

Easton Board of Education
Regular Meeting
September 12, 2017

MINUTES

Attendance:

Board of Education: Bobroske, Bindelglass, Chieda (7:36PM), Hicks, Parker and Shortt

Administration: McMorran, Pierson Ugol, Reiss, Brownstein, Fox, Kaplan and Mohr

Others: Approximately 6 members of the public

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the June 19, 2017 Regular board meeting as submitted. Bobroske, Bindelglass. Approved. 5-0, Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Mrs. Kaplan identified the new teachers and staff members whom she described as wonderful additions to the staff. She explained the new recess option students have to go outside during their lunch period, and shared that HKMS had a successful Back to School night.

Mrs. Fox Santora also identified new members of the staff and faculty and praised the new Head Custodian for his work ethic; she thanked parents for working in the playground this summer to add stencils for games to the blacktop, and she thanked the PTA for elements of a new climbing wall in the gymnasium. She identified Mrs. Darcy Sholtz as Easton's first Teacher of the Year as the District is now participating in that statewide recognition ceremony. Mrs. Fox Santora also explained that morning announcements at SSES will have in internal video component.

Mrs. Torre, Interim Director of Special Services, reported an intention to make communication a central theme this year with newsletters and communiqués to families of students with special needs as well as service providers.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Acceptance of Donations:

1. Standing Desks and Wobble Chairs (donation by Easton Learning Foundation)

Motion: Move that the Board accept the donation from ELF for standing desks and wobble chairs at both SSES and HKMS valued at \$14,700. Shortt, Chieda. Approved Unanimous.

2. Studio Equipment (donation by PTA and ELF)

Motion: Move that the Board accept the donation from the PTA and ELF for studio equipment valued at \$1,700.42. Bobroske, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

B. Mission – Vision – Goals

Dr. McMorran shared a document covering the District’s mission, vision, and goals. Included in this document were the following elements: Mission, Vision, Theory of Action, Goals, Strategies, and Means of Measurement. He emphasized the long-standing commitment of the Easton schools to accomplish more than instruction in the basics; He said: “*We are helping little human beings turn themselves into competent, capable adults who can choose their future.*” Dr. McMorran explained that building-level goals and teachers’ student learning objectives are related to the overall vision.

C. Curriculum Update

Dr. Pierson Ugol presented a review of curriculum work over the last several years, which included updates in the following disciplines: Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, World Languages (K-8 Spanish and 6-8 French), Health, Physical Education, Music, Art, Library Media & Technology, and Preschool. She also presented a summary of curriculum writing and revision conducted over the summer.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Reiss, Director of Finance & Operations, presented the status of the 2016-2017 budget object summary and related transfers. He also presented the object summary and transfers year to date for the 2017-2018 budget. He noted the Health Insurance Reserve was overdrawn by \$105,682 as of the start of the fiscal year and the reserve fund balance currently stands at a negative \$18,017. He reported the claims in July were \$326,230. The revised Health Insurance Analysis form includes a breakdown of contributions from the employees, retirees, and the district as well as indicated contributions from the prior budget.

Dr. Pierson Ugol shared a document describing the relationship between the Easton School District and the local Regional Education Service Center (RESC), known as Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.) located in Trumbull. C.E.S. provides training, educational opportunities, alternative programming, special education services and professional development courses to Easton and area districts.

Dr. McMorran updated the Board on the status of the State’s budget, including the promising indications that the State will continue to fund excess cost reimbursements for special education costs when the per pupil cost of the plan for a student receiving special services exceeds 4.5 times the general per pupil cost. Historically, the State has reimbursed the town at 70% of such costs. In a previous proposed state budget the town would have received a lump sum that would not cover all costs. He said nothing was certain until the budget was passed in Hartford, but he was cautiously optimistic.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Parker provided an update as to the status of the proposed bus depot in Easton. The project is on hold for two reasons: First, the current depot in Bethel has extended the lease through 2018-2019 giving Easton and Redding more time to consider their options. Second, the project and the ownership of the project has to be coordinated with Redding, which is ongoing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Manusky, Morning Glory Drive, thanked the Board for an informative session and expressed concerns about the curriculum, particularly the Social Studies curriculum. She advocated for local control of curriculum and parental access to documents. She expressed a desire to see the federal education legislation, known as EESA, rescinded in favor of a return to local decision making. Mrs. Manusky also spoke about the State's budget and cautioned that local education budgets might have to face reductions depending on what happens at the state level.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Chieda thanked Mrs. Fox Santora for a successful start to the school year and spoke to her children's very positive experiences so far.

Mr. Parker acknowledged the excellent service to the Board from Regina Bobroske and announced that she would be stepping down.

Mrs. Bobroske thanked the Board and said she would remain as a member until January 1st or until a replacement could be identified, whichever comes first.

Mr. Hicks asked for an item to be added to the next meeting to discuss the status of the Long Range Board Planning Committee.

**Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Hicks, Shortt.
Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Submitted by
Regina Bobroske, Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by
Dr. Thomas McMorran