

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Long Range Planning Committee Meeting  
October 23, 2014  
HKMS Media Center

**Attendance:**

Committee Members: Regina Bobroske, Bettina Grob, Adam Horowitz, Bernard Josefsberg, Vida Peskay, Gabriel Rossi

Others: No members of the public

**I. Call to Order:**

Regina Bobroske called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. and thanked everyone for coming and for their willingness to serve on the committee. She described the work the committee was undertaking as the beginning of a long term conversation and process.

**II. Discussion and Possible Action:**

Charge of the committee:

Identify options that will address the projected enrollment decline in Easton schools over the next 5 to 10 years that will:

1. Preserve or enhance regional educational quality at an acceptable cost.
2. Will be flexible/reversible in response to a prospective enrollment rebound.

The group discussed the need to create metrics of some sort to guide decisions, as well as defining options in terms of time frames, shorter term vs. longer term.

Goals for the solutions/recommendations:

- Expense reduction – consider head count, cost/student.
  - Education quality – at or above current level; consider how quality might be defined in 5-10 yrs.
  - Consistent with Long Term Educational Goals of the district.
  - Consistent with taxpayer priorities.
  - Easton schools as a reason for new families to move to town.
- The group discussed including an inventory of constraints and limitations (i.e. governance and zoning) and their impact on the options for consideration.

Assumptions:

- Educational quality will be preserved or enhanced.
- Recommendations need to be flexible or reversible in the event of a shift back to a growing population.
- Recommendations need to be executable in necessary time frames (TBD).
- Enrollment will continue to decline based upon solid population projections.

Resources:

- Redding Long Range Planning Committee;
- CABA – what other districts have/are doing;
- History of Schools in ER9;
- ER9 Administration – Educational goals, long term plan, quality, school structures, best in class models for education;
- Easton Board of Finance; and
- Models of success outside of Connecticut.

Dr. Josefsberg will look into a possible CES resource for information on similar districts.

Scope - Possibilities include:

- Existing buildings/structures
  - Following current process of reducing staff based on population – how much longer?
- In District/Town Modifications
  - Different use of space within buildings
  - Combining buildings
- Cross District/Town
  - Shared Services
  - Consolidation/Regionalization
- Out of district students
  - Specialty School (i.e. STEM, Arts, etc.)

The group discussed our current Special Education structure as a model to watch for success, obstacles, etc. as we consider options that require regional cooperation. Dr. Josefsberg shared his thinking on the long term possibility of making Barlow a 7-12 school, with K-6 in both Easton and Redding, as a cross district/shared resource option. Dr. Peskay emphasized the importance of a community conversation as we move forward, as well as the eventual requirement that Redding, Easton and Region 9 work together to consider possible solutions that cross borders.

Tom McMorran will be invited to join the committee and we will invite Kim Ajavananda, Chair, Redding BOE Long Range Planning Committee, to our next meeting to discuss Redding's work to date and how we can work together.

Appoint Community Members for Committee:

Bettina Grob and Gabriel Rossi will serve on the committee, and Dr. Josefsberg will ask Tom McMorran to join the committee as well.

Timelines:

For committee work: (working backward)

- Potential options and next steps presented to BOE ideally in March, possibly April.

- Updates on initial work and progress will be provided to the BOE for input from November through February.
- Next meetings – November 3 or 10<sup>th</sup> – TBD, and at least one additional meeting by end of December.

The group discussed having a current status of work to share with the Board of Finance during budget season.

For Implementation of Recos:

Define key timeframes based on population declines and current resources and capacities

**III. Public Comment: None**

**IV. Board Member Comment** – Regina Bobroske thanked the committee members for their time and work on this important project.

**V. Adjournment**

**Motion: move that the Easton Long Range Planning Committee adjourn the meeting. Horowitz, Rossi. Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Committee Chairperson

Recorded by Regina Bobroske