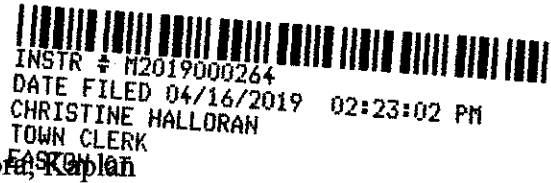


**Regular Meeting**  
Easton Board of Education Agenda Minutes  
Helen Keller Middle School-Learning Commons  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019  
7:30 p.m.



**ATTENDANCE:**

Easton Board of Education: Parker, Chieda, Hicks, Shortt  
Administration: McMorran, Pierson Ugol, Reiss, Twiss, Fox Santora, Kaplan  
Others: 4 members of the public

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2019 Easton Board of Education Special Meeting and the March 12, 2019 Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting. Hicks, Shortt. Approved, 4-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Diane Ronen, Tuckahoe Road, Easton: expressed her disappointment about the removal of the Media Center Specialist at Helen Keller Middle School. She spoke about the important role of the Specialist in providing guidance to students in utilizing the library and technology in school.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Mrs. Shortt spoke about her disappointment regarding the removal of the Media Specialist at Helen Keller Middle School. She mentioned the importance of making decisions in advance and giving teachers adequate notification about removal of positions. Mr. Parker commented on the loss of the Media Specialist position in the past. He said it is possible that the position may be reinstated in the future. He said that the Board is under obligation to inform teachers before April 1 if their position will be cut out of the budget.

**BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Samuel Staples Elementary School - Mrs. Fox Santora spoke about the "Jump for Heart" fundraiser at SSES and how they raised \$6,200.00. She reported on the water system and that one of the drives has failed, and the Department of Public Works in Easton has recommended replacement of both drives in order to have optimal use of water in the school. Mr. Reiss answered that there were quotes in progress, and three bids are expected in next week and then we can proceed with the project. Mrs. Fox Santora introduced Ms. Courtney Carrol, a teacher at SSES, and spoke about her increasing recycling efforts at the school and the enthusiasm of the students.

Helen Keller Middle School - Mrs. Kaplan reported success of the Geography Bee and that Adam Buccalotta made top ten at the state level. She spoke about the Western Region Music

festival and the Concert Band and their success. Mrs. Kaplan reported that, on behalf of HKMS, she accepted a \$1,000.00 grant for students to go on a field trip to the American Indian Studies Research Museum this week.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: NEW EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER - JON STINSON**

Mrs. Shortt has submitted her letter of resignation as Board member for the Easton Board of Education. Mrs. Shortt spoke about the amount of work the Board does and its accomplishments and passion. She added that she is grateful that her own children, as well as students of the schools have benefited from the Board's hard work and dedication. Mr. Parker spoke about what an asset Mrs. Shortt has been to the Board and that she will be missed. Mr. Parker then introduced Mr. Jon Stinson, who will be Mrs. Shortt's replacement. Mr. Stinson graciously accepted the position and provided some examples of contributions he could make as a Board member. For example, he has served as Vice President for the Easton Learning Foundation, and has experience in robotics and cyber security. Mr. Stinson said he looks forward to serving on the Board and is optimistic about the future.

**Motion: move to accept Cindy Shortt's resignation as a member of the Easton Board of Education. Shortt, Hicks. Approved, 4-0.**

**Motion: move to replace Cindy Shortt's position on the Easton Board of Education with Mr. Jon Stinson. Shortt, Hicks. Approved, 4-0.**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**  
Dr. Pierson Ugol provided a powerpoint presentation about professional development changes that will be upcoming this school year.

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

Mr. Reiss reported that the remediation of the gym floor water problem is complete. The choices for the new gym floor are to replace with wood floor which would be covered in its entirety by insurance. The other option is a synthetic floor, which would require another \$40,000.00-\$50,000.00 investment, with payback to be reached in approximately 15 years. Administration and teachers recommend going with the wood floor. Work is expected to begin on June 17, 2019.

**Motion: move to accept Mr. Scott Reiss's report as presented to replace damaged wood floor at Helen Keller Middle School. Hicks, Chieda. Approved, 4-0.**

Mr. Reiss reported on the tile floor inside the building and that replacement will require 3-4 weeks of work. The plan is for the work to begin immediately following the July 4, 2019 holiday, and the costs will be covered by insurance.

**Motion: move to accept Mr. Scott Reiss's report as presented to replace damaged tiles at Helen Keller Middle School after the July 4, 2019 holiday. Shortt, Hicks. Approved, 4-0.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDS NON-RENEWALS

Dr. McMorran spoke about his disappointment about non-renewal of the following teachers, and added that he has high estimation of their work and this does not speak unfavorably of the teachers in any way.

**Motion: move that the contracts of employment of Nathanael Indorf, Briana Prochorenko, and Alissa Velazquez not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2018-2019 school year and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action. Shortt, Hicks. Approved, 4-0.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION BYLAWS-1<sup>ST</sup> READING

Mr. Parker asked Board members to review bylaws as required.

**Motion: move to accept the Easton Board of Education Bylaws for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading as presented. Shortt, Hicks. Approved, 4-0.**

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

Mr. Parker spoke about #5141.5 Suicide Prevention, and asked Dr. McMorran to provide information on training provided to employees. Dr. McMorran stated that employees are mandated reporters. Mr. Parker asked about #6141.2 Religion in Public Schools, and Dr. McMorran explained the policy. Also, #9327.1, Board member use of Social Media, was explained.

**Motion: move to accept the Policies for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading as presented. Shortt, Hicks. Approved, 4-0.**

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Twiss reported that two additional students came into the preschool program this month. Mr. Parker thanked her for her hard work. Mr. Reiss requested a budget transfer to fund additional speech services.

**Motion: move to approve the request from Mr. Scott Reiss to transfer \$30,000.00 from budget line 12-1200-563 to line 12-1200-330 to be used for speech services. Hicks, Shortt. Approved, 4-0.**

Mr. Reiss provided an update on the Budget Object Summary for the Health Insurance Report. He reported that the March numbers increased more than anticipated and he is hopeful that future numbers will decrease. The Central Office claims were high for March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Parker spoke about the upcoming tri-board meeting to evaluate the current food supplier. He reported that the governor is reconsidering his proposal that districts fund Teacher Retirement Contributions at this time. Mr. Parker said that this will continue to be an ongoing issue.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Keene, Wedgewood Drive, Easton: spoke about the importance of the role of the Media Specialist at HKMS. For instance, she teaches students how to cite work, research topics, and find books. In addition, she promotes reading, book clubs, and listens to student concerns. Ms. Keene asked the Board to reconsider the removal of the Media Specialist from HKMS.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Parker spoke about the difficult decisions the Board has to make, and that he is sorry about the loss of the Media Specialist. Mrs. Chieda asked about Redding Board of Education having 7 members and Easton having 6 member. Mr. Parker thanked Ms. Shortt for her service on the Board, and stated that she will be greatly missed. Mrs. Fox Santora and Mrs. Kaplan both thanked Mrs. Shortt for her service and contributions.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move that the meeting be adjourned. Shortt, Hicks. Approved, 4-0.**

The Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary