

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 8, 2010

Minutes

Filed subject to approval.

This was a joint meeting with the Redding Board of Education. The minutes only reflect events pertaining to the Easton Board of Education.

Present: Bobroske, Dunsby (by phone), Peskay (7:55 pm), Treidel, Underberger
Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, Fox-Santora, LaTorre, Parker, Kaplan, Dekle, McMorran
Others: 11 community members in the audience

Mr. Treidel called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move that the minutes of the May 18, 2010 meeting be accepted as submitted.
Underberger, Bobroske Approved. Unanimous.**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Treidel commented that the meeting was a historic event, the first time the two boards of education met jointly. He suggested the practice be continued, especially when topics of common interest and concern are to be discussed.

STATUS REPORT ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (SRBI)

The administrators provided an update on the status of SRBI in the schools. A power point presentation accompanied the report.

Discussion of SRBI followed the presentation. Board members discussed the identification of gifted students and how their needs were being met. Dr. Cicchetti distributed a copy of an article entitled Meeting the Learning Needs of Gifted Students with RTI. Easton does not have a gifted program in place. Mrs. Fox-Santora noted that additional work in is needed before a program can be put in place. Dr. Cicchetti added that additional professional development work in differentiated instruction is needed.

Dr. Peskay arrived during the presentation (7:55 pm).

BULLYING SURVEY AND SCHOOL CLIMATE INITIATIVES

Dickon Pownall-Gray and Kiki Cahn of the Surviving Bullies Charity, Inc. presented an update on the School Climate Project Bullying Survey and the School Climate Initiatives. The presentation included comments by the school principals on the program. As the program continues, there will be an increased focus on school climate and learning environments, a raising of awareness including cyber bullying, a strengthening of coping skills and self-advocacy skills, a creation of small group mentoring opportunities and the establishing of the role of student governance. In addition, a student aspirations survey will be given, students' perception of teacher "fairness" will be explored, work will be done to partner with the bus company, there will be partnering with parents, the program will be linked to the strategic planning goals and initiatives to the elementary school will be expanded.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Dr. Cicchetti reported that meetings for the Strategic Planning are scheduled for August 23-25, 2010.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2010-2011

Dr. Cicchetti proposed two changes to the school calendar for 2010-2011. The first change moves the staff professional development day from August 27, 2010 to October 8, 2010. This move provides a timely opportunity for staff to work on professional growth action plans by grade/team. This also gives students a four-day weekend. This will move the last day of school forward by one day. The second change provides a definite day for professional development in January, rather than the "floating" day as is now in the schedule. The day, January 14, 2011 also provides students with a four-day weekend. Dr. Cicchetti added that the changes were discussed with the teachers' association, the administrative council, the PTA groups and the Calendar Committee.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education amend the 2010-2011 school year calendar to (1) add a K-8 professional development day on Friday, October 8, and (2) set Friday, January 14, as a K-8 professional development day, independent of the high school's intersession day. Peskay, Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION: GRADE 6 SCIENCE

Mrs. Mas and Mrs. Wallin presented the recommendation for the Grade 6 Science textbook.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education adopt Glencoe Science: Earth Science, by authors Ralph M. Feather, Jr., Ph.D., Susan Leach Snyder, and Dinah Zike, published by the McGraw Hill Companies, Inc., copyright 2010 for use in grade science instruction. Underberger, Peskay. Approved. Unanimous.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

The end-of-year budget transfers were presented for approval.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the budget transfers as presented. Underberger, Peskay. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox-Santora reported Kindergarten enrollment is 95 with 10 students on the "probable" list and eight on the "maybe" list. The bid for farming on the land parcel at the front of the school was awarded. The farmer intends to plant pumpkin seeds and has asked for student participation.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Parker announced that one team in the Connecticut Stock Market Game was awarded first place in the middle school division. Eighth grade graduation is planned for June 23, 2010.

Special Services: Dr. Dekle reported on end-of-year activities for her staff and scheduled trainings for staff members.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Marie Mas: Mrs. Mas provided a written report and noted that she participated on a CSDE Team of Experts in Connecticut English Language

Arts to conduct a standard comparison of the new Common Core State Standards. Connecticut will adopt the Common Core standards in August.

Superintendent Cicchetti provided a copy of the Connecticut State Board of Education position statement on Student Support Services for review. The kindergarten enrollment is being monitored closely. The district has not committed to the Choice Program and will not until the kindergarten enrollment number is firm. He has scheduled an administrative team retreat for June 25, 2010.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alyssa Mocco, Morehouse Road: question regarding the filming/taping of board meetings for the members of the public who could not attend the meetings. Dr. Cicchetti responded that there is no objection to the filming/taping of the meetings, the primary issue with going forward is with the Easton cable council. Mr. Treidel added that the board has no objection to the film/taping of meetings.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Treidel announced that the Easton Board of Education was the winning team in the Easton Education Foundation's Trivia Bee. He also commented that the meeting was very successful and the dialogue among board members was good.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Underberger, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday