

Easton Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2017
HKMS Library Media Center

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Board of Education: Bindelglass, Bobroske, Parker, Shortt,
Administration: McMorran, Pierson Ugol, Lagas, Edwards, Fox Santora, Brownstein, Kaplan, Burke
Others: Approximately 16 parents, newspaper staff and other members of the public.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gowan Dacey, Redding Road: Addressed three general budget issues that he urged the Board to keep in mind during upcoming budget discussions. His first comment was about the overall economy in Connecticut. He then discussed the cut in State Funding to school districts, especially those like Easton. He noted that the Town of Easton would be under financial strain due to the states poor economic climate. He asked that the Board not further strain the town with extravagant budget requests. His second request was that the Board only apply for necessities in this year's budget, and that they put off any optional demands. He also asked that the Board investigate any administrative overhead that could potentially be cut.

Ann Manusky, Morning Glory Drive: Wanted to reiterate to the Board that the Smarter Balance Assessments currently employed are not evaluated standards, and she urges parents to opt out of having their children participate.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Chairman Parker noted that the ongoing lighting issue with the outside grounds of SSES is being addressed. The potential safety issue will be attended to by Honeywell. He will update the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Parker then spoke to the issue of time teachers are spending out of the classroom, and how it may affect the consistency of learning. Teachers have notified him that they will have a proposed plan addressing this issue by late March, 2017. Finally, the Chairman announced that, after meeting with the Board of Finance, he learned that the Town of Easton would be transferring some responsibilities to the Board of Education. These responsibilities would be offset by a transfer of funds to compensate for the additional work. He noted that this is not extra funds for the Board, but rather an even transfer to support work previously performed by the town.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

A. Rescheduling of January 23rd Budget Workshop (conflicts with Redding BOE/BOF meeting)

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the proposed Meeting Schedule change: The Budget Workshop previously slated for January 23, 2017 will now be held on Monday, January 30, 2017. Bobroske, Shortt, Approved. Unanimous. It was noted that the PTA should be made aware of this change.



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CHRISTINE HALLORAN
TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

B. Policies – Second Reading
Seven policies were presented for second reading.

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

- **4121 Substitute Teachers**
- **4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection**
- **4112.5/4212.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting (includes regulation)**
- **4112.51/4212.51 Employment/Reference Checks**
- **4112.2 Certification**
- **4118.14/4218.14 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities (includes Regulation)**
- **4118.41/4218.41 Rights, Responsibilities & Duties: Electronic Mail**

Shortt. Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

C. 2017-2018 Operating Budget

Dr. McMorran presented the proposed 2017-2018 Operating Budget. No Action is required at this time. Three main points in the presentation were that:

- The size of the faculty and staff is determined by the enrollment and our commitment to class size. This comprises 79.56% of the budget.
- The remaining 20.44% of the budget is totally necessary.
- To reduce the proposed budget further will involve one of three things:
 - Reduction of necessary staff
 - Increase in class size
 - Postponements of some capital work, namely; painting of exterior soffits at HKMS, repaint SSES parking lot lines, repair/replace certain Smartboards.

Dr. McMorran noted that there are no easy reductions, and that the proposed budget of \$16,081,330 was not “beefed up” to allow for some anticipated reduction requests. This is an increase of 2.12% over last year. The majority of the increase is either a legal or contractual obligation. The six main costs centers and their proposed budget percentages are:

- General Instruction 48.02%
- Special Education 22%
- Operations and Grounds 17.71%
- Administration 10.65%
- Academics 1.31%
- Athletics and Co-Curricular Programs 0.32%

Dr. Bindelglass asked if the percentage increase in teachers’ salary was sustainable in the long-term and reflective across comparable industries. It was noted that for the short-term future, this growth was workable, but long-term negotiation need ensue at the government level.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: To be brief, Dr. Pierson Ugol referred the Board to her written report, which includes information on curriculum, instruction, and assessment. There are also tables with details about professional development and District meetings.

Interim Director of Finance & Operations: Dr. Lagas reported that the end-of-December health insurance claims were slightly below projections, but that they should be watched carefully as in the last six months, three months were below projections, and three months were above. Dr. Lagas then noted that Educational Cost Sharing was reduced by the state for the second time this year to \$177,907. Finally, it was reported that the SSES outdoor lighting situation was being addressed with Honeywell.

Director of Special Services: To be brief, Ms. Edwards referred the Board to her written report. Ms. Edwards also informed the Board that she would be giving an in-depth report at the next Budget Workshop on the proposed 2017-2018 budget. She noted that there have been a handful of students referred by staff to receive special services.

Helen Keller Middle School: In addition to the report provided to the Board on paper, Mrs. Kaplan wished to acknowledge three students who participated in the December 23rd Geography Bee. In first place, Amitra Hoq and in second place; two sixth graders, Soren Rasmussen and Adam Bussolotta.

Samuel Staples Elementary School: In addition to the report provided to the Board on paper, Mrs. Fox Santora wished to recognize students who participated in their December Geography Bee. The first place winner was Ian Lent whom she congratulated along with all participants. She also reported that the Remedial Reading Teacher resigned and they would need to hire a long-term sub for the balance of the year. The position will be posted for someone to permanently fill it starting with the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Fox Santora announced that the school will participate in "NATE"- National Assessment of Educational Progress on February 14, 2017. Sixty-two (62) fourth graders were chosen to participate in either a Reading or Math assessment. Parents were notified via mail. It was noted that next week is The Great Kindness Challenge at SSES.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Manusky, Morning Glory Drive: Requested that a Curriculum Meeting be held in the next few months.

Connie Seo, Fieldstone Drive: Urged the Board to have five sections in the incoming second grade as it is a boy heavy grade, and in the first grade year some teachers seemed overwhelmed.

Leslie Kelly, Hunting Ridge Road: Seconded Ms. Seo's request.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn the meeting 9:35 p.m. Shortt, Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.

Submitted by
Regina Bobroske, Secretary

Recorded by
Elise Cavanaugh