

Filed subject to approval

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Easton Public Library Community Room

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August 9, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Parker, Hicks, Wible

Remote: Stinson, DeJesus, Young.

Administration via remote: Pierson Ugol, Scrofani.

Others: the recording secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

J. Stinson called the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hearing no amendments or corrections, J. Stinson deemed the Minutes of the June 14, 2022 Easton Board of Education Regular meeting and the June 28, 2022 Easton, Redding, Region 9 Joint Boards of Education Special Meeting approved by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, reported on recent hiring at Samuel Staples Elementary School and Helen Keller Middle School. She said that at SSES the following certified positions had been filled: two kindergarten teachers; one 1st grade teacher; two 2nd grade teachers (one being a long-term sub); one art teacher; one music teacher; and, one part-time gym teacher. She said the following non-certified positions had been filled at SSES: one kindergarten paraprofessional; one math paraprofessional; one library/media paraprofessional; and cafeteria/recess aides. Dr. Pierson Ugol said that at HKMS, the non-certified positions of math paraprofessional, lunch/recess aides and SpEd paraprofessional had been hired. She reported that kindergarten enrollment was on track with 98 students, and that class size will be 15-17 in the lower grades at SSES and 18-20 in the upper grades at SSES. Dr. Pierson Ugol said that enrollment at HKMS was also on track with 290 students. She said that K-8 placement letters will go out to parents on August 19.

Director of Finance, Operations & Technology, Sara Scrofani, reported that the new ER9 Districts Facilities Manager, Stephen Seifert, had started employment on August 1. She said that he was implementing larger projects and oversaw the finishing of security projects at SSES and the ongoing

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security work at HKMS. S. Scrofani spoke about the Transfers Report, saying that the transfers had been made in an effort to make the budget more transparent; she said that the District's budget has very specific budget lines and sometimes she needs to reclassify amounts in these lines.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

J. Stinson said that election of a new BOE Chairperson and Secretary needed to take place. Nominations for these positions were as follows: J. Parker nominated R. Hicks for BOE chairperson; J. DeJesus nominated D. Wible for BOE Secretary; J. Parker nominated J. Stinson for BOE Secretary. A paper ballot vote from BOE members resulted in: six votes for R. Hicks for BOE chairperson and a 3-3 tie for D. Wible and J. Stinson for BOE Secretary. J. Stinson said that he'd like to see other BOE members take on leadership roles because it is good for the BOE and for the community. A BOE member changed their vote to D. Wible, and with the vote of 4-2, D. Wible was elected BOE Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINANCIAL UPDATE

S. Scrofani reported that Central Office is working on finalizing the 2021-2022 financials, and were able to identify approximately \$619,837 in unexpended funds and \$271,666.09 in encumbered funds. She said that the bulk of the encumbered funds are for school security enhancements and that the numbers are estimates because final costs are still outstanding in some areas, such as professional services, tuition, and energy costs. S. Scrofani said that the BOE approved \$500K had been transferred to the health benefits account and the balance of this account is now \$1,021,989.16. A brief discussion took place regarding: unencumbered funds, any additional unexpended funds and the language of Motions concerning this topic at previous BOE meetings.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CHANGE IN AUTHORIZED SIGNER OF THE ED-099 AGREEMENT FOR CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education appoint Director of Finance, Operations & Technology, Sara Scrofani, to be the authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program. (Parker, Stinson). Approved. 6-0.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEI Task Force: D. Wible reported that they had met on June 6 and that Dr. Pierosn Ugol had given an update on the Climate Committee and also explained the concept of culturally responsive pedagogy. She said that there are some member slots to fill on the Task Force.

Curriculum Committee: D. Wible reported that a new book had been selected for the 6th grade curriculum work. She said the book, Fever 1793, by Laurie Halse Anderson, is about a girl trying to help her family survive during the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia and is also more rigorous than the previous book used by the 6th grade. D. Wible said that there is a new health and wellness education video because the old one was in a VHS format and was otherwise outdated. Dr. Pierson Ugol added that the results of the school Climate survey will be presented in October.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

A. Young said that she is looking forward to working with everyone.

J. Stinson thanked R. Hicks and D. Wible for taking on the responsibilities and that he knows they will do a fantastic job. He also thanked J. Parker for all his years of service to the BOE.

J. DeJesus said she echoed J. Stinson's comments.

J. Parker congratulated R. Hicks and D. Wible on their new BOE assignments and thanked J. Stinson for all of his hard work.

D. Wible said that she is excited for a new school year and that she is impressed at all the positions that the administration was able to fill considering that there is a teacher shortage going on. She said that this is a testament to the quality school district in Easton that people want to work here. D. Wible thanked J. Stinson and J. Parker for all of their hard work.

R. Hicks thanked J. Stinson and J. Parker for all of their leadership, and thanked D. Wible for agreeing to be BOE Secretary. He also asked BOE members to email him with their top 2-3 goals for the BOE.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (Parker, Wible).
Approved. 6-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Devon Wible
Secretary, Easton Board of Education

Recorded by,
Sarah Ota