

Filed subject to approval

Easton Board of Education
Meeting
November 10, 2015
Minutes

Attendance:

Board of Education: Bindelglass (7:33 pm), Chieda, Hicks, Parker, Underberger

Administration: McMorran, Sullivan, Edwards, Freeston, Fox-Santora, Brownstein, Kaplan, Burke

Others: nine members of the staff and community

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 October 13, 2015 meeting as submitted. Underberger, Hicks. Approved. 3-0-1. Mrs. Chieda abstained

Dr. Bindelglass arrived, 7:33 pm, during the discussion below.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Abramowicz: Dr. Abramowicz called attention to the need for AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) on the Town/School athletic fields. She cited the importance of the need for fast resuscitation in the event of sudden cardiac arrest.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Underberger welcomed new board members, Jenny Chieda and David Bindelglass. Dr. Underberger also agreed with Dr. Abramowicz's comments regarding the importance of AEDs on the athletic fields and suggested this should be explored further.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nomination: Dr. Underberger nominated Jeff Parker for position of Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Hicks. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Nomination: Mr. Parker nominated Regina Bobroske for position of Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Dr. Underberger. The nomination was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON 2016 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The schedule of 2016 meeting dates was reviewed and several dates were changed. A final listing of dates will be reviewed and approved at the December meeting.

PRESENTATION: SSES & HKMS Data Application Cycle

Mrs. Fox-Santora and Mrs. Kaplan presented information on how test data is used and put back in the process of teaching students. The presentations underscored the importance of the relationship between teaching, learning, testing and professional development.

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TERMINOLOGY: Director of Special Services, Tracy Edwards, presented an overview of the various roles of Special Services professional staff. Highlighted positions include Case Manager, Special Education Teacher, School Psychologist, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist and Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School:

1. Apex Fun Run: SSES (Samuel Staples Elementary School), Mrs. Fox-Santora reported that the PTA collected \$43,000 for the Apex Fun Run. The PTA requested that 10% of the fund go directly back to the classroom teachers. She requested that the board consider the best way to handle the allocation or donation of those funds.
2. Book Fair: the Book Fair, sponsored by the PTA was very successful.
3. Cluster grouping PD Focus: Tiered Lesson Planning: Mrs. Fox Santora described the process used to craft tiered lesson plans and the work being done in that area.
4. Veterans' Day Plans: the students at SSES will celebrate Veterans' Day with a visit of a member of the Army and a 94 year old Easton resident who served as a nurse in the armed forces.
5. Solar Array: the solar array will be dedicated and activated on Thursday. Children will be able to monitor the amount of electricity being collected by means of a flat panel TV that has been mounted in the school lobby.

Helen Keller Middle School:

1. Tristate Annual Conference: two HKMS students were invited to demonstrate their work and participate in a panel discussion at the conference.
2. New staff members were announced.
3. Parent coffee: The PTA is sponsoring a parent coffee.
4. Pancake Breakfast: Mrs. Kaplan invited all to attend the upcoming Pancake Breakfast.

Special Services Report: Ms. Edwards reported the staff is working on SLOs (Student Learning Objectives), and attending professional development workshops. The PPT & Annual Review process is ongoing. She added that one student situation has changed as a result of the PPT process and will be at a residential site. The additional cost is about \$26,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Pierson Ugol reported that now that the State of Connecticut has approved the Science Standards, the work on curriculum will begin. Work on the Social Studies curriculum K-8 is continuing. The Health & Wellness K-12 curriculum committee is working to develop the State expectations into grade level goals, and provide objectives and resources for the teachers.

Superintendent: Dr. McMorran commented that the Tri-district Policy Committee has begun the work of updating the board policies with language changes. He commented on the increase in number and depth of each of the board policies that include state and federal requirements. He also recognized the 11 member staff at Central Office for the incredible work they do, and cited Peggy Sullivan and Vicki Cram for their diligence in keeping the districts current with the numerous rules & regulations.

Director of Finance: Mrs. Sullivan reported that Health Insurance claims for October were down to the \$300,000 range, but still higher than the monthly budget. The district is now borrowing from the Tri-District reserve fund. Mrs. Sullivan has alerted the Board of Finance of the situation, and will continue to update them on a monthly basis. Mr. Parker commented that the board will need to address the issue with the Board of Finance and suggested that this be done in January, after two more months of data is available. The Transfer Report was also presented and reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Underberger reported the Tri-district Calendar committee met, but did not finalize the 2016-17 calendars. He commented on the complications of establishing a calendar that would meet the guidelines

set by the State. The Committee will meet again with a goal of setting the 2016-17 calendar at the December meeting for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Ronen, Tuckahoe Road: Mrs. Ronen questioned how nutrition information on cafeteria food could be made available to parents.

Nicole Costantino, Co-President SSES PTA: Mrs. Costantino asked the Board for direction on how to distribute the funds from the APEX Fun Run for each classroom teacher. Dr. Underberger suggested that the donation be made to each school for distribution by the principals. He asked that the PTA provide a request for donation acceptance and the Board of Education will take formal action at the December meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Parker noted that the PTA is holding their annual evening meeting at the Easton Library. Lisa Keane, SSES PTA Co-President, stated that the meeting will be a casual meeting with an exchange of ideas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to recess to Executive Session for a discussion of the contract between the Local 1303-002 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Custodians) and the Easton Board of Education. Underberger, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. McMorran and Mrs. Sullivan were invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 9:46 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:55 pm

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the contract between the Local 1303-002 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Custodians) and the Easton Board of Education, for the period July 1, 2015-June 30, 2019. Underberger, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Underberger, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 pm

Submitted and Recorded by Mary Maday