

Easton Board of Education Meeting
November 9, 2016
Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board of Education: Bindelglass, Bobroske, Parker, Shortt

Administration: McMorran, Pierson Ugol, Sullivan, Edwards, Fox Santora, Brownstein, Kaplan, Burke

Others: Approximately 20 parents, students, staff and other members of the public.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 13, 2016 as submitted. Shortt, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the joint meeting of Easton, Redding and Region 9 Boards of Education held on October 18, 2016 as submitted. Bobroske, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: GRADE 2 AND GRADE 7 COLLABORATION

Mrs. Kaplan introduced teachers Annie Mohr and Kristin Zazula who organized a program called Keller/Staples Buddy Program. 7th graders buddy up with 2nd graders. They meet to edit writing pieces and read books together. Several students spoke about the program and what it means to them: 7th graders – Allie Schuldt and Milo Goldstein and 2nd graders – Abigail Hall, Mahad Hoq, Sammy Hartley.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barry Hakim, Harvest Moon Road: Stated he feels the Board needs to address the parent-teacher conferences not being offered in the evenings. Many parents work in NYC or just can't get out of work to attend meetings held during the day. He also feels that four days of early dismissal for the conferences make it difficult for parents who work.

Celeste DeAngelis, Virginia Drive: Agreed that the schedule for parent -teacher conferences are difficult for parents who work. She also felt that school should not be in session on Election Day especially since voting occurs at SSSES. She thinks half days should be discontinued.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Shortt shared an article from *Time* magazine on anxiety in children that related to an earlier discussion at last month's Board meeting.

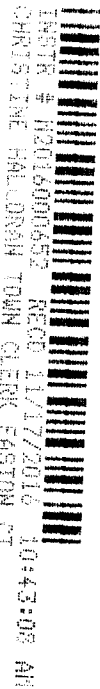
DISCUSSION: 2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE

A proposed 2017 Board of Education meeting calendar was reviewed. No action was taken as there were questions surrounding some of the proposed dates. It will be added to the December meeting agenda.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION: APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE CONSULTANT

Dr. Bindelglass reported that the tri-district Insurance Committee interviewed three firms and recommends that the Boards hire Brown & Brown as their insurance consultant. Brown & Brown has been the Town of Easton's consultant.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve, as recommended by the tri-district Insurance Committee, the hiring of Brown & Brown as insurance consultant for the next 18 months. Shortt, Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.



DISCUSSION: BUDGET PRESENTATION, FORMAT AND SEQUENCE

Dr. McMorran gave a presentation on "Aligning Our Budget with Our Stated Goals, Our Vision, and Our Values: The A, B, Cs of Desirable Outcomes." He suggested dividing the budget in manageable chunks organized around district objectives so that the Board has a clear understanding of what administration is asking for and what the desired outcomes are.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION: POLICIES – SECOND READING

Eight policies were presented for second reading.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the following policies:

- 3152(a) Spending Public Funds for Advocacy
- 3323 Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations)
- 3520.11(a) Electronic Information Security
- 3520.12(a) Data-Based Information Management System
- 5131(a) Conduct and Discipline
- 5141.3(a) Health Assessments and Immunizations
- 6153.1(a) Educational Tours
- 6171.2(a) Preschool Special Education

Shortt, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION: POLICIES – FIRST READING

Four policies were presented for first reading. There was discussion about Policy #1700 Community Relations – Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property. Board members asked for clarification at the next Board meeting.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the following policies for first reading:

- 1331 Community Relations – Smoke-Free Environment
- 1700 Community Relations – Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property
- 3523.11 Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones)
- 3542.22 Food Services Personnel – Code of Conduct

Bobroske, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan spoke about the recent Tri-State Consortium visit and thanked Board members for attending. The Consortium will submit a report on their visit, including recommendations within the next month. Mrs. Kaplan reported on the certified staff absences for October 2016: Ten teachers took 10-1/2 sick days, 6 teachers took 6.5 personal. There were 19 teachers who took part of the day or all of the day for district meetings or professional development for a total of 23 days. Six teachers took 6.5 family illness days. Mr. Parker asked if the attendance report could be provided in the future as a written report.

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora reported on parking issues that occurred for staff during Election Day, particularly at the time they were arriving for work. Voting occurs at the school. The annual Turkey Trot will occur tomorrow – SSES partners with the Senior Center to assemble Thanksgiving food baskets for the needy. A U.S. Marine will be at the school for Veterans Day. Students are collecting plastic bottles to earn money for veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Easton Connects with Kindness – two stories were read in each class and stories were created by the students to share with children who are hospitalized. She also reported on certified staff absences for the month of October 2016: Twenty-three teachers took 36 sick days; 13 teachers took 11.5 personal days; 11 teachers took 6 days for student observation/assessment; 15 teachers took 12 family illness days; and 22 teachers missed all or part of the day for district meetings or professional development for a total of 25 days.

Special Services: Ms. Edwards informed the Board that the school district is responsible for paying for special services for Easton students who attend magnet schools. The schools' Special Services personnel do attend meetings of the magnet schools in determining services needed. Currently there is no direct impact on Easton. The Board asked for a better understanding of this law to be reported at the next Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: To be brief, Dr. Pierson Ugol referred the Board to her written report which includes tables with details about professional development. District meetings have been cut in half this year. Many of the district meetings reported in the absence reports by the school principals involve specialists who do not have classes.

Director of Finance & Operations: Mrs. Sullivan stated that the health insurance claims for October totaled \$167,000. Currently on budget. She reported on Food Services and noted that adult purchases of lunch are up 66% from last year. 296 more meals were served this year than last year. Quality of food has improved. Next month will be a parent lunch. A mural will be added to the SSES cafeteria, painted by Barlow students.

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. McMorran reported that the supervisor of special services is on an unpaid leave of absence to care for a family member. Cindy Twiss, a retired director of special services from Madison, has been hired as her long-term substitute.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Bindelglass reported that automatic defibrillators will be available at Veterans Memorial Park and Morehouse for spring sports.

Mrs. Bobroske reported that that Long-Range Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Celeste DeAngelis, Virginia Drive: Said that her children are reporting that lunches are better this year. They have been buying them more. She did state that the students are confused about how to get the alternative lunches. It would be helpful if that could be explained to them.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Bobroske stated that she felt that the buddy program is everything that our schools should be. She congratulated everyone involved in the program.

Mrs. Shortt stated that she attended the Tri-State Consortium visit and thought it was impressive. Great to see how dynamic the teachers are; how engaged the students are. Classrooms were inviting.

Mr. Parker complimented Mrs. Kaplan and Dr. Pierson Ugol for the work that was done to set up the Tri-State visit. He also reported on the ELF fundraising event held recently at the Gorders' home ... about 75 people attended. The money raised will provide opportunities for teachers and the schools.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Bobroske, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Secretary

Recorded by Vicki Cram