

Filed subject to approval

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

March 9, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Helen Keller Middle School Learning Commons

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

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

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

Remote: DeJesus

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani, Clapp, Del Conte, FoxSantora

CALL TO ORDER

R. Hicks called the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:18pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move that Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2023 Easton Board of Education Meeting

Make an update to the 2/14/23 minutes to reflect that J. Parker stated that the Easton population would increase. (Parker, Young) Approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Megan Mones, 884 Sport Hill Rd: She is the mother of a preK 4 student. She is concerned that the PreK program is underfunded and that the district is relying on part-time service providers instead of full-time staff. For example, the preschool doesn't have a BCBA. While her child was approved for services, the current program does not have the resources to support it, which means her family will have to move her child.

Marissa Strong, Sport Hill Rd: She stated that her child is in the preschool 3s program. She explained that the preschool program is under-resourced and important resources are missing or inconsistent. For example, there have been 4 OTs in this school year. The class size has continued to increase, which means students who need the most support aren't getting it.

Amanda Sanders, Silver Hill Rd: She stated that she has two children at SSES, a kindergartener and a child in the 3s program. She explained that her children had vastly different experiences in the preschool – her older child had a strong experience which is quite different from the current experience of her 3-year-old. She described the current program as under-resourced and chaotic.

Steven Sanders, Silver Hill Rd: He is concerned that the quality of our schools is declining. He urged the Board to take action now before it gets worse.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

J. Parker stated that he knows we've had turnover in the preschool and asked if we've done exit interviews with employees who have left the district.

D. Wible thanked the parents for bringing their concerns to the board.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. McKinnon thanked the parents in attendance. He explained that the District has started Special Education Focus Groups. He hired an outside consultant to support this effort. To date, there have been multiple group discussions with school leaders and teachers. There will be additional meetings with paraprofessionals and parents later in March. The objective is to understand what the district is doing well and what the district isn't doing well.

J. Stinson asked if we know why we've had so much turnover. Dr. McKinnon explained that the district typically knows why someone leaves the district (more salary, less of a commute, etc).

J. Stinson also asked about how the district is thinking about long-term planning for the preschool.

D. Wible asked if there is anything the Board can do right now to help with the immediate challenges in the preschool. Dr. McKinnon answered that he and Ms. Cram met with paraprofessionals yesterday and they discussed concerns about being pulled from classes to act as substitutes and concerns about salaries.

K. Fox Santora thanked the parents for sharing their concerns. She shared that the 2nd grade teachers won an ELF grant for \$1200 to support their students in building pinball machines. She also shared that the "souper" bowl was a great success as was the class senate collection for Turkey and Syria. The school has also started a Garden Club, which has over 100 students volunteer. The talent show is at the end of the month, and there will be many students sharing their talents with the school community. SSES also has a new band/music teacher.

A. Young thanked K. Fox Santora for getting the DARE program back at SSES.

R. Hicks asked about Kindergarten enrollment. K. Fox Santora shared that she thinks it will be under 85.

Dr. Clapp shared that HKMS has welcomed a new 8th Grade math teacher. He's already been a great addition to the math team. Last week, the school had the school play, "13", with over 40 students participating. This week, Dr. Clapp has been doing team learning walks where he does learning walks with other teachers and then debriefs with the team. Tomorrow is the first school dance, Hawaiian themed, which he and his team are very excited about. Dr. Clapp explained that he has interviewed 11 substitutes.

J. Parker asked if there would be an 8th grade dance. Dr. Clapp wanted to meet with the student council and parents before making a decision.

J. Stinson asked about the summer program. Dr. Pierson Ugol answered that SSES will run summer programming and HKMS will not be able to.

S. Scrofani provided a financial report. She explained that she doesn't have final health insurance numbers, but that she will share it next week. She provided an update to the Board that the facilities committee will be doing school walkthroughs at the end of the month and that the central office team is working on the presentation to the Board of Finance.

J. Parker asked about potential underspending, and she said that she is waiting for encumbrances to show correctly.

R. Hicks asked about possible breakages. S. Scrofani explained that most of the breakage will be from para and BCBA positions.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: ELF DONATION

Dr. McKinnon explained that ELF has generously donated an additional \$10,000 to the cafeteria project. Dr. Clapp thanked ELF and explained that the \$10,000 will be used for additional seating in the cafeteria.

MOTION: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the generous donation from ELF of \$10,000. (Stinson, Parker) 6-0.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

R. Hicks explained that the curriculum committee met earlier this evening.

MOTION: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the Social Studies curriculum framework. (Parker, Stinson) 6-0.

J. Stinson provided a brief update on the policy committee.

J. Parker explained that the facilities committee will be doing school walks at the end of March.

J. Stinson asked for an update on the negotiations for this year and to make sure we have a schedule for upcoming years.

J. Parker explained that the Food Service committee heard from the state and that school lunch will be covered by the state backdated to March 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm

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