

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Long Range Planning Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2015

Attendance:

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

Administration: Stephanie Pierson-Ugol

Others: none

- I. **Call to Order** - Regina Bobroske called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- II. **Approval of February 18, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes** – Horowitz, Grob – Approved, Unanimous.
- III. **Discussion and Possible Action:**
  - A. Committee reviewed list of required action and the updated timing of each, which included defining criteria for evaluation of options, developing a list of possible options, selecting recommendations for options to pursue and determining next steps in understanding, further evaluation of and pursuit of those options. This information will be presented to the Easton BOE in May.
  - B. Discussion of criteria/metrics for consideration of options.
    - a. The committee confirmed the critical criteria for consideration of options, with acknowledgement that the full definition of the criteria is fluid at this phase of planning, and that flushing them out will remain a conversation and will likely be part of the next steps/future work against determining the best options. Key criteria determined to be:
      - i. Preserve/enhance educational quality/opportunity;
      - ii. Cost effectiveness/cost-benefit; and
      - iii. Executable – complexity of implementation.
    - b. Additional considerations include flexibility in the event of a reversal in population trends and conflict with other options.
    - c. The committee started building a list of future work required/next steps as part of the discussion. Required future work includes:
      - i. Establishing key time frames in population decline that require action;
      - ii. A capacity study based on facilities and population;
      - iii. Cost analysis as options crystalize;
      - iv. Definition/meaning of educational quality;
      - v. Fidelity against educational vision of the district;
      - vi. Understanding of what the future world of work will look like for our students;
      - vii. Investigate any existing work of other stakeholder groups to draw new families to Easton;
      - viii. Professional development to execute options; and
      - ix. Identify existing success models of districts who have managed declining enrollment.

- C. Brainstorming on options/how to get to options – The committee began building a list of potential options. Discussion points/ideas included:
- a. Use of instructional technology to reduce costs;
  - b. Facilities/buildings – capacity;
  - c. Possible frameworks for authentic learning – age groups, class size, instructional style, use of existing space;
  - d. Redeployment of existing resources;
  - e. Staff reductions as enrollment declines;
  - f. Searching for efficiencies – consolidation horizontally (across towns, by grades) vs. vertically (within town) may offer more opportunities for educational quality enhancement and efficiencies;
  - g. Possibility for pilots/experimentation with options;
  - h. Resource sharing – as currently doing with leadership in Special education. Instructional leaders across districts;
  - i. Before and after school programs;
  - j. Attracting students to the district;
  - k. Magnet style schools within the ER9 district;
  - l. Combining schools – within Easton and/or with Redding; and
  - m. 7-12 at Barlow, with alternatives for how to manage 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- D. Community Conversation – the committee agreed that a broader dialogue should begin after the presentation to the BOE, which will include recommendations for communication and conversation with the larger community. These conversations are likely to include focus groups, community conversations, and electronic/social media outreach.

**IV. Public Comment: None**

**V. Board Member Comment – None**

**VI. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25PM

Respectfully Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Committee Chairperson

Recorded by Regina Bobroske