

**EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Virtual via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/92480670534?pwd=eEUzMXVnUGN5Qnk4TzRKL2tpRHFTQT09>

Meeting ID: 924 8067 0534, Passcode: 06612

Thursday, February 11, 2021- 7:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Board members: Stinson, Chieda, Goldstein, Hicks, Parker, Wible

Administration: Harrison, Pierson Ugol, Zachery, Del Conte, Fox Santora, Kaplan

Others: 10+ members of the public

**CALL TO ORDER**

J. Stinson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

C. Oppenheim, Hunting Ridge Road: advocated for keeping the 0.5 addition of a social worker position at HKMS in the budget due not only to the continuing pandemic/crisis, but also because middle school is tough as it is.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2021-2022 Budget**

Dr. Harrison provided an overview of the revenue and expenditures that make up the operating budget. He detailed the three funding sources (Federal, State, and Local), making the point that funds received from federal dollars (250K) and state dollars (260K) make up the smallest percentage of our revenue, while those from our local taxes (17+M) make up the vast majority of the revenue for the operating budget. He detailed a number of COVID-specific relief funds, explaining that they are intended to supplement not supplant programs. R. Hicks stated that Central Office should inform the BOE of where these relief funds need to be spent. J. Chieda asked for clarification on where and how federal and state funds are accounted for in the line items of the budget, and wants to ensure that the per pupil expenditures do not look materially different simply due to variation in how this current budget is prepared as compared to prior years. S. Kaplan gave a detailed overview of the extracurricular clubs at HKMS. In total, teacher stipends are 46K for 16 clubs. 234/336 students participated in one or more clubs in the 2019-2020 academic year. S. Kaplan stated that 19/20 middle schools in the tristate area fully fund their clubs/extracurricular activities, while 1 school charges \$25/student for an activity fee. S. Kaplan explained the developmental benefits of extracurricular activities for middle school students, these sentiments were echoed by G. Goldstein. S. Kaplan explained that with only one adult present during PE, there is a loss of instructional time as well as adjustments to the types of activities that can be safely taught, and thus she requested a PE paraprofessional be added to the budget. A summary of Chromebook usage and lifespan was given by both S. Kaplan and K. Fox Santora. We will move away from iPad usage and going forward, the new Director of Technology will be responsible for managing

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both hardware and software needs across the district. The budget will see a reduction in the amount of 25K as it relates to hardware. A lengthy discussion ensued relating to funding for DEI. S. Pierson Ugol explained the need for consultants in various disciplines, including DEI. J. Parker and R. Hicks stated that given our current School Climate Data collection, it would be prudent to review that data as it relates to the DEI work and asked if we could potentially save funds by using the data we have. S Pierson Ugol explained that data is analyzed and will be incorporated, but additional questions and data are needed as it relates to DEI curriculum work across our district. As it relates to our Utilities spending, C. Zachery stated that the COVID-related need to run portable a/c units and fans 24/7, along with running the ventilation systems 24/7, results in an increase over previous years.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the proposed budget of \$17,711,143.43 for the 2021-2021 Fiscal Year (Wible, Goldstein). Approved. Unanimous.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education meeting be adjourned (Hicks, Parker). Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Gretchen Goldstein  
Easton Board of Education Secretary