

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 18, 2010
Minutes

Present: Bobroske, Dunsby, Maiorano, Treidel, Underberger (by phone)
Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, Sullivan, Fox-Santora, LaTorre, Parker, Kaplan, Dekle
Others: more than 25 students, parents, staff and community members in the audience

Mr. Treidel called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm.

RECOGNITION

Mrs. Parker introduced the CABA Award winners Scott Bindelglass and Liana Viselli. Dr. Cicchetti presented each with a certificate.

Mrs. Parker introduced teacher Ann Scrivani who presented three students representing the 8th grade class. Students Stephen St. Raymond, Scott Colby and Lila Estime presented the results of a Spanish class project, books for donation to the Samuel Staples Elementary School Library on leading healthy lives.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the minutes of the April 13, 2010 meeting be accepted as submitted. Underberger, Bobroske. Approved. 3-0-2. Mr. Treidel & Mr. Maiorano abstained.

Motion: move that the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting be accepted as corrected. Bobroske, Dunsby. Approved. 3-0-2. Dr. Underberger and Mr. Maiorano abstained.

Correction: page 2, motions following executive session, delete the motion by the Easton Board of Education.

RECEIPT OF AND ACTION UPON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONCERNING THE INSTITUTION OF TEACHER TERMINATIONS PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 10-151

Dr. Cicchetti read the Termination Recommendations for Timothy Murray, Robin Keleher and Megan Kirk. These terminations were due to the reductions in the 2010-2011 budget.

Motion: move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Easton Board of Education vote to consider termination of the contracts of employment of Robin Keleher, Megan Kirk and Timothy Murray as teachers in the Easton School System as recommended by the Superintendent; and that I further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action in writing to Robin Keleher, Megan Kirk and Timothy Murray; that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from Robin Keleher, Megan Kirk and Timothy Murray and/or his/her representatives pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151; and further, that any hearing requested by the teachers (3) is to be before the Board of Education. Dunsby, Treidel. Approved. 4-1. Mr. Maiorano voted against the motion.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY UPDATE

Mrs. Parker presented an update on the program, Project Lead the Way. The PowerPoint presentation included information on the program and how it will be incorporated into the middle school

curriculum. The first year of the program, part of the Fine & Practical Arts curriculum, will be Design & Modeling and will be offered to all students. The Easton Learning Foundation has raised \$100,000 of the \$115,000 cost of the program. The designated space for the class will undergo renovation and equipment installation over the summer months.

POWERSCHOOL PRESENTATION

A presentation on Powerschool and its use in the schools was made by Mrs. Kaplan and Mrs. LaTorre. The data management system provides information to the administration and teachers. Data can be used to inform curriculum, instruction, management, teaching and learning. The PowerPoint presentation included samples of how the information is used in the schools. The program is being used in both Redding and Easton schools and at Joel Barlow High School.

TRI-STATE CONSORTIUM SCIENCE PROGRAM EVALUATION

Mrs. Mas and Mr. McMorrin (Head of School, Joel Barlow High School) presented a report on the October 2009 Tri-State Consortium visit of the K-12 Science curriculum. The presentation included the work done to prepare for the visit, the visitation process and the recommendations.

The steering committee reviewed the recommendations and identified and summarized the top ten recommendations that could be initiated right away. These are:

- Establish common time and resources to align curriculum and to provide professional development opportunities
- Incorporate science textbooks/printed materials at the elementary level
- Develop and implement an independent research program at the high school
- Continue professional development to implement the use of science notebooks/journals K-12
- Develop performance-based assessments and common scoring rubrics
- Review primary grade assessment practices for report cards
- Create a tri-district committee to develop performance-based assessments, common scoring rubrics, common practices related to inquiry-based learning, and related professional development
- Coordinate and articulate professional development for inquiry-based learning.

A major recommendation not listed above is to establish and identify common times and resources to align curriculum. The different elementary and middle school schedules between Easton and Redding create a serious logistical barrier to planning opportunities for teachers to discuss and align curriculum, instruction, assessment, vertical alignment and to review student work.

The steering committee members, administration, teachers, and central office administration will continue to collaborate how to effectively use the information brought forward in the report at the classroom level, building level, and district level to improve the science program for the students in Eaton, Redding and Region 9. The ten top recommendations will be facilitated beginning this summer when the K-12 Science Curriculum Committee meets to outline action plans for implementation beginning in the 2010-2011 school year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATING BUDGET 2010-2011

Dr. Cicchetti stated that the Kindergarten enrollment is being closely monitored. The budget includes five sections of kindergarten for an enrollment of the projected 97 students. Currently 90 students are fully registered and an additional 15 have indicated they will definitely be attending in the fall,

bringing the total to 105, or 21/classroom. Additional enrollments would increase the number of students per class to the 22-23 range. Additional information will be available following the June Kindergarten orientation. If there are additional enrollments beyond the 105, an additional section of Kindergarten may be needed.

2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Cicchetti recommended that an additional day be added to the Easton School calendar for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 to compensate for the time used for SSES parent-teacher conferences, as was done for the current school year.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education, in order to compensate for time used for parent- teacher conferences, add one school day to the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school calendars for a total of 181 student days per school year. Bobroske, Dunsby. Approved. Unanimous.

SECOND READING OF POLICY #0521: NONDISCRIMINATION

Dr. Cicchetti reported that both Attorney Marsha Moses and Attorney Fred Dorsey have completed their review, and the revised policy was distributed for approval.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve Policy #0521 Nondiscrimination, as presented, for a second and final reading. Dunsby, Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.

RECOGNIZE THE EATON ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION

Dr. Cicchetti reported the Easton intermediate administrators' have requested recognition as a bargaining unit.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education recognize the Easton Intermediate Administrators' Association as the exclusive representative of the employees of the administrators' unit for a period of one year or until a representation election had been held for such unit, whichever occurs later. Treidel, Underberger.

Mr. Dunsby questioned the need for formal action on the issue. The motion was tabled pending further clarification of the need for formal action by the board.

Motion: move to table the motion under consideration. Maiorano, Dunsby. Approved. 4-1. Mr. Treidel voted against the motion to table.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Marie Mas reported the Textbook Committee is in the process of reviewing grade 6 science textbooks. The Wellness Advisory Committee will have a presentation on Lyme Disease curriculum on May 26, 2010.

Director of Finance and Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported the insurance claims are averaging below the monthly budgeted amount. Other expenses are tracking as expected. The Easton Clean Energy Taskforce applied for and received an Energy Efficiency grant for \$74,000. The funds will be used to review lighting in the town's buildings, including the schools, and make improvements as needed.

Special Services: Dr. Dekle reported the addition of one student from out of state. She also reported on workshops attended by staff members.

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora reported on upcoming school events and activities. Interviews for the Assistant Principal position will be held in early June. Mrs. Bobroske was appointed to participate in the interview process. Mrs. LaTorre reported the leaking glycol is an ongoing problem. One leak was located and repaired, but another exists and the crew is in the process of locating the leak. The large work area of digging has been fenced off for safety concerns. She complimented the Town's Public Works Department for their hard work and diligence.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Parker announced student and staff recognitions. Fifth grade students will be at the school tomorrow for transition activities.

Superintendent Cicchetti distributed copies of an article on the impact of economic downturn in Connecticut's public schools by the American Association of School Administrators. He attended meetings on the Performance Appraisal System for teacher evaluation, and more work will be done in that area over the summer months. The Strategic Plan workshop is planned for August 23, 24 and 25. Dr. Cicchetti requested two board members to participate on the ad hoc committee. The June board meeting will be a joint meeting held with the Redding Board of Education and held at the Joel Barlow High School. The meeting will include reports on SRBI (Scientific Research Based Instruction) and the topic of bullying.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Unidentified: question regarding the Kindergarten enrollment and potential need for an additional section. Dr. Cicchetti responded that all options will be explored if the enrollment increases. The goal is to keep the average Kindergarten class size small.

Claire Meskers, on behalf of the PTA, read a letter thanking the board members for their time and efforts to get the education budget passed on the first try. The letter also thanked the board members for what they contribute to the education of children of Easton.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Underberger, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday