

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Easton Board of Education Members: Parker, Chieda, Bindelglass, Hicks, Reed, Shortt

Administration: McMorrان, Fox Santora, Kaplan, Torre

Others: 4 members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 5, 2018 Easton Board of Education Special Budget Workshop:

Motion: move to approve the Easton Board of Education Budget Workshop minutes from March 5, 2018. Hicks, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

March 19, 2018 Easton Board of Education Special Meeting:

Motion: move to approve the Easton Board of Education Special Meeting minutes from March 19, 2018 with the following changes:

Page 2 (bottom): beginning with Ms. Shortt spoke about meeting... Ms. Short said she spoke with a Town of Redding Board of Education Committee Member.

Page 3 (top): beginning with Mr. Hicks spoke about...Mr. Hicks said that there would be 5 anticipated bidders.

Page 3 (under BOARD MEMBER COMMENT): Mr. Parker wanted to add that he addressed the concerns of a parent about the potential walk out scheduled for April 20, 2018 and clearly stated that the Easton Board of Education will not support or sanction any kind of protest (walk out or otherwise) on April 20th by its students, staff or faculty. He stated that the Board is aware of the political nature of the protest through the national media and does not believe schools should be pawns in that arena.

Hicks, Shortt. Approved, 5-0-1. Bindelglass abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Chieda thanked Mrs. Fox Santora for changes they implemented regarding school safety.

Mr. Parker spoke about discussing with the Redding Board of Education ways that the Board of Education meetings could be streamlined going forward (for instance, a presentation given by the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction could be given to both the Easton and Redding Boards of Education at the same time, instead of needing to be presented twice

separately). Mr. Parker volunteered to meet with Chris Parkin to discuss ways to proceed and will report back to the Board the outcome of the discussions.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora reported that a .5 World Language teacher resigned, and the existing K-5 Spanish schedule has been amended. Mrs. Fox Santora proudly announced that for the past several years, fourth graders have been creating inventions to solve real life problems as part of "Invention Convention". Several students went to the statewide CIC (Connecticut Invention Convention) regionals and, among those students, ten fourth graders from Samuel Staples Elementary School have been selected to go to UCONN: Haley Arici, Stephanie Bardani, Brian Cho, Leo Gorder, Jake Hamlin, Kaelen Kunar, Luke Martin, Tyler Pulie, Liam Pulie, and Olivia Taylor.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan thanked the PTA for their donation to the strings program at the elementary school to promote future interest when students advance to middle school. The donation was in the amount of \$360.00.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RESOLUTION NEEDED FOR MEDICAL CLAIMS LINE ITEM SHORTFALL

Dr. McMorran reported that health insurance claims ran high in March and that the account is running in the negative. Dr. McMorran anticipates claims to be high in the near future.

Motion: move to request additional funding from the Board of Finance in the 2017-2018 school year to meet the medical claims the district has and will receive. Due to the amount, the Board of Education suggests the request be added as an agenda item at the April 30th town meeting. Chieda, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RECOMMENDATION OF SUPERINTENDENT CONCERNING LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE NON-RENEWAL

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the recommendation that the contract of employment of Diane Bossers not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2017-2018 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action. Hicks, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FINAL REVISION TO 2018-2019 OPERATING BUDGET

Dr. McMorran prepared a letter to the members of the Easton Board of Education regarding a final adjustment to the 2018-2019 Operating Budget. Details regarding the revised budget are outlined in the letter.

Motion: move to accept the Superintendent's recommendations as outlined in his letter regarding final adjustment to the 2018-2019 Operating Budget. Reed, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PARENT DONATION FOR SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Fox Santora spoke about acceptance of a donation of “bouncy chairs” by the parent of a student at Samuel Staple Elementary School. Mr. Parker said that, based upon the new policy approved by the Board several months ago, the \$100.00 donation does not require board approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. McMorrان reported that Mr. Reiss gave his reports in writing as he is unable to attend this meeting because he is on vacation.

Mr. Parker spoke about Special Services Report and Mrs. Torre provided clarification on the projected numbers of students requiring special services.

Mrs. Torre spoke about work being done to improve the preschool curriculum.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation Committee Chair Mr. Hicks reported that they are in the process of analyzing the bids, and a meeting will be scheduled around April 25, 2018 to discuss further.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Chieda spoke about allowing enough time for the BOE, parents, and the PTA to plan for funding extra-curricular activities before the start of the new school year, and asked if something should be put in place in advance.

Dr. McMorrان said possible solutions may be discussed at the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Shortt, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo