her work at EMS and wished her luck on her future transition to teaching science courses at EHS next year. She will be missed.

As an end to the presentation, Mrs. Barrett invited the board members to participate in 8<sup>th</sup> grade exit interviews for students transitioning to high school next year. Teacher JB Blair is orchestrating the interviews, and students have been creating portfolios of work from their 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade years to share where they are in their current learning, and what their next steps and goals will be as high school students. She explained that EMS also held a welcoming celebration for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be transitioning to middle school next year. EMS created a baseball

theme and had baseball cards made for each of the EMS teachers, to provide information to new students and families. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders had a chance to practice opening lockers and were able to spend some Q and A time with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Leadership and ASB students were also available to provide tours. The event was coordinated in hopes of lessening the anxiety of the transition for those students.

Mrs. Barrett thanked the board for attending.

Mr. Nelson added that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade orientation was exquisite, incredibly thoughtful and appreciated by families in the community.

Mrs. McGann shared that she loved to hear about the community and culture of EMS as she believes it is equally important to test scores when measuring achievement. Students need to feel loved and enjoy the environment in order to be successful.

**B. “Wait, What?”**

Mr. Nelson distributed a reading schedule for the book “*Wait, What?*” by James E. Ryan. The board will read sections of the book and then come together for discussion during the first three board work study meetings of the 2018-19 school year.

### **III EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session was needed.

### **IV — BOARD PROCESS DEBRIEF**

The board debriefed the meeting. Mr. Nelson shared photos of himself and Carol Decker at his Superintendents Conference in Chelan, WA over the weekend. Mr. Nelson had the opportunity to present on the topic of Leading with Vulnerability and Authenticity, and Carol Decker was involved as a guest speaker for the conference. He informed the board that Carol Decker has been interviewed for the show *The Doctors* and her episode will air in the Fall. She will also be interviewed by *People Magazine* next week, and her book will be released on June 5<sup>th</sup> this year!

### **V — ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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President, Board of Directors

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Secretary, Board of Directors