

*Filed subject to approval*

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

January 10, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Helen Keller Middle School Learning Commons

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

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

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

Remote: DeJesus

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

CALL TO ORDER

R. Hicks called the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Consent Agenda:

Hearing no amendments or corrections, R. Hicks deems the December 13, 2022 Minutes of Easton Board of Education Regular meeting approved by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2023-2024 EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET  
Dr. McKinnon led the board through the 2023-2024 proposed Easton Board of Education budget. He explained that more than 1600 Easton residents voted in favor of the budget with more than 80% of the voters supporting education. He asked the board to focus on the question: how can we improve instead of how much can we afford? Next he moved into the presentation (see presentation). In the 1st section, Dr. McKinnon talked about the budget process and introduced the proposed budget. Next, Dr. McKinnon explained that the central office has developed a website that includes our Strategic Plan as well as the budget information. In the 3rd section, he provided an overview of the main budget drivers, which include: medical insurance (+10.5%), utilities (+6.06%), Curriculum & Instruction (+147.9%), Transportation (+4.13%), Special Education Outplacement (+189%). In the 4th section, Dr. McKinnon discussed enrollment and proposed staff changes as well as providing a review of title and covid relief grants. After explaining the high-level needs, Dr. McKinnon discussed each staff need in detail and provided detail in how he proposes the reorganization of the central office. In Section 5, the Superintendent discussed the cost center overviews for Samuel Staples Elementary School, Helen Keller Middle School, Pupil Personnel Services, Facilities, Technology, Curriculum & Instruction, District Wide, and Central Office. In Section 6, Dr. McKinnon overviewed a budget summary which showed a proposed increase of 4.37%. Then, he discussed community engagement including PTO meetings, faculty meetings, and town venues.

After the presentation, the board asked initial questions about the budget presentation. J. Parker asked about the new position at the Central Office. Dr. McKinnon explained that the business manager would now take on the responsibilities for facilities. J. Parker asked about Special Education costs and Dr. McKinnon explained how they got to a .03% increase. R. Hicks then asked about the K-8 Math Coordinator position and its purpose; Dr. S. Pierson Ugol explained that this position is an administrative role with a focus on fidelity to curriculum. J. Parker then asked another question about MLL Teacher and if .4 FTE is enough for Easton. Dr. S. Pierson Ugol and Dr. J. McKinnon explained that they believe this position plus a TESOL para will be enough for the 2023-24 school year. R. Hicks asked for more specifics about the impact of new positions and the percentage of time they will spend with students vs. teachers vs. coaching as well as how their addition will potentially impact other positions. D. Wible asked about the Science Coordinator position; Dr. McKinnon explained that this position is a 2nd year priority. D. Wible also asked about an update to the "Right to Read" legislation; Dr. S. Pierson Ugol shared that the waiver deadline was pushed back, but there isn't a further update. J. Stinson mentioned that before winter break there was a CES lunch in which concerns were raised about the timing of the legislation. D. Wible then asked if the bus routes have recently been examined to accommodate the increase in students to the districts and those now riding the bus post-Covid.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CURRICULUM MEETING CALENDAR

D. Wible explained that the Curriculum Calendar needs to be updated to align with changes to Easton and Redding Board of Education meetings. J. Stinson explained that while we should vote on these changes, the calendar also has to be approved by the Easton Curriculum Committee by the end of January.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the 2023 Curriculum Committee Meeting Calendar. (Stinson, Young) Approved 6-0.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARGE

**Motion: move to amend the agenda to include the Facilities Advisory Committee Charge. (Stinson, Hicks) Approved 6-0.**

J. Parker explained that A. Young developed the charge for the new Facilities Advisory Committee. J. Stinson asked who the voting members are in the committee. J. Parker agreed to add a sentence at the end of the charge clarifying that the voting members are appointed Easton Board Members, Director of Finance, and the Superintendent.

**Motion: move to approve the amended Facilities Advisory Committee Charge. (Wible, Young) Approve 6-0.**

#### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

J. Parker provided an update on the Facilities Advisory Committee which included extensive walkthroughs of both Samuel Staples Elementary School (SSES) and Helen Keller Middle School (HKMS). He mentioned that there are extensive water problems at HKMS that need immediate attention and that there are smaller water problems at SSES that need to be fixed. The committee is working to schedule a meeting with Dr. J. McKinnon and S. Scrofani to discuss next steps.

D. Wible provided an update from the DEI Task Force. The consultant provided an update on the PD he's doing across the 4 schools. Dr. McKinnon then discussed priority 2 and its connection to the DEI work. In addition, the task force welcomed 3 new student reps.

J. Parker reminded everyone that families will begin paying for school lunches on 1/23/23.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

D. Wible thanked Dr. McKinnon and the central office for their work in pulling together a clear budget presentation aligned to the district's priorities.

J. DeJesus thanked Dr. McKinnon and team, and asked for next steps. Dr. McKinnon said that he would email out key dates and times. She also thanked A. Young and J. Parker for taking a leadership role in the facilities work.

A. Young thanked Dr. Clapp and the Samuel Staples team for the school tours. She also thanked Dr. McKinnon for a thoughtful budget tied to our strategic priorities.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

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