

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 16, 2009
Minutes

Filed subject to approval.

Present: Allan, Cohen (8:45 pm), Katz, Treidel, Underberger
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, Santora Fox, Parker, Kaplan, Dekle
Others: two people in the audience

Dr. Katz called the meeting to order at 8:08 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of July 27, 2009 as corrected. Allan, Treidel. Approved, 4-0-1. Dr. Katz abstained.

Correction: Under Board Member Comments, paragraph 2, delete the last sentence (Generally everyone has been satisfied at the end of the process).

2009-2010 CALENDAR OF BOARD MEETINGS

The dates for the board meetings were reviewed. It was agreed that all meetings would begin at 7:30 pm.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the Calendar of Board Meetings for 2010 as presented. Allan, Underberger. Approved. Unanimous.

USE OF ARRA FUNDS

The ARRA Funds fall into two categories, State Fiscal Stabilization Fund and the IDEA Part B Grant. The SFSF will be applied to the Town's ECS grant so that the 2009-10 and 2010-11 ECS grants will remain at the 2009-09 level, \$593,868. The district will report to the State on how the funds were spent and how many teaching positions were retained through the use of these funds.

IDEA Part B Grant: to support the excess costs of providing special education and related services to students with disabilities and early childhood programs and activities. The Easton School District will received \$242,191 to be used in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. The anticipated use of the funds is as follows:

- Easton Country Day School, \$6,588
- Technology, hardware (netbooks and SMARTBoards, software) \$61,000
- Professional development, \$52,503
- Software to track and document student performance, \$7,800
- .5 Special education teacher salary and benefits (2 years) \$78,000
- Paraprofessional salary and benefits (1 year), \$36,300

2009 CMT RESULTS

Mrs. Mas presented information on the CMT results. The Easton School District did very well and the scores show great improvement.

FUNDRAISING: PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

The program, Project Lead the Way, was approved in concept by the board. Mrs. Parker has completed a grant application for a Verizon grant for \$115,000 to fund the program.

ESTABLISHMENT OF EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Parent and community contributions to the Extracurricular Activity Fund totaled \$19,557.05. That along with the \$17,500 donation from the PTA brought the total available to \$37,057.05. Mrs. Parker reported that \$35,000 was needed to fund the extracurricular planned activities. A portion of the additional monies (\$456.72) will be used to fund a video production club run by a parent. In addition, the Easton Historical Society has established an Easton History Club for up to ten students. The goal of the club is to learn and research the history of Easton. There is no cost associated with this activity. An additional donation of \$500 was made for the establishment of an Ultimate Frisbee Club. The donation will cover the cost of the advisor for the club. The Wrestling Club was discontinued and will be offered through the Easton Community Center.

Board members discussed the importance of extracurricular activities in the middle school, as a part of the education program rather than an add-on activity.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the plan to supplement the extracurricular activities through the private funding provided. Allan, Treidel. Approved. Unanimous.

REVIEW OF ANTI-BULLYING INTERVENTIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AT SSES AND HKMS

Mrs. Santora Fox reviewed the Character Traits program in place at Samuel Staples Elementary School.

Mrs. Parker reported that at Helen Keller Middle School, the results of the School Climate Survey are being used to address bullying activities. Discussion centered on the fact that most bullying occurs on the buses.

USE OF MULTI MEDIA SOURCES IN THE CLASSROOM

Dr. Fossbender addressed the policy and preferred practice regarding the use of multi media in the classroom. The address by the President was not viewed live at the schools. The short notice of the airing of the speech and lack of time to prepare for the presentation led the administration to the decision not to air the speech live. Since that time, the speech has been viewed by some classes in conjunction with a prepared lesson. Dr. Fossbender stressed the importance of putting the speech in context, integrated with a lesson plan, so the students would benefit from viewing/listening to the speech.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elise Broach: commented that the experience of the children seeing the President's speech live had value and was disappointed that the Easton students did not have that opportunity.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education recess to executive session for discussion of 1) agreement between Easton Board of Education and Local 760, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC,

2) agreement between the Easton Board of Education and Local 1303-002 of Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, and 3) pertaining to the employment of a municipal employee, Allen Fossbender. Allan, Treidel. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Fossbender and Mrs. Sullivan were asked to be present.

The meeting recessed at 10:03 pm.

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 10:20 pm.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the contract between the Easton Board of Education and Local 1303-002 of Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO as discussed. Allan, Treidel. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Treidel, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday