

Filed subject to approval

Easton Board of Education Meeting
April 18, 2017
Minutes

Board of Education: Bindelglass, Bobroske, Hicks, Parker, Shortt
Administration: McMorran, Lagas, Pierson Ugol, Edwards, Fox Santora, Kaplan, Brownstein, Burke
Others: Seven members of the staff and community

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. at the Helen Keller Middle School Library Media Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the March 30, 2017 special Board meeting as submitted. Shortt, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Bobroske expressed that everyone's thoughts and prayers are with the families of the Barlow students who were injured in a car accident that occurred over the spring break.

Dr. McMorran introduced Catherine Correa and announced that she was the recipient of the Weller Foundation Award that includes \$500 to use toward future projects with her students. Mrs. Correa explained the project she submitted called, *Project Norman* - a portfolio of a school-wide program of learning Spanish in the elementary grades using a puppet named Norman.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON TEACHER NON-RENEWALS

Dr. McMorran recommended the non-renewal of one non-tenured teacher due to budgetary cuts for 2017-2018.

Motion: move that the contract of employment of Stacey Powell not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016-2017 school year and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. Hicks, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

Mrs. Kaplan expressed her appreciation for Mrs. Powell's work and hopes that she will be able to return to Easton sometime in the future.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mr. Parker proposed setting up a coffee/cake meeting in May with area Fairfield County realtors to tell the Easton story by giving presentations on Easton schools, ELF, Parks & Recreation, the Community Center, CS Explorers, and other community offerings. The Board agreed it would be a good idea, and Mrs. Bobroske suggested creating a “takeaway” document that could be available to those realtors who might not be able to attend and to post on the Website. Concern was expressed that May might be too early with all the other end-of-year school activities. Mr. Parker will take the lead on this initiative.

Motion: move that the Board of Education pursue a meeting with Fairfield County Board of Realtors to promote Easton education. Bobroske, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON POLICY REVIEW – FIRST READING

Dr. McMorran presented 11 policies for review for first reading. All the policies are revisions for existing policies. Board members will send their questions/concerns about any of these policies to Dr. McMorran before the May Board meeting.

Motion: move to accept the following policies for review for first reading -

- a) **Policy 5125: Family Education Rights & Privacy – Appendix**
- b) **Policy 5131.911: Hazing Bullying**
- c) **Policy 5141.4: Reporting Child Abuse, Neglect, Sexual Assault - *Newest Version, Version 2 and Shortened Version***
- d) **Policy 5141.21: Administering Medication**
- e) **Policy 5144: Discipline**
- f) **Policy 5144.1: Use of Physical Force / Restraint, Seclusion - *Policy & Regulation***
- g) **Policy 5144.5: Progressive Discipline / Promoting Positive Student Behavior**
- h) **Policy 5145: Civil and Legal Rights & Responsibilities**
- i) **Policy 5145.511: Exploitation; Sexual Harassment - *Policy & Regulation***
- j) **Policy 5145.53: Gender Identity and Expression (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth) – *Policy & Regulation***
- k) **Policy 5145.6: Student Grievance Procedures – *Policy & Reg.***

Hicks, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON POLICY REVIEW – SECOND READING

Dr. McMorran presented one policy for second reading and stated that this policy was to lower the threshold for soliciting bids and quotations from \$10,000 to \$7,500 in line with the Town of Easton’s policy.

Motion: move to accept Policy 3323, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations) as submitted. Bobroske, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Special Services: Tracy Edwards, reported on staff training that recently occurred for restraint/seclusion with the focus being on preventative measures.

Helen Keller Middle School: Susan Kaplan reported that 7th graders did their persuasive writing project with ELF. As a result, HKMS will be getting bird feeders, a Chess Club, and amano fish. The discrete math students entered a state contest, American Statistical Poster Competition. Juliet Lamb won second place for a poster on obesity. Jennifer Rose was approved for a grant she submitted to Funds for Teachers and will be attending the iEarn Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco to participate and be a panelist for the work she did earlier in the year with the UN.

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora shared a book created by Mrs. Kuruc's kindergarten class on sequencing called *How to Be a Super Kindergarten Student*. Ian Lent won the school-level and regional-level National Geography Bee competition and will be competing at the state level. SSES students will be holding a "Go Green Fashion Show" where students will be modeling outfits they create completely with recycled materials. Several SSES will be participating in the state-level Invention Convention.

Interim Director of Finance: Dr. Lagas reported on the current year budget and transfers. He reported that the recently received March claims report showed that claims totaled \$191,499.42. The Board's insurance consultant from Brown & Brown will attend the May Board of Education meeting to answer questions pertaining to the health care reserve and considerations for future teacher negotiations.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Pierson Ugol reported on the elementary and secondary social studies framework adopted by the State Department of Education in February 2015. The framework is based on four major disciplines – civics, economics, geography and history and features an inquiry process. ER9 teachers began a review of the framework in the summer of 2015, and curriculum revision work continued in the summer of 2016 and informally during the school year when additional content revisions were made to specific units of student or entire courses.

Superintendent: Dr. McMorran reported that he would be a member of the steering committee for the Tri-State Consortium visit in Scarsdale, NY later in the week. The focus is on the whole child and wellness.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Parker noted he attended a meeting with Selectman Dunsby, Dr. McMorran, Dr. Lagas, Christine Calvert and Ed Nagy on the bus depot costs and timeframe and hopes for a final decision before the end of the school year. He also shared that the Town of Easton is leaning toward enrolling in the state plan for medical insurance for town employees. Dr. Bindelglass noted that the Insurance Committee had looked at the state plan, and it was felt that the Boards of Education were better off staying with the self-insured plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Bobroske said that she ran into a woman recently who is a teacher from Scarsdale who had been on the Tri-State Consortium visit on the middle school earlier this year. The woman spoke of the enthusiasm of the students and the warmth and kindness she felt during her visit at HKMS.

Mr. Parker spoke of the teacher attendance reports the Board had requested and has received monthly this year. He asked the principals to report specifically on the number of personal days and family illness days taken by teachers over the past several years and consider if the Board's interest in receiving the reports might have an impact on how many days are used.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Board Secretary

Recorded by Vicki Cram