

Board Notes

During its regular meeting on March 23, 2021, the Everett Public Schools Board of Directors did the following:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened at 5 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Director LeSesne provided a land acknowledgment.

RECOGNITION

The board recognized the 2021 Prodigies for Peace winners. Each year the NAACP, Snohomish County Chapter, holds a celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As part of the celebration, students are invited to submit essays and art for the Prodigies for Peace competition. Student work is judged by members of the community. Students earning first, second, third, and honorable mention awards in each grade band and each creative category are honored for their inspirational works at the community celebration. This year, Everett Public Schools had 18 essay winners and 30 winners for their artwork. Watch [video presentation](#).

HEARD THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The school board heard a district update from Dr. Saltzman. He commented on the recent tragedies in our nation and world and how great it is our students in the recognition were focused on love and kindness. Tragedy does not define us, kindness does. He also recognized how great our students did in representing the district with the legislators last week. They were true leaders.

SHARED BOARD COMMENTS

Student representative Hussein started by saying her heart goes out to all of those who have been affected by the recent tragedies and she hopes this is not our new normal. She really felt heard with the legislators last week. Student representative Pilch-Bisson echoed Ms. Hussein's comments. Director Mitchell appreciated the video and the heart that was in the student's work. She also enjoyed the time with the Legislature. Director Berg shared the anxiety about bringing her students back into the classroom – excited but nervous about student safety. Anxiety is normal. Director LeSesne is happy we are bringing more students back into the classroom, and that the district is doing it safely. She acknowledged the district stands with all races and is opposed to hate of any kind. Director Nicholls stated we need to address basic tenants in our society like racism. Director Mason agreed with other director's comments, and was especially moved with the way the students participated.

HEARD PUBLIC COMMENT

There was one public comment regarding the district's decision to hold on exchange student program due to COVID. The commentor asked for the 2021-22 decision to be held until later in the spring.

HEARD THE DUAL LANGUAGE UPDATE

The board of directors was provided [a presentation](#) on the new dual language program starting at Emerson Elementary in Fall 2021. Over the past year, a district dual language task force has drafted a dual language master plan to guide the development of Everett Public Schools' dual language program and lay the groundwork for the continued development of a K-12 pathway that affords students the opportunity to develop their bilingualism and literacy in two languages.

HEARD THE 24 CREDIT PLAN UPDATE

The board of directors heard [a presentation](#) on the 24-credit plan and progress. The graduation requirements for the class of 2021 and beyond include completing 24 credits in specific subject areas, completing a high school and beyond plan, and meeting graduation pathway requirements. This presentation provided the board with an update on the 24-credit plan implementation, including next steps to address graduation requirements and college and career readiness goals. The presentation also included information regarding adjustments made due to COVID-19 and progress for the class of 2021 in meeting graduation requirements.

HEARD COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The board of directors heard [a presentation](#) on the work of the communication team over the last year. Communicating accurate, credible, and timely information in a clear, understandable manner is the purpose of communications in Everett Public Schools. This presentation provided an overview of the ways communications adjusted in 2020-21 to meet the changing needs of staff and families, reviewing lessons learned, and improvements made in district communications. There was also be a high-level review of internal, external, and social communications.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

The board meeting video from 3/23/2021 has been uploaded and is available on Vimeo and YouTube.

Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/528341292>

YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/HcyXo9X1JJE>

Nondiscrimination statement

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer – Mary O'Brien, 425-385-4106, MO'brien@everettsd.org, PO Box 2098, Everett WA 98213

Section 504 Coordinator – Dave Peters, 425-385-4063, DPeters@everettsd.org, PO Box 2098, Everett WA 98213

ADA Coordinator – Randi Seaberg, 425-385-4104, RSeaberg@everettsd.org, PO Box 2098, Everett WA 98213