

*Filed Subject to Approval*

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting and Budget Presentation Minutes  
Helen Keller Middle School Learning Commons  
Tuesday, January 15, 2019  
7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Easton Board of Education Members: Parker, Chieda, Bindelglass, Hicks, Reed, Shortt  
Administration: McMorran, Reiss, Pierson Ugol, Kaplan, Fox Santora, Twiss  
Others: 10 members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting. Chieda, Bindelglass. Approved, 5-0. Hicks abstained.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Kachele of Kachele Street, Easton: spoke about the importance of having the Board of Finance provide input during budget preparation to the Board of Education. He expressed concern about potential budget challenges we may face due to deficits in state budgets. In particular, Mr. Kachele pointed out that Easton property values are in decline and that Easton has one of the highest per capita tax rates in Connecticut. He proposed exploring ways to keep tax rates down and the BOE budget will continue to be reviewed and analyzed by the Board of Finance.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Bindelglass thanked Andy Kachele for his excellent communication and help with starting to prepare the budget for 2019-2020.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan spoke about HKMS accomplishments, including Mr. Dolecki receiving the "Teacher of the Year" award, and band and music concerts. There will be a music extravaganza on January 18, 2019 and she invited board members to attend to view the performance given by students at HKMS in the auditorium.

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora spoke about the art teacher's unique and exciting project for Martin Luther King Day, celebrating the "I Have a Dream" speech. Mrs. Fox Santora praised the work of the SRO at SSES, reporting that he is working hard and is a welcome addition to the school.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: INITIAL 2019-2020 BUDGET

Dr. McMorran gave a PowerPoint presentation and described his goal to provide the best estimate on the cost of running the schools for the upcoming year. The initial budget will be posted on the website.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL FLOOR UPDATE**

Mr. Reiss reported that the HKMS gym subfloor was ready for use upon the students' return from the holiday break. The floor is safe for use now, and the final floor will be installed in the near future. Mr. Reiss said he is waiting for the insurance company's engineer's report to confirm the extent of the damage. With regard to the floor tiles in certain areas of HKMS, Mr. Reiss stated there is no change in status and he is waiting for an updated report from the insurance company's engineers.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: POLICIES-1<sup>ST</sup> READINGS**

**Motion: move to accept list of policies:**

- 0521 Nondiscrimination-Policy and Form**
- 1110.4 Automated Calls/Text Messages-Auto System**
- 2141 Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent**
- 4118.114 Pregnant Women in the Workplace**
- 5141.5 Suicide Prevention**
- 5141.213 Administering Medication**
- 5145.42 Racial Harassment of Students**
- 6111 School Calendar**
- 6121 Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program**
- 6141.21 Religion in Schools**
- 6141.311 Programs for English Learner Students**
- 6162.6 Compliance with Copyright Laws**
- 6171.3 Special Education Placement Out-of-District**

**For first reading as presented. Shortt, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: POLICIES-2<sup>ND</sup> READINGS**

**Motion: move to accept list of policies:**

- 1321.2 Public Videotaping**
- 3516.33 Do Not Resuscitate Order with Form**
- 3520.13 Data Based Information and Management System**
- 4111-4211 Recruitment and Selection**
- 4112.2 Certification**
- 4112.51-4211.51 Employment/Reference Checks**
- 4131 Appendix CT General Statute's 10-220a-In-Service Training**
- 4131 Staff Development**
- 5113 Attendance, Excuses, Dismissal**
- 5113.2 Truancy, Chronic Absence**
- 5125 Student Records; Confidentiality**

**5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations**

**6146.2 Statewide Proficiency**

**For second reading as presented. Shortt, Hicks. Approved, 5-0. Chieda abstained.**

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Dr. Pierson Ugol spoke about the importance of having a Science Technology Instructional Coach (STIC) to provide science curriculum and instructional support to the teachers. Mr. Reiss spoke about the Budget Object Summary and, and reported that next month's report would provide the Board with a better picture of the balance. Mr. Reiss stated that the health insurance claims are stable at this time. Mrs. Twiss reported that there has not been an increase in the number of special education students for this year. Dr. McMorran reported that he recently attended a legislators breakfast and proposed raising the threshold for excess cost of special education, enabling towns to receive financial assistance from state sources for students.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Hicks reported there will be a new bus company as of August 2019. The new buses will have seat belts. Mr. Parker spoke about the meeting on January 22, 2019, when the Central Office Budget will be discussed. Mr. Reiss reported that the insurance company Brown and Brown will be putting their contract out for bid. They proposed exploring various ways to finance the health insurance plans.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Mrs. Chieda voiced concern about the public perception and timing of the passing of the Board of Education Budget and the Central Office Budget. Mr. Parker spoke about the May deadline for having a referendum on the budgets. He suggested preparing the Central Office budget ahead of time, perhaps during the summer, in the future. Dr. Bindelglass spoke about his concern that, without a newspaper, the public might not be reminded to vote. Dr. McMorran suggested a town-wide mailing to remind people to vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: move that the meeting be adjourned. Hicks, Reed. Approved. Unanimous.**

The Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo