

Filed subject to approval

Easton Board of Education
Meeting
May 10, 2016
Minutes

Board of Education: Bindelglass, Bobroske, Chieda, Hicks, Parker
Administration: McMorran, Sullivan, Pierson Ugol, Edwards, Freeston, Fox-Santora, Brownstein, Kaplan, Burke
Others: ten members of the students, staff and community for the student presentations, one member of the public stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

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 April 12, 2016 meeting as corrected. Hicks, Bindelglass. Approved. 4-0, Bobroske abstained.

Correction: page 3, under Director of Finance report, ECS is *Education* Cost Sharing

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Helen Keller Middle School students, Ryan Thomas, Meghan Ogrinz and Evan Alfandre, described and demonstrated the work they did on projects that involved the application of science. The projects centered on the need and development of prosthetics. The students researched the topic, created models and explained the difficulties with the design, and their solutions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Parker thanked the PTA and Edcom for their assistance with getting the budget approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON TECHNOLOGY GRANT FROM EASTON LEARNING FOUNDATION

Mr. Parker reported that the grant application for the Technology Grant was approved by the Easton Learning foundation. The Grant is for six SmartBoards, three for each school, at a cost of \$24,000.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accepts the donation of a Technology Grant for six SmartBoards. Bobroske, Chieda. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF MISSION-VISION-GOALS

Dr. McMorran presented a draft document that will begin discussions of how education is provided for the children of Easton. This was an introduction, with many more discussions for the leadership team to center on the purpose of helping the children become members of dynamic communities, who communicate well, and who use their assets to identify and solve complex problems.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON POLICY REVIEW

The five policies were reviewed. A change in Policy 4115, section c, was discussed and accepted. This is a change in the date for presentation of staff evaluations to the Board, changing the date from June 1 to the first meeting in the following September.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the following policies for a second and final reading, as amended:

- 1. Policy 5113(a): Students Attendance and Excuses**
- 2. Policy 5113.2: Student Truancy**
- 3. Policy 5131.6: Drug Use, Drugs and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances)**
- 4. Policy 4115: Evaluation and Support Program**
- 5. Policy 4131(a): Personnel—Certified Professional Development**

Motion by Hicks, seconded by Chieda. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox-Santora reported that 4th grader Gianna Oliveri was recognized at the CT Invention Convention with an ESPN Sports award and an invitation to participate at the national Invention Convention in Washington, DC. Mrs. Fox-Santora also explained the work done during the year on Cluster Grouping with a consultant. The work included identification, selection of students and final grouping for the program. Students from grades 2 to 4 were selected, representing 5-8% of the class. The school's "Go Green Fashion Show" for the 5th grade featured fashionable outfits made entirely out of recycled materials. Mrs. Fox-Santora also reported the school suffered a lightning strike that took out the data cable for the access control system for the school. The existing system was found to be out of date and no longer available. A new access control system will be installed. The cost is covered by insurance.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan reported student recognitions and school events. Two parent orientations for 5th grade parents were well attended. She described the work being done in the Library Learning commons to make the area a "maker space". Students spend ELT or lunch time in the area experimenting and playing, using electronic and other materials. She thanked the PTA for funding some of the materials used in the area. Mrs. Kaplan reported the afterschool Coding class is very popular with 35 students enrolled. Two teachers oversee the class and two Sacred Heart students are teaching the students.

Special Services Report: Ms. Edwards reported the department is busy with end-of-year meetings that have been condensed into a shorter period of time due to the early school closing date. She has communicated with all five schools, assessing what has been done during the year and the plans for moving forward. The Extended School Year plans are in place and student schedules are being organized. Interviewing for open positions has also begun.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Pierson Ugol discussed professional learning for the staff. The presentation included adult learning research and the relationship between new adult leaning and student learning. The scheduling of professional learning was also addressed, specifically the need for more flexibility with the mode of learning, to include more options. Effective professional learning must be responsive to needs of students and adults, well-constructed, well-executed and lead to a change in the teaching and learning environment. More attention is needed in the area of professional self-reflection, goal-setting, and the measurement of new leaning linked to professional learning activities as well as through the district professional evaluation plan.

Director of Finance: Mrs. Sullivan reported the Health Insurance claims March were higher than the budget. A State Technology grant has been received and the funds will be used to upgrade the wireless access for the school buildings. The Transportation Committee has renewed the contract with Dattco for the next three years, with a 7.3% increase each year. The fleet of buses will be refinanced. Mrs. Sullivan is still working on the number and size of the buses that will be required for next year, and that will

impact the total cost. The Committee is still working with the Town of Easton on a proposed bus depot to be located at Veterans Park. Mrs. Sullivan also reported that Samuel Staples Elementary School is now an Energy Start Certified building.

Superintendent: Dr. McMorran read a portion of Dr. Pierson Ugol's dissertation that spoke to the importance of authentic instruction. He also noted that the reports from the principals that demonstrated several examples of authentic instruction and learning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Insurance Committee: Dr. Bindelglass reported the Committee met several times to discuss health insurance options, including a change in carrier, stop-loss limit, and changing to a fully insured program. The Committee will make a recommendation at the Tri-Board meeting next week that will include staying with a self-insured program and staying with Anthem. The Anthem projected increase is at 8.9%, but that reflects the current staffing. Dr. Bindelglass also reported that he is working with the Director of Parks & Recreation on the AEDs for the athletic fields and believes they units will be in place by the fall.

Food Committee: Mr. Parker reported the Committee reviewed the RFP proposals and invited two vendors to make a presentation. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Tri-Board that the contract with Chartwells should be renewed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Parker thanked the Easton Learning Foundation for the SmartBoards. He also noted that Dr. McMorran has requested an evaluation of his work over the year. Mr. Parker will be asking board members for their input.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm

Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday