

Easton Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2017

Attendance:

Board of Education: Bobroske, Bindelglass, Chieda, Hicks, Parker and Shortt

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

Others: Approximately 5 members of the public

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Helen Keller Middle School Learning Commons.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the September 12, 2017 regular Board meeting as submitted. Bobroske, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

ADD AGENDA ITEM

Motion: move to add to the agenda the following two items under Discussion and Possible Action: D. New Board Member Approval and E. Nomination of Board Secretary. Shortt, Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora provided an update on the elementary school. Recently held parent meetings on the legislation on sexual abuse awareness and prevention. Daytime session attended by 25-30 parents while six parents attended the evening session. Many came feeling very anxious but after hearing the presentation, they received positive feedback and felt it was actually necessary for the children to get this information. The faculty completed all universal screenings for the fall. Students who did not make the benchmark were discussed at team meetings and put together Tier 2 program with goals attached to measure within next few weeks. Teachers are finalizing their goals and student learning objectives.

Dr. Bindelglass commented on Tier 2 and Tier 3 percentage of students involved and absolute numbers as enrollments evolve. Would like to see the numbers reported in future to see where the trend is moving. Dr. McMorran advised NESDEC, per our agreement, would be providing the number to us in the fall along with PROWDA and K. Fox Santora.

Mr. Parker commented on parents' opportunity to opt-out of listserv. K. Fox Santora will advise parents to contact her directly if they prefer to opt out. Presentation to be placed on the school website.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan provided an update on the middle school. Enrollment increases were much greater than the elementary school. Current enrollment is 325 students now where the

projection was expected to be at 308. Held a parent coffee for 6th grade parents, introduced staff and answered any questions they had. Thanked the PTA for putting it together. Administered the PSAT to all 8th graders (1st time). Provided the NWEA Assessment to 6th and 7th graders already. Also had a PD this past Friday. Collaborated on student learning as well.

Dr. McMorran released the Assistant Principals from the remainder of the meeting.

DISCUSSION 2017-2018 PLAN OF ACTION AND SCHOOL-WEIDE GOALS:

Dr. McMorran went through his presentation, which was broken down into two parts. He presented the first portion and the principals presented the second portion. The intent was to show the relationship among different aspects of the design of the program. Walked through a “Plan of Action” involving: Goal Setting - Measurement of our Goals and how it relates to Budget Development; the work of Alignment of Resources and implementing in K-12. Looking at performance on Smarter Balance Assessments. Performance Targets have been set for each grade level. One metric viewed is how our students are performing on Smarter Balance Assessments in Language Arts and Math tests. The Principals are developing Smart Goals, which will help the teachers get their job done. Dr. McMorran stressed that we not only want academic excellence for our children and people who grow into their potential but for each year in a child’s school year life, we want it to be successful. Language Arts, at a district level in the state of Connecticut, there are about 220 districts. Out of the 220, 192 made their scores public. Easton, as a district, in Language Arts, had the highest rating in 6th grade performance.

Mrs. Fox Santora spoke of the performance at SSES and how the relationship between academic and emotional, social learning has helped the teachers tremendously. When students underperform, they are brought to a Student Intervention Team (SIT). Once a plan is determined, an interventionist checks the goals and progress.

Mrs. Kaplan pointed out the new logo that was designed by a former student who is not in the Graphics Design business. Advised that HKMS did well on all measures of assessments. In the past six years have been working on multiple goals and assessments that lead to one single focus which is individual growth of every student. Mastery learning is a part of this. Mrs. Kaplan also shared a presentation that the Student Intervention Team (SIT) put together. School wide focus on formative assessment in learning, progress monitoring and common academic feedback that promotes student growth.

Dr. Pierson Ugol discussed the work being done at a curriculum level. Data Team meetings are taking place. Looking at the analysis for professional learning. Continued attention to the common Algebra courses in eighth grade and moving into the ninth grade. Critical focus on data team meetings and leadership teams with teacher participation. Fidelity looking at three prongs: Is the program implemented as designed? Is it effective in giving us the results we expected? Is it efficient in giving us the time in our schedules to do what is needed?

DISCUSSION: 2017 STUDENT PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS: SMARTER BLANCE AND OTHER STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS

Dr. McMorran wants to use Student Data Performance data as one of the rules for the end. Presented this information so that you can see how it is built in to our decision making. Dr. McMorran presented a plan of action and comparisons with the demographic reference group.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION: GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Mrs. Kaplan presented for Board approval, the \$1,430 in gifts and/or grants for the following:

1. Student initiated grant from last year's 7th grade to purchase tanks and mono shrimp for each classroom totaling \$620
2. An ELF grant to purchase an Innovative Lab storage cabinet totaling \$310
3. Last \$500 would be used to sponsor the start of a Chess Club (two teachers to lead - one in the fall and one in spring) who will act as club advisors and paid a stipend of \$250 each.

MOTION: move that the Easton Board of Education accept grants to HKMS in the amount of \$1,430 for mono shrimp and tanks, Innovative Lab storage cabinet and Advisor stipend for Chess Club. Shortt, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

Mrs. Fox Santora requested approval for a parent donation of 50 LED writing tablets.

MOTION: move that the Easton Board of Education accept with gratitude a parent donation to SSES of 50 LED writing tablets for 2nd Grade. Bobroske, Chiida. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION: NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Parker announced that Mrs. Bobroske would be leaving the Easton Board of Education and has announced that the Democratic Town Committee has recommended Katherine (Katy) Reed as the new board member replacement. Mr. Parker introduced Mrs. Reed and asked her to say a few words.

MOTION: move that the Easton Board of Education accept Katherine (Katy) Reed as a member of the Easton Board of Education to complete the term vacated by Mrs. Bobroske. Shortt, Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION: NOMINATION OF NEW BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Parker nominated Mrs. Chieda to become Secretary of the Easton Board of Education.

MOTION: Move to appoint Jenny Chieda as Secretary to the Easton Board of Education. Moved by C. Shortt. Seconded by D. Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Special Services: Mrs. Torre gave a status on Special Services.

Director of Finance & Operations: Mr. Reiss gave a brief update on the Object Summary. Some areas are showing as overspent and will be corrected over time by transferring to cover, as necessary. The Health Insurance Analysis report showed last month's deficit of \$18,000 had increased to \$181,388 due to a second month of high claims. Depending on future monthly claims, the account will continue a deficit, and there would need to be average claims running well below \$200,000 per month in order to reverse the deficit.

Director of Finance & Operations: Dr. Pierson Ugol pointed out the effort on trying to schedule PD on early dismissal days. They are making the most of this by trying to minimize the time the teachers are being pulled out of classrooms.

Superintendent: Dr. McMorrان acknowledged the good work the administrators do each day.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Bindelglass commented on the level of intricacy and the complexity of the work that has been done by the administration with the students and highly commended them.

Mrs. Chieda questioned if we think we are testing too much or is the curriculum directed too much towards the assessments. Do we think the amount of testing alone could be responsible for student anxiety? Mr. Parker felt it could possibly be an agenda item for open discussion at future board meetings.

Mr. Parker thanked Regina Bobroske for her years of service to the Easton Board of Education and presented her with a gift.

Mrs. Bobroske thanked everyone for the privilege and the honor of being a member of the Easton Board of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: move that the Easton Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Bindelglass, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 pm.

Submitted by,
Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by
Sharon Luciano