

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
March 9, 2010

Filed Subject to Approval

Present: R. Bobroske; L. Canada; E. Carroll; D. Dekle; K. Fox Santora; A. Manusky; M. Mas; C. Meskers; A. Mocco; J. Parker; V. Peskay

Public: Three members of the public were present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion – move to approve the minutes of January 12, 2010. Parker, Dekle. Approved Unanimous

DISCUSSION

The discussion focused on reading across the curriculum. Ms. Marie Mas opened the session providing background knowledge specific to the Reciprocal Teaching Model, a research-based instructional model to improve comprehension and self-monitoring while reading. This model has been implemented in both the elementary and middle school to improve student achievement in reading.

Ms. Joan Parker provided a description of the professional text-based discussions by the entire faculty at Helen Keller Middle School. These active discussions are based on Cris Tovani's book; *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading?* Ms. Parker also shared that teachers have been developing reading assessments across the content areas, including in World Language classes.

Ms. Kim Fox Santora provided several examples of how teachers integrate the use of non-fiction guided reading and shared reading texts across the content areas of science and social studies at the elementary level. Guided Reading texts and big books used for Shared Reading lessons were displayed for committee members to review.

Dr. Donna Dekle, director of special services for Easton, shared information related to literacy training provided to paraprofessionals at Samuel Staples. Paraprofessionals will work closely with the classroom teacher to facilitate strategies for improving letter identification, recognition of basic sight words, and spelling.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee member, Ms. Mocco, shared a suggestion for creating a curriculum matrix that identifies a scope and sequence of skills at each grade level.

Samuel Staples Elementary School will be the first ER9 school to receive a \$2,000.00 grant award from the Chartwells Food Service. The ER9 Wellness Advisory Committee decided that SSES should be the first recipient of this monetary award to be used in anticipation of possible participation in the development of a community garden on school property. Additionally, Ms.

Mas suggested that she will contact the Easton Historical Society to explore curriculum development related to the farming history in Easton.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public audience participated throughout the session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 6:20 p.m. in room 106 at Helen Keller Middle School. Transitioning from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school will be the topic of discussion. Tom McMorran, assistant superintendent and head of school for Joel Barlow High School, will be joining Easton administrators in leading the discussion.

Respectively submitted by E. Marie Mas