

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Budget Workshop Minutes
January 11, 2018

Attendance:

Easton Board of Education Members: Parker, Chieda, Hicks, Shortt, Reed, Bindelglass
Administration: McMorran, Reiss, Fox Santora, Kaplan, Torre, Visners
Others: 3 members of the public and staff

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Helen Keller Learning Commons.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CONSIDERATION OF 2018-2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

Dr. Bindelglass mentioned that during the recent negotiations teachers had indicated they had ideas to save money and wondered if the administrators had reached out to them. He also said he would like to have a better understanding of our legal obligations concerning busing. Dr. McMorran stated that the transportation requests will be unpacked at the next Board meeting.

MaryLou Torre, Director of Special Services, and Vanessa Visners, Supervisor of Special Services, gave a presentation on how the Special Education budget was developed. Discussion about the budget development for 2018-2019 ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bev Dacey, Redding Road, Easton: Stated that her husband thought Dr. McMorran's point of departure budget was more like the plane crashed on the runway. She also thought the occupational therapist position should be kept at two part-time positions rather than one full-time position due to benefits costs. Feels this year is going to be a very difficult year in CT at the state level and the local level. Although there are state requirements that must be met, but Bridgeport does not do what we do for our students.

Anne Manusky, Morning Glory Drive, Easton: Agrees with Mrs. Dacey's statements. Feels children are suffering under the pressures of the Common Core.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Bindelglass stated that there has been community criticism about lack of transparency on how the budget is formed. Feels unnecessary angst may have been created by publishing the point of departure budget. Feels we need to evaluate for next year whether we should start at this level which is inflammatory even though Dr. McMorran has gone out of his way to discuss why he did so.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education meeting be adjourned. Shortt, Bindelgass. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Secretary, Easton Board of Education