

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 9, 2010

Minutes

*Filed subject to approval.*

Present: Bobroske, Dunsby, Peskay, Treidel

Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, Sullivan, Fox Santora, LaTorre, Parker, Kaplan, Dekle

Others: 45 people in the audience

Mr. Treidel called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm. Mr. Dunsby was appointed acting secretary for the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: move that the minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting be accepted as submitted.**

**Bobroske, Dunsby. Approved. Unanimous.**

**BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH**

Dr. Cicchetti announced that March was Board Member Appreciation Month and on behalf of the administration he thanked the board members for the work they do. Mrs. Fox-Santora presented a collection of Samuel Staples Elementary School student work that thanked the board members. Mrs. Parker introduced three Helen Keller Middle School students representing the three grades. Each read a letter in appreciation for their work on the board of education.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Lavelle, staff member: addressed the board on the importance of the music and art programs in the schools.

Barbara Brennan, Flat Rock Drive: spoke of her support for the music program and the importance of extracurricular activities at the middle school.

Jeanine Jones, Flat Rock Drive: speaking on behalf of the PTA, she commented that fundraising efforts have been strong, but revenue is definitely down. She is not sure of how much subsidy the PTA would be able to provide for the extracurricular activities this year.

Don Cooper, Sherwood Drive: spoke of the importance of the music program.

Sharon Stemme, Tersana Drive: spoke of the importance of music, art and physical education. Also expressed a concern about the reduction of sections for grade 3 and commented that the current grade 2 has a large number of boys compared with girls making classroom management a challenge.

Heidi Armster, Judd Road: spoke of the importance of the music and art programs.

Hollyann Corello, Maple Road: spoke of her concerns regarding the current size of grade 2 and impact of reduction of class sections for next year's grade 3.

Jodi Forte, Sport Hill Road: spoke of the importance of the music program.

Angie DiStefano, Lakeview Drive: expressed her concern for the current 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, the planned class size for next year and the impact on learning.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION: RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONCERNING THE INSTITUTION OF TEACHER NONRENEWALS PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 10-151**

The recommendation for teacher nonrenewals is for positions that were filled for one-year terms, those for long-term substitutes or 1-year positions. Each person was aware of the conditions when hired and have been informed of this action.

**Motion: move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Easton Board of Education nonrenews the teacher contract of Andrea Deveney, Judith Keklik, Kim Duffy, Betsey Honychuch and John Marusa at the end of the 2009-2010 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Andrea Deveney, Judith Keklik, Kim Duffy, Betsey Honychuch and John Marusa and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151; and that the Superintendent be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education. Peskay, Dunsby. Approved. Unanimous.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Director of Special Education: Dr. Dekle reported the numbers for special education have remained stable and students are making gains with the classroom intervention methods/SRBI.

Director of Finance: Mrs. Sullivan provided the monthly update on Health Insurance. Claims for January were down and she anticipates the end-of-year balance in the reserve account of about 1-1½ a month.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Mrs. Mas reported a consortium of DRG A school district representatives met to plan how the new TEAM (CSDE Teacher Education and Mentoring Program) will be implemented. The ER9 Wellness Advisory Committee met in February for a presentation by Gina Pin (JBHS) on the Developmental Assets Program. The Towns of Easton and Redding, through the Easton-Redding Community Coalition would like to administer the survey to high school and possibly middle school students in the fall of 2010. Before the survey is given it will be made available to parents. The survey responses would be anonymous and the results would be shared with the communities. The annual ER9 Teacher Recruitment Fair is scheduled for March 10 at JBHS.

SSES: Mrs. Fox Santora highlighted various student achievements, including a fundraiser for the Red Cross/Haiti Earthquake that raised over \$4,000 for the American Red Cross, a third grade class raising funds to build two dog shelters, and a third grader's ceramic piece being selected in a K-12 competition. Mrs. Fox-Santora added that CMT testing is underway. A Principal's Coffee was held recently and the primary topic of discussion centered on the planned class size of 23 for next year's third grade.

HKMS: Mrs. Parker reported on a student who earned first place recognition in the annual Reflections contest. She recognized student efforts to raise funds for Haiti. Mrs. Parker reviewed upcoming activities.

Superintendent: Dr. Cicchetti complimented the three students who read their letters aloud to board members on their poise and delivery. He distributed a copy of an article that appeared in the NY Times entitled "Building a Better Teacher." Dr. Cicchetti met with the PTA Council (representatives of the PTA groups in the five schools) and reviewed the partnership between the schools and the PTA groups.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Wergeles, Flat Rock Road: commented that the budget reductions seem to shave a little off everything rather than keeping the programs in tack and eliminating something big. Dr. Cicchetti responded that the plan is to provide and maintain the most comprehensive programs possible.

Jeanine Jones, Flat Rock Road: question regarding the upcoming meetings with the Board of Finance and asked which was the most important for parents to attend and voice their concerns and support. Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule. The Public Hearing on March 22 is an opportunity for any resident of Easton to make a comment.

David Antonez, Judd Road: commented that choices need to be made and it may be better to eliminate an offering, such as language, art, music, etc., rather than offer it in a watered down way.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion: move to recess to executive session for a discussion of collective bargaining for administrators and teacher. Dunsby, Peskay. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Dr. Cicchetti, Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Fox Santos were invited to attend.**

The meeting recessed at 8:42 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 9:30 pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Dunsby, Peskay Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Dunsby, Acting Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday