

Filed subject to approval

Easton Board of Education
Meeting
April 1, 2015
Minutes

Attendance:

Board of Education: Bobroske, Hicks, Horowitz, Underberger

Administration: Josefsberg, Sullivan, Friedlander, Freeston, Fox Santora, Brownstein, Kaplan, Burke

Others: seven members of the staff and community, and a representative of the Easton Courier

Mrs. Bobroske called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion; move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting as submitted. Underberger, Horowitz. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Underberger announced Dr. Tom McMorran's appointment as superintendent effective July 1, 2015. He thanked Dr. Josefsberg for the wonderful work he did over the past four years.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A DONATION

Mr. Brownstein reported that a parent of a Samuel Staples Elementary School has offered a donation to fund the purchase of a drum set for the school.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept with gratitude the generous donation of \$400.00 for the purchase of a drum set for the Samuel Staples Elementary School. Underberger, Horowitz. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TWO-TIER BUSING PROPOSAL

Additional information on the timing of the bus runs was reviewed. Discussion of level of ridership and amount of time on the bus was concerning. Mrs. Sullivan noted that parents can opt out of the bus program, and request a pickup with 24 hours' notice. Mrs. Bobroske suggested polling parents about opting out with the knowledge that they have the 24 hour option. Additional information was requested to allow for a comparison of actual current bus times with the 2-tier system. No action was taken.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2015-16 OPERATING BUDGET

Board members met with the Board of Finance prior to the meeting to review the budget proposal. The Board of Finance requested a \$100,000 reduction in the budget.

Mrs. Sullivan reported that the \$100,000 can be reduced by the \$35,000 grant, to the Town of Easton, received for security expenses incurred in a previous year by the Board of Education. The Board of Finance was agreeable to giving the Board of Education a credit for that amount, leaving a \$65,000 reduction. Mrs. Sullivan also reported the Central Office budget for Easton's share can be reduced by \$11,000, due to the change in the superintendent salary for the new superintendent. Mrs. Sullivan reduced the capital expenses in the 2015-16 budget by \$40,000, with those items to be paid for out of the current year budget. The unexpected increase in state reimbursement for special education excess costs money

will cover those costs. The Excess reimbursement money was budgeted at 70%, but came in at about 80%. Another \$5,000 can be reduced due to a clerical error in the World Language account. That leaves about \$11,000 to be reduced from a variety of accounts.

Board members discussed the Capital List, specifically the two items that were not included in the proposed budget, the painting of hallways (\$19,000) and the water fountains (\$10,000), both at Helen Keller Middle School. The entire list of capital items will be revisited and possibly reprioritized.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education adopt a revised 2015-16 Operating budget of \$15,581,592, representing a 1.15% increase over the current year budget. Underberger, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RECOMMENDATION OF SUPERINTENDENT CONCERNING TEACHER NON-RENEWALS

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept with regret the recommendation of the Superintendent and move that the contract of employment of Jessica Cydlo and JodiAnn Forte not be renewed for the 2015-16 school year, and direct the Superintendent to notify those persons of this action in writing. Underberger, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora reported recent special events at the school. She also reported on an issue with the school's septic system. A local electrician, and parent, was contacted to make the repairs. The individual completed the repairs at no cost to the school.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan reported on the music program. She also thanked the PTA for their sponsorship of a parent program on drug and alcohol use among children.

Special Services: Mrs. Friedlander reported transition meetings are being planned and the summer program with the Easton Community Center is being finalized.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Mrs. Pierson Ugol was not present, but provided a written report.

Director of Finance: Mrs. Sullivan reported the year-to-date expenses are tracking as expected, with the Snow Removal account being the only account showing an overrun. The Transfer Report was reviewed.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg commented Mrs. Pierson Ugol was not present because she was preparing for her dissertation for her doctorate work.

WASTEWATER PERMIT RENEWAL

Mr. Horowitz reported he and Mrs. Sullivan met with two consulting firms to review solutions. Both had similar recommendations. The project will be broken into two phases, with the first phase being the soil sampling that would determine the next steps and costs.

LONG TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Bobroske reported the Committee will meet next week to further develop the options for consideration and presentation to the Board of Education in May.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shannon Barnett, South Park Avenue: Mrs. Barnett thanked the board members for not rushing a decision on the 2-tier bus system, for their work on the budget, and for their willingness to listen to the parents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education recess to executive session for discussion of appointment of Director of Special Services. Underberger, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Josefsberg was invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 8:20 pm.

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:46 pm.

Motion: To approve the appointment of Tracy Edwards to the position of Director of Special Services, pending successful contract negotiations. Underberger, Horowitz. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Underberger, Horowitz. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday