

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Budget Workshop Minutes  
February 21, 2018

**ATTENDANCE:**

Easton Board of Education members: Parker, Chieda, Hicks, Reed, Shortt, Bindelglass (arrived late)

Administration: McMorran, Fox Santora, Kaplan, Reiss, Torre

Others: 15 members of the public

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anne Manusky, Morning Glory Drive, Easton: spoke about concerns regarding Health and Wellness topic of sex education at middle school and Common Core curriculum.

Gowan Dacey, Redding Road, Easton: spoke about Easton's budget increase being higher than nearby towns, with the exception of Redding, in spite of decline in student enrollment.

David Bussolotta, Sunset Road, Easton: suggested that Easton have SRO's (School Resource Officers) at the schools.

June Logie, Rock House Road, Easton: spoke about possibility of grant funding for school safety improvements.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Mr. Parker discussed some changes in committee chairmen. Mr. Hicks was named chair of the Tri-District Transportation Committee. Easton will join with Redding in the Curriculum Committee and Mrs. Shortt and Mrs. Chieda will be representatives. Mrs. Chieda will replace Mrs. Shortt on the calendar committee.

Mr. Parker said that the final decision on the budget would not be made at this meeting.

Mr. Parker spoke about the Public Forum scheduled for Tuesday February 27, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Joel Barlow High School auditorium regarding school security.

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

Mr. Parker spoke about budget changes with reference to "At the Board's Direction" handout that was provided during the meeting. He indicated that adding an SRO (Student Resource Officer) may result in an increase in budget proposal.

Mrs. Chieda said that the proposed reduction of office staff at Samuel Staples Elementary school was not previously discussed. Further discussion on the impact of eliminating positions is needed.

Mr. Parker spoke about the importance of extra-curricular activities and the board will be looking at the budget for potential savings to put into funding those activities.

Mrs. Chieda questioned the proposed elimination of Math paraprofessionals, office staff position and extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Fox Santora said the Math groups would be re-assembled and will be larger in size.

Mrs. Kaplan spoke about public concern regarding eliminating media center positions and suggested the board explore other areas to help reduce budget.

**MOTION: move to schedule Special Meeting regarding the budget for March 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Helen Keller Middle School Learning Center. Hicks, Chieda. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Giblin, Southfield Road, Easton: spoke about the importance of Math paraprofessional support for those students in need.

Beverly Dacey, Redding Road, Easton: suggested review of data about program student scores in Easton and evaluating their effectiveness. She spoke about budget amounts and “Tools for Schools.”

Rachel Mazzaelli, Ground Pine Lane, Easton: spoke about Tier 1 Math and its success with her child.

Heidi Hanson, Wilson Road, Easton: spoke about the importance of extracurricular activities.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Chieda asked fellow board members to consider a higher budget proposal to prevent the proposed staffing cuts.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION: move to adjourn. Hicks, Chieda. Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo