

INSTR # M2019000337 RECD 05/21/2019 02:23:33 PM
CHRISTINE HALLORAN TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

Regular Meeting
Easton Board of Education Agenda
Helen Keller Middle School-Learning Commons
Tuesday, May 14, 2019
7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Easton Board of Education: Parker, Chieda, Bindelglass, Reed, Stinson
Administration: McMorran, Pierson Ugol, Reiss, Twiss, Kaplan, Fox Santora
Others: 6 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 29, 2019 Easton Board of Education Special Meeting and the April 9, 2019 Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting. Chieda, Bindelglass. Approved, 3-1. Stinson abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Bindelglass thanked those who voted and said the turnout was surprisingly low. He was pleased that those who came out to vote showed their support for furthering education in our town. Mr. Parker welcomed Mr. Stinson as the new member of the Easton Board of Education. He said that the budget passed by an impressive margin, which is good for the town and students.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Helen Keller Middle School - Mrs. Kaplan spoke about searching for a new SSO for HKMS. She said that the Easton Police Department offered to provide temporary SSO coverage until a replacement is hired. HKMS is currently interviewing for math and science teachers. Mrs. Kaplan thanked the PTA for its generous donation of \$800.00 for the Bronx Zoo Field Trip. On May 30, 2019 there will be Middle School Orientation. Mr. Parker asked about funding for extracurricular activities and Mrs. Kaplan responded that there is no funding available and said that there is some interest in starting a "Go Fund Me" to raise funds to run the activities. Mr. Parker suggested that various options should be discussed at the June meeting of the Easton Board of Education, including pay-to-play, to be sure we can prepare something to share with parents in this regard.

Samuel Staples Elementary School - Mrs. Fox Santora spoke about the SSES vs. HKMS softball game and shared that it was a successful family event. Teacher Appreciation Week was also a success and enjoyed by all. Mrs. Fox Santora reported that 78 students are projected to start kindergarten this fall and she has been conducting preschool visits throughout town. Mr. Parker

asked about extracurricular funding at SSES, as well. Mrs. Fox Santora spoke about the success of the Dolphin Arts Ensemble concert.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL FLOOR UPDATE

Mr. Reiss reported that there were no changes in the status of tile floor since last meeting. The gym floor is scheduled to be replaced with work starting on June 17, 2019. Additionally, the divider in the gym is in need of replacement with total cost of \$20,500.00 (out-of-pocket cost to district is \$10,645.00). Mr. Reiss said there will be some unexpended funds available at the end of the year to cover the cost and he recommends replacing the divider. He said it would be most cost effective to use the contractor that is replacing the gym floor to do the work.

Mrs. Chieda requested a financial report from Mr. Reiss. Mr. Reiss spoke about the Budget Object Summary and that there will be some reimbursements before the end of the year. He anticipates that there will be approximately \$200,000.00 unexpended. He also spoke about the Transfers Report and cost of oil tank removal and maintenance repairs. Mr. Reiss said that more will be spent on gas and electric bill this year than in the past due to heat and humidity during the summer months. To cover medical claims in Easton, we may need an additional \$60,000.00, if the trend of the last two months continues.

Motion: move to expand the scope of the approved vendor to install the gym divider at Helen Keller Middle School and authorize Mr. Reiss to transfer \$10,650.00 from 510 account to 450 account. Stinson, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: INDOOR AIR QUALITY STATUS

Mr. Reiss spoke about the periodic walk thru done at schools to ensure a clean and ventilated environment. This was last done in January 2019. He was pleased to report that in each building there were fewer than 10 items on which to take action. Mr. Reiss said the results will be posted on the website.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: BUS DEPOT UPDATE

Mr. Parker went to a selectman meeting and wants to revisit the possibility of a bus depot in Easton. The Easton Board of Selectman are asking for the Boards of Education in Easton and Redding to be in favor of building the depot in our town. There may be a possible site in Redding. The benefits of a bus depot in Easton include: saving on taxes, fuel, and bus drivers' time. If the town makes the land available, the DPW could prepare the area.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION BYLAWS-2ND READING

Mr. Parker suggested tabling this item until the next meeting. Mr. Stinson suggested the board read them again and discuss them with the other districts.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Twiss spoke about acceptance of a grant and how additional funds will help teachers in many ways, including supporting writing goals and objectives. Mrs. Twiss said that this is her last board meeting and asks members of the board to support the new director.

Dr. Pierson Ugol reported that the state has replaced some funding for TEAM, which was cut last year. One of the things that TEAM provides is mentors for new teachers. She discussed math courses and the changes made to their names.

Motion: move to change ER9 Grades 5-9 math pathways as presented to Easton Curriculum Committee and approved by Curriculum Committee. Chieda, Stinson. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Pierson Ugol said that the titles of the classes will be changed and the content will remain the same. Mrs. Chieda spoke about the potentially positive effects of the name changes, especially in the upper levels of math.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Parker spoke about the All Hazards Meeting with HKMS and SSES and police department representatives regarding safety, fires, and school emergencies. A document will be written and submitted to the state.

The Tri-Board Food Committee proposed extending the Chartwells contract for next year. On May 15, 2019 the Board will begin contract negotiations with the custodians. He also reported that the safety grant we applied for to the state for security cameras was denied. Dr. McMorran spoke about the interviews for Supervisor of Special Services and how the candidates were experienced and capable.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Niki Kaldawy, Staples Rd. Easton, spoke about the loss of the Media Specialist position at HKMS and the negative impact it will have on students and teachers at HKMS and SSES due to the movement of faculty into different positions.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Stinson thanked everyone on the board for a warm welcome. Ms. Reed expressed her thanks to the PTA for helping with voter turnout and acknowledged the success of their "Spring Fling" event. Mrs. Chieda and Mr. Parker thanked Mrs. Twiss for all her hard work. Mr. Reiss was also thanked for his hard work and clear explanation of budget issues. Mrs. Chieda recommends putting the Media Specialist back in the budget for next year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the meeting be adjourned. Reed, Stinson. Approved. Unanimous.

The Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary