

Filed subject to approval

Regular Meeting
Easton Board of Education Minutes
Helen Keller Middle School – Media Center
December 14, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.

view remotely via:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRtQ6dze5a8x5XT5LzBnDHA>

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Stinson, Chieda, Parker, Wible, de Jesus via Zoom @ 7:31; Hicks @ 8:12pm

Administrators: McKinnon, Petruzzelli, Cram, Fox-Santora, Clapp

Others: 4 members of the public

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30pm by Jon Stinson

Moment of Silence: on the 9th anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Election of chairperson

B. Election of secretary

Motion to continue with the existing leadership slate and nominate Jon Stinson for the role of Board Chair, and Jeff Parker for the role of Secretary. (Stinson, Wible).

Official nomination took place:

Jon Stinson position of chairperson-5 votes

Jeff Parker-position of secretary 5 votes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: move to approve the minutes from the 11/09/2021 Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting. Pending approval with revisiting audio from a previous meeting for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

-None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

J. Chieda thanked J. Stinson for taking the time to have a moment of silence for the victims of the Sandy Hook tragedy. This is a good opportunity to show appreciation to our teachers for all they do. J. Stinson echoed these thoughts.

REPORTS:

~SSES & HKMS Reports

SSES: Kim Fox-Santora

K. Fox-Santora reported on the passing of the school mascot, Winter the dolphin. Winter was adopted by SSES and students loved following her story. A parent, D. Montoya reached out to ask if he could do a mural to honor Winter. K. Fox-Santora was very excited about this offer. The school senate has been collecting money to benefit the CT Coalition for the Homeless. The kindness club has also begun. They have been meeting bi-monthly and fostering a sense of kindness amongst the school community. SSES is also doing a fundraiser for CCMC pajama day. Students donate a \$1 to wear pajamas to school to benefit CCMC. The “buddy program” is also operational with older students reading books with and to younger students

HKMS: Dr. Steven Clapp

S. Clapp reported that a school resource officer is starting at HKMS on January 3rd. This has been a collaborative effort amongst ER9, Helen Keller, and the Easton PD. In regards to staffing, a school counselor has returned from maternity leave, a long-term substitute position will also be opening at the beginning of January, and a cafeteria position is also open. Report cards have been distributed and students are off to a good start of the school year. Attendance has been the highest it has been in 4 years. Parents have donated 15 hours of for the Shelf Elf program. The efforts have made a huge difference in the library. The Helen Keller Family Newsletter has been well received by parents. This newsletter also comes in audio form, which parents have enjoyed as well. A theater program will be performing on March 11/March 12th. Students are excited that the drama shows are back at HKMS. Daily video announcements have been posted on the website daily and have been well received. Keller recently lost their full time building substitute and are actively seeking a replacement

Director of Special Education: J. Del Conte

J. Del Conte praised the hard work of the preschool program. Students, who have complex learning needs, are thriving. J. Del Conte explained that with extra services, special education students are thriving. The Wilson teacher has been supporting middle school students, allowing students to receive services in house. There has been an increase in PPT meetings. J. Del Conte noted that this is expected as students are returning and adjusting to regular schooling. She also reviewed SPED numbers, 504, and IEP data. A discussion followed regarding how the district will continue to fund, support, and appropriately staff the SPED department. The Easton Board of Education is in full support of doing everything possible to meet the student’s needs.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

A. Updated Overview of 2022-2023 Budget Process

Budget planning has begun at central office. J. McKinnon presented a plan for budget planning. This included simplifying the “categories” or budget objects to make it more

streamlined. He stated that the budget should be organized by cost centers. He noted the unique needs of the district being a tri-board, emphasizing that simplifying the process will help. Central office has been working on organizing the budget by these Cost Centers. This includes (HKMS, SSES, pupil personnel services, facilities, technology, district wide, curriculum and instruction). Each individual cost center is organized into categories. Google Docs will be used in the budget process and the changes that are made will roll up instantly. It serves as a live document. In addition, using Google Docs as a Budget tool allows the user to filter by cost center and individual accounts, default views can be developed by user preference, empowers school leaders and board members to analyze the budget, and it links back-up materials and quotes directly to requests. J. McKinnon also reviewed the timeline for the budget process.

B. 2022 Meeting Schedule:

Discussion on moving the start time, requested by Dr. McKinnon, from 7:30pm to 7:00pm. Jen DeJesus stated she would not be able to make that time change work for her schedule. The Board decided to stay with the 7:30 start time.

Motion to approve the 2022 Easton Board of Education Meeting schedule as presented (Hicks, Chieda). Approved. Unanimous.

C. Building Use and Security Policies

The Board reviewed 7C Building Use and Security Policies, in particular 9012(c) & 9012(f). Jeff Parker stated the board should clarify how it wants to move forward with non-school personnel in our buildings during school hours and after school hours. Historically, our building are used by various groups in town for a wide variety of reasons. It was not unusual for non-school personnel to travel down hallways to look at student art etc. Jon Stinson suggested that the Policy Committee review our current documents on this topic and report back. He encouraged other board members to come to these meetings and provide feedback.

D. Committee Appointments

The Easton Board of Education 2022 Committee Membership was discussed including what the actual need for each committee is. Board Members are assigned as follows:

- Curriculum Committee-JC, JD, DW
- Communications Committee-JS
- Negotiations Committee-RH, JP
- ER9 Joint Calendar Committee-JD
- ER9 Central AD hoc Committee-RH
- ER9 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee-JC, DW
- ER9 Joint Food Service-JP
- ER9 Joint Health Insurance Committee-JP
- ER9 Joint Long Range Planning Steering-RH, JP
- ER9 Joint Negotiating Committee-JP
- ER9 Joint Policy Committee-JS
- ER9 Joint Transportation Committee-RH

-ER9 Joint Wellness Committee-JC

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

D. Wible-Wished everyone a great holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting be adjourned. (Hicks, Wible) Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Recorded by Kim Keil