

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 14, 2010  
Minutes

*Filed subject to approval.*

Present: Cohen (by phone), Dunsby, Maiorano (7:40 pm), Treidel, Underberger  
Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, Sullivan, Fox Santora, Parker, Kaplan, Dekle  
Others: five people in the audience

Mr. Treidel called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**AGENDA ADDITION**

**Motion: move to add to the agenda, election of new board member. Dunsby, Underberger.  
Approved. Unanimous.**

**ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Mr. Treidel read a letter from the Democratic Town Committee recommending Regina Bobroske to replace Alan Katz on the board.

**Motion: move that Regina Bobroske be elected to the position vacated by Dr. Alan Katz.  
Underberger, Dunsby. Approved. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Bobroske was sworn in by the Easton Town Clerk, Joan Kirk, and was seated at the board table.

Dr. Cohen, who was present by phone, disconnected.

**DISCUSSION OF 2010-2011 EXPENDITURES**

Mrs. Sullivan provided a graphic view of proposed expenditures by function code and % of increase.

Mr. Maiorano arrived (7:40 pm).

Mrs. Sullivan reported the following items were considered in budget discussions but not brought forward at this time:

1. Social Worker at SSES
2. Capital items at HKMS, including:
  - Replacement of 29 windows (\$110,000) that are problems of energy efficiency and safety, Mrs. Sullivan has asked the Board of Finance to consider this item for the Town capital budget.
  - Music room carpet
  - Heater in the office restroom (\$2500)
  - Classroom desk (25) replacement (\$3750) and some painting of classrooms
  - Increase in Writing Specialist position at SSES, from 0.4 to 0.8 FTE
  - Increase custodian for cleaning in each building
  - SMARTBoards (4) at HKMS for Music, Art, Reading Specialist and conference rooms

- And miscellaneous items of lesser dollar amounts.

Mr. Treidel asked if any textbooks were considered but not included. The textbook that was considered is the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science book for approximately \$15 - \$17,000. Mr. Treidel asked if that item could be reviewed again.

The administration was asked to prepare reductions in ½% increments, getting to a low of zero % increase.

Strategic Plan work: Mr. Treidel suggested that the monies allocated for assistance with the Strategic Plan be an untouchable item. Discussion followed, and a consensus was not reached.

Other topics of discussion included extracurricular activities at HKMS, computer replacement at SSES, the additional time being requested for the Media Center assistant, summer curriculum work, and professional development.

Special Education: Dr. Dekle reported the primary increase in the budget was for increases in outside tuition.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Mansky, Morning Glory Drive: suggested an accreditation of the schools could be an alternative to the Strategic Plan. Dr. Cicchetti noted that the goals are different for each of these. The Strategic Plan is for an overall plan for the 3-district schools, an accreditation process if for a specific school.

Don Cooper, Sherwood Road: Mr. Cooper served on the Strategic Plan Committee five years ago when the plan was first established. He noted that the work included input from members of the school and community, and established goals for alignment of the schools.

Christine Calvert: question about the teacher contracted hours in relation to the stipend received for working the extracurricular activities. Mrs. Parker assured her that the teachers were required to work 45 minutes beyond the school day and beyond any extracurricular activity time. Mrs. Calvert also asked if the kindergarten sections could be reduced if the children of staffers were not included. The administration will present more information on this at the next meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Underberger, Maiorano Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Underberger, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday