

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
Helen Keller Middle School Learning Commons YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRtQ6dze5a8x5XT5LzBnDHA>
Minutes

INSTR # M2023000733
DATE FILED 12/13/2023 12:09:08 PM
DERORAH SZESZEDI TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Hicks, Parker, Young, Wible, Natt, DeJesus (zoom)
Administration: McKinnon, Scrofani, D'Agostino, Matz, Fox Santora, Clapp

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

R. Hicks noted that the last sentence in Administrative Reports is in relation to PreK class size.

MOTION: Move that the minutes from the November 14, 2023 meetings be approved by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

J. Parker congratulated the Joel Barlow High School football team for their state championship for the 2nd year in a row.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. McKinnon invited the public to attend Thursday's movie night and encouraged community members to donate coats. He also noted that there's a community book club at the end of January.

K. Fox Santora explained the K-4 students are learning about coding. This Friday is the annual Kindergarten Sing-Along; all parents are invited. SSES had a successful student-led assembly about kindness as well as a pajama day that earned over \$1k for CT Childrens.

Dr. Clapp shared that there was a great Veteran's Day event on 11/8. He also thanked the HR Director, Ms. Cram, for hiring three substitute custodians to help when people are out. HKMS also held their 40th annual pancake breakfast, which had more than 400 customers. He also noted that the ELF cafeteria project is almost complete. Dr. Clapp then shared that 13 extracurriculars are running with more than 130 students participating. He also shared that the HKMS students are putting on Finding Nemo Jr. on March 8 and 9. There are two concerts coming up: Choral on Jan 17 @6pm at SSES and the Instrumental concert on Jan 24 @6pm at HKMS.

S. Scrofani explained the financial report. She noted that the health care expenses were higher in November, but that the financials are still trending in a positive direction. Dr. McKinnon mentioned that the team met with Brown and Brown earlier today to prepare for when he presents the Superintendent's budget at the January board meeting. He scheduled Brown and Brown to present to the board on February 13, 2024. Next, S. Scrofani explained that they updated eFinance+, which causes some of the budget items

to not line up correctly, so she is fixing that and will send that once it's fixed. She also reiterated that she is watching the Special Education lines very closely because we will be over in those line items.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

J. Parker reported about the Facilities committee meeting. M. D'Agostino is pulling together budget numbers for some requests.

R. Hicks reported on the Transportation committee meeting. He requested an extension to the bus contract and is waiting for a response.

D. Wible provided an update on the Curriculum committee. The meeting was canceled. Dr. Pierson Ugol sent a memo with updates.

D. Wible also noted that the DEI Task Force will be meeting on 12/19 at 6pm at Joel Barlow High School.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR 2024-2025

Dr. McKinnon explained the Prowda enrollment projections. The projections show an increase of 23 students at SSES and 6 students at HKMS. The report also includes a 10-year projection, which shows continued growth.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: STAFF REPORT

Dr. McKinnon will release the Staff Report when he presents the budget. The district is seeing an increase in students who need special education support. Referrals and outplacements are both up year over year. He explained how the Special Education team has changed and how they are learning what their needs are, and he expects a one-time budget to ensure we can meet the changing needs of the school community. K. Matz shared a presentation to demonstrate the increased need. Starting in January, SSES will open a 3rd section of PreK, which will result in adding a teacher and rebalancing paraprofessionals. In addition, SSES will add a .6 BCBA. For 2024-2025, she is requesting three sections. This will also increase the number of tuition-paying students to 18 budgeted.

Next, Dr. McKinnon and K. Matz shared the need for Special Education teachers. There is no change in FTEs, but there is a change in how they will fill the FTE positions.

K. Matz then explained the needs for related services. She explained that in some cases the increase is because she is recommending moving away from contracted services to school-based positions.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2024 AASA/NCE CONFERENCE

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education approve Dr. McKinnon's participation and trip to the 2024 AASA/NCE Conference. (Parker, Young) Approved (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

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