

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
**EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

Thursday, February 10, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

**\*\*IN- PERSON\*\***

Helen Keller Middle School

On YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRtQ6dze5a8x5XT5LzBnDHA>

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board Members: J. Stinson, J Parker, J. Chieda, D Wible, J DeJesus, R.Hicks

Administration: Dr. McKinnon, Dr. Clapp, S Scrofani, J Del Conte, S Petruzzelli, K. Fox-Santora

Others: Members of the public: 3

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Jon Stinson called the Easton Board of Education Budget Workshop Meeting to order at 7:31pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:** None

**OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW:**

Presentation by Brown and Brown on health care cost comparison between current self-funded plan, fully insured and state plan at the end of a 5-year period ("2017-18 thru current year"). Self-funded plan proved to be the most cost effective for the district with a savings of 2.7MM over the fully insured plan and 1.3MM over the state plan.

Director of Special Education, Jen Del Conte, presented her proposal to add a Jr. Bridges section to SSES. The same program (age appropriate) is being used at HKMS with great success. The program is built to help keep Easton students with learning handicaps in the district instead of being outplaced. Based on current need, she projects that between 5-6 students at the elementary school would qualify for this placement in 2022-23. Board members Q&A followed.

Superintendent, Dr. Jason McKinnon, outlined the Capital Projects for both schools in the next few years. To help successfully meet these requirements, he shared a job description for a full-time district facilities manager. The cost to Easton would be \$17K and this person would be in-district 1-2 days a week overseeing the work being done. The plan is to take the full-time facilities manager in R9 and spread the work over both Redding and Easton school buildings.

Next Dr. McKinnon reviewed possible reductions from the original budget request of a 4.45% increase. First, technical edits were noted bringing the budget down to 4.30%. Then he suggested additional

savings could be realized by reducing the increase projected in health care premiums. Currently, the district is tracking with a reserve balance of more than 1.5MM which is considerably above what our consultants Brown and Brown recommend. Follow up on these numbers and potential savings need greater scrutiny before a final recommendation is made.

Devon Wible made a motion to reduce the budget request from 4.30% to 3.81%. She later rescinded her motion as it was clear that more research had to be done and a discussion on finding a date for a special meeting ensued. While Wednesday July 16 was discussed as a date for the meeting, Jon Stinson would check all stakeholders' calendars and get back to the board.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Budget Workshop Meeting be adjourned. (D. Wible, seconded by J Chieda) Approved. Unanimous.**

This meeting was adjourned at 10:02pm

Submitted by Jeff Parker  
Secretary, Easton Board of Education