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EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Helen Keller Middle School - Learning Center

On Youtube:

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

May 10, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Stinson, Chieda, deJesus, Hicks, Wible

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Cram, Del Conte, Scrofan

Others: 14 members of the staff and public, and the recording secretary

CALL TO ORDER

J. Stinson called the Easton Board of Education to order at 7:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hearing no revisions or comments, the Minutes of the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting of April 19, 2022 were deemed approved by J. Stinson.

CABE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

HKMS students Avery Young and Tyler Pulie were awarded the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Leadership Award for 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyn Oppenheim, Hunting Ridge Road, voiced her concern about an individual who she said had trespassed on school grounds, while students were present, during the town budget vote. She asked if the administration was aware of this incident and if they planned to do something to prevent this individual from trespassing on school grounds in the future. C. Oppenheim said it's very important for all children to be seen and heard in the school community and wants the BOE to keep this at the forefront of their plans and decisions.

Debbie Bauer, Hayes Street, said she echoes C. Oppenheim's comment about the individual who entered the school building and also that this individual should not be allowed in the school building in the future. She said that she also supports what C. Oppenheim said about making all children feel welcome and that she applauds any effort to support the whole child.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

D. Wible thanked the community for their comments and, in light of the appreciation week, thanked every educator in the room and congratulated the CABE award recipients. She said that we are in the midst of a mental health crisis and we need to open our eyes and take active steps.

J. Chieda thanked the community for their comments, and said she was glad the budget passed and that small class size was kept intact. She spoke at length about the schedule that we, as parents, are putting our kids through and wondering if we should all take a pause to consider this. J. Chieda thanked the Outdoor Classroom Committee for getting the outdoor classroom project completed.

R. Hicks inquired about the request for a budget cut of \$90K.

J. Stinson said thank you to all who spoke, the administrators and the Board. He said that it was an absolute honor to serve with all of you and do what we're doing on behalf of the kids.

D. McKinnon thanked C. Oppenheim for her comments. He reminded everyone that a focus group on the direction of our schools will be held this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Joel Barlow High School. Dr. McKinnon said that there will be student focus group leaders at the event and that there had been 106 responses to attend so far. He said that this is part 1 of the Strategic Plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School Principal, Kimberly Fox Santora: recognized the CAFE Leadership Award recipients; addressed C. Oppenheim's comments by saying that we do hear the voice of every student, not just the loudest; and thanked the PTO for the week of food trucks and special activities for Teacher Appreciation Week. She reported that: the Student Choice Vote resulted in a basketball hoop for the 2nd grade playground; so far, 92 kindergarten registration packets have been mailed; the Go Green Team completed their project; the Diversity Club has been active; and, the P.E. team led the school in the national All Children Exercise Simultaneously Day.

Helen Keller Middle School Principal, Dr. Steven Clapp, first said that he recognizes the comments from the public. Dr. Clapp reported that: enrollment is going to be steady since there are 90 fifth graders; there will be a PTO sponsored coffee with himself and K. Fox Santora; there will be a tour of HKMS on June 7 for incoming families; the 5th graders visit HKMS on June 15; field trips have been scheduled; there's an upcoming Art Show; the HKMS Spelling Bee is back; end-of-the-year band, orchestra and choral concerts are scheduled; the SBA testing starts next week; the NGSS science test will be administered to 8th graders; the PTO conducted a make-over of the staff rooms and provided for a wonderful Teacher Appreciation Week; the re-dedication of the Joan Parker outdoor classroom took place; the Student Choice Voting resulted in more seating for the outside cafeteria; and, the 8th graders recently took the 8th/9th PSAT.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, reported that: the SSES and HKMS Summer Academy was completely set; the Safe School Climate survey will be conducted during the month of May and this year includes the opportunity for students to provide feedback in the form of open-ended questions; and, all certified and support staff were evaluated this year using the ER9 evaluation plan, with the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee to meet this summer to discuss best practices of the plan.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon, said that he would be coming to Easton schools to talk with staff, and that his data report, from his conversations with staff, will be shared at the Joint Boards of Education meeting later in May. He shared the new financial reporting model, on the screen and in a hand-out, and said this new system: has a cost center view of all accounts; makes the information from

budget model to be consistent with reporting methods; provides for increased transparency and consistency; enables compatibility of two perspectives on one tab; is reliable; provides for accountability of budget vs. actual data; and, provides for increased and better decision making.

Discussion on the new financial reporting model took place that included: the unencumbered line vs. the unexpended line; process to get new system up and running; how certain specifics will work; the levels of depth within the lines; and, what data is collected and not collected for the report. This led to a discussion of how aligned the responsibilities are of S. Scrofani to the original plan of the responsibilities of her position. Dr. McKinnon said he would be presenting a Central Office staff organizational chart at the Joint Boards of Education meeting on May 24.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: NON-RESIDENT STAFF TUITION

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education recess to Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of non-resident staff tuition, and invite Dr. McKinnon to attend. (Wible, Hicks). Approved. Unanimous.

The Easton Board of Education recessed to Executive Session at 9:11 p.m.

The Easton Board of Education returned to Regular Session at 9:40 p.m. J. Stinson said that no further action was needed on the Discussion and Possible Action item.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: POLICY REVIEW

J. Stinson presented a list of approximately 80 Shipman & Goodwin policies, which had also been previously sent to BOE members, and said that the intent is to adopt the policies to be District policies. He said that he would like these policies to be moved to a first reading so that at the Joint Boards of Education meeting on May 24, all three Boards can discuss and move ahead with the policies. J. Stinson said that there are a handful of policies that need further consideration at this time, so these policies are not included in this initial group.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept for a first reading: the adoption of Shipman & Goodwin policies on Schedule A and the repeal of all existing policies except those on Schedule B. (Wible, Chieda). Approved. Unanimous.

J. Stinson explained that when he was first elected Chairperson of the Easton BOE, the former Chairperson asked him to wait until July to take office since they were in the middle of budget season; J. Stinson agreed to this. He said that BOE members now need to consider whether or not the Board wants to continue in this fashion or not, and that, if so, Shipman & Goodwin recommended that the Easton BOE by-laws be changed to reflect this. A discussion followed on the specifics of: having the required election in December after the November municipal election, but officers not taking office until July; moving the timing of the officer election; having two elections; special or regular meeting required for elections; and, schedule of meetings for this coming summer.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept for a first reading an amendment to Policy 9121, regarding election of officers to include a second election of officers at the completion of the June meeting following the municipal elections. (deJesus, Wible). Approved. Unanimous.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

D. Wible thanked Dr. McKinnon, saying his role in the District has been truly amazing and transformative.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (deJesus, Hicks).
Approved. Unanimous.**

The Easton Board of Education Regular meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Submitted by Jon Stinson
Chairperson, Easton Board of Education

Recorded by,
Sarah Ota