

Filed subject to approval

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

December 13, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

Helen Keller Middle School Learning Commons

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

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Parker, Hicks, Wible, DeJesus, Young

Remote: Stinson,

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani, Del Conte, Fox-Santora

CALL TO ORDER

R. Hicks called the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Hearing no amendments or corrections, R. Hicks deems the 11/09/22 Minutes of the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting approved by unanimous consent.

Hearing no objections R. Hicks deems the Superintendent to attend the American Association of School Administrators Conference approved by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary Principal, Ms. Fox-Santora reported that the SSES Senate held two successful fundraisers. She then gave an update on the School Climate Staff Survey. There was a common thread in the survey data that non-certified staff felt overlooked. She held a feedback session with non-certified staff to hear from them about ideas to improve how they felt at work. They shared ideas to support non-verbal students, that they would like to attend faculty meetings, and also had some ideas about PD that would help them in their work.

Ms. Fox-Santora then shared that SSES had a tremendous turnout for parent-teacher conferences.

She then announced the winner of the Fire Prevention poster winners for 4th and 5th grade.

SSES welcomed 4 new students and will be welcoming 4 new students when the school returns from holiday break in January.

Director of Special Education, Ms. J. DelConte reported about Specialized Services. She shared that we have a new IEP system that is being used across the state of CT. About 95% of the SSES and HKMS have been trained. She also reported about the goal to strengthen the connection between 8 th and 9 th grade to make sure the transition goes well for students and educators.

Director of Finance, Operations and Technology, Ms. S. Scrofani provided a financial update. She pointed out a few items in the transfer reports to support the new students at SSES to fund their needed school supplies. She then reviewed the health claims analysis report. She doesn't see any red flags in the report. Finally, she reported that she has started to prepare the budget for next year. The board members asked a couple of clarifying questions about the health care spent year to date. It was noted that our health care spending is tracking above budget. We will keep watching as claims and numbers come in for December and January to decide how to proceed with possibly slowing spending in other areas as needed.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2022-2023 EASTON BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

The board discussed the proposed 2023 calendar. During the discussion, the board discussed moving the March 14 th board meeting to March 9 th . The member discussed that Tri-Board meetings

MOTION: Move to adopt the 2023 Easton Board of Education calendar as proposed except the March 14 th meeting will be changed to March 9th and all of the Joint Board of Education Meetings will start at 7:30pm.(Wible, Parker) Unanimous. (6-0)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CREATING FACILITIES COMMITTEE TO STUDY INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

MOTION: Move to form a standing facilities committee to review facilities and infrastructure needs and opportunities. (Parker, Young) Unanimous. (6-0)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DISTRICT PRIORITIES

Superintendent, Dr. J. McKinnon gave a summary of the strategic planning process. He explained that the board will see these priorities during the budget process as they will drive some of the financial asks. He then walked through the organization of the strategic priorities and gave some examples of potential budget needs as they aligned to the strategic priorities. After Dr. J. McKinnon reviewed the 6 strategic priorities, he asked the board what they would do with the plan? D. Wible suggested adding a priority to the "Right to Read" legislation. Dr. J. McKinnon agreed. A. Young suggested moving Priority 2.4 to Year 1 from Year 2. Dr. McKinnon answered that he would present a close- to-final draft in January and that it would include an 80% complete profile of a graduate and moved it on the document. R. Hicks asked if the list is in order of priority and Dr. J. McKinnon answered yes. The Board continued a discussion about priorities, values, and metrics and how to visualize the information. There was then a brief discussion about how often Dr. J. McKinnon will update the board on their progress; he recommended 3 times per year (beginning, middle, and ended). Finally, the session ended with J. Parker recommended that the district use some of the covid relief funds to cover some of the year 1 programs.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FOOD SERVICES

Food Services: end of USDA grant and prices through June 2023 J. Parker provided an update on the federal funds currently covering school lunches for all students, which is coming to an end on 12/31/22. The school will continue to use some excess to fund school lunches for all students

through 1/23/23. J. Parker then explained that food costs have increased, on average, by 12.9%. He explained that due to that average increase, some food items are being increased. The board then engaged in a discussion about the funds in the food service account.

MOTION: Move that the Easton Board of Education utilizes funds in the joint food service account to cover the cost of lunches when the SMART funding is exhausted through January 23, 2023 according to prices reflected in Table 1 of the 12/6/2022 memo. (Parker, Young). Unanimous (6-0)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Dr. J. McKinnon shared a memo that provided an overview of Dr. Prowda's enrollment projections. He explained the projections. J. Parker asked K. Fox- Santora about the Kindergarten project (85) and she said that she will know more early in 2023.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee D. Wible and Dr. Pierson-Ugol provided an overview of the topics discussed at the 12/6/22 meeting. They provided an update on the Middle School Science Curriculum, the Right to Read legislation, and the Middle School Math Curriculum. The board then engaged in a discussion about middle school math and potential root causes of sluggish test scores. The committee concluded the meeting by approving the 2023 calendar.

DEI Task Force D. Wible informed the board the the next meeting is on 12/20/22 at 5pm at JBHS. It will be a 1 hr meeting due to Region 9 meetings happening on the same evening.

Policy Committee J. Stinson provided an update on the meeting the committee had at 5pm today. They discussed 3 categories of items: Items deferred, potentially controversial items, and legislative items.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

J. DeJesus asked a question about the furniture and fixtures and technology line. These are currently overspent. S. Scrofani explained that the district is currently waiting on reimbursement funds. Then there was a question about excess costs and S. Scrofani explained that with Special Education students that the state covers some of the costs based on a yearly threshold set every year.

D. Wible thanked ELF, thanked SSES for the Paddington Bear Project, and HKMS for Toys for Tots.

A. Young thanked the community for fundraisers and thanked Dr. McKinnon for his work on the strategic plan. She also wished everyone on the board a happy holiday season.

J. Parker asked Dr. McKinnon to share a facilities report that was prepared a few years ago.

R. Hicks wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (Parker, Young).

Approved. 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Submitted and Recorded by Devon Wible
Secretary, Easton Board of Education