

*Filed subject to approval*

Easton Board of Education Meeting  
May 12, 2015  
Minutes

Attendance:

Board of Education: Bobroske, Hicks, Horowitz, Parker, Peskay (7:35 pm), Underberger  
Administration: Josefsberg, Pierson Ugol, Freeston, Fox-Santora, Brownstein, Kaplan, Burke  
Others: seven members of the staff and community, and a representative of the Easton Courier

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion; move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the April 1, 2015 meeting as submitted. Underberger, Bobroske. Approved. 4-0-1. Mr. Parker abstained.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Antonez, Judd Road: Mr. Antonez questioned the academic benefits of the Dare Program in the Easton schools. He suggested that the curriculum undergo a review by the Board of Education to determine if it meets its objectives.

Dr. Peskay arrived, 7:35 pm

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THIRD PARTY ANALYSIS OF BUSINESS OPTIMIZATION

Mrs. Bobroske reported that in the work of the Long Range Planning Committee, the committee has discussed with members of the Redding Long Range Committee the opportunity to engage Jonathan Costa of Education Connection to facilitate a discussion that will include consideration of the current and potential transportation issues within the context of effective processes for working cooperatively across Easton and Redding. The Redding Board of Education has \$6,000 in grant money from Education Connection for use in exploring cooperative or regional agreements. She suggested that the funds be used to engage Education Connection (Jonathan Costa) to assist the Long Range Planning Committee with the study of transportation and related issues.

Mrs. Bobroske stated that the committees will work with Mr. Costa before the grant expires on June 30, 2015.

Dr. Peskay indicated she would like the Board to discuss the potential of changing to a two-tier system for the fall of 2015.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education allow the Long Range Planning Committee to engage Education Connection to analyze current busing strategy, with a secondary goal of developing effective processes to use in cooperative arrangements between the Easton/Redding districts, and recommend options to identify cost efficiencies and start time alignments. Analysis cost would be bound by the current 2014-15 Redding grant allocation. Bobroske, Underberger. Approved. Unanimous.**

DISCUSSION OF EASTON LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Bobroske and members of the Long Range Planning Committee reviewed the report of the work undertaken to date. The report included the objectives of the work, enrollment data, overview of work completed in Phase 1, options to explore and recommended next steps. (Copies of the report will be available on the school website)

#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON 2015-16 SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE

Mrs. Pierson Ugol proposed a minor change to the calendar. She proposed change the Professional Development Day on October 9 to September 29, 2015. This will facilitate a full day of math instruction for the staff with a renowned Math Specialist. The individual making the presentation is only available on that day in the fall. A parent presentation would be planned for that evening. Discussion of the change followed. Many were concerned that this would eliminate the Columbus Day long weekend, but felt the benefit of the professional development activity would outweigh that. The program would involve all staff, K-8, and include staff in the Redding schools.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve changing the Staff Day on October 9, 2015 to September 29, 2015, contingent upon the Redding Board of Education taking the same action. Bobroske, Horowitz. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON GOOGLE PLATFORM TRAINING

Mr. Brownstein explained the migration from the Microsoft platform to the Google platform for the schools. He stressed the importance of providing staff training on the platform and suggested allowing the staff to complete the training outside of their normal work day. This would eliminate the staff day planned for Monday, June 22 for those who do so, and allow staff to complete their work for the year on June 19. Dr. Josefsberg indicated that, if approved, plans for the training would be developed.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education authorize the administration to provide professional development/training opportunities related to the Google platform outside of the contractual workday. Teachers who complete this training in advance may closeout the academic school year on Friday, June 29, 2015. Parker, Hicks. Approved 3-2-1. Voting for the motion: Bobroske, Parker, Underberger. Voting against the motion: Hicks, Horowitz. Abstaining: Peskay.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO EXPLORE CHANGING FROM DIESEL FUEL TO NATURAL GAS FOR BUSING

Mr. Parker asked Andy Kachele to explain the proposal. Mr. Kachele provided information for the board members on the topic and potential benefits, including a cost savings. The proposal suggested changing the fuel use, housing the buses in Easton and creating a bus depot that would include a fueling station. He estimated the savings from not shuttling the buses to/from Bethel would be a savings of \$250,000. The cost of setting up a bus depot and making the change could be offset by the estimated savings. He did not have a specific recommendation for a location of the bus depot, but suggested the SSES site would be possible.

Board members discussed the proposal. There was a general sense of the board to pursue the topic further. Mr. Parker will spearhead the process to move this forward.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fax-Santora highlighted her written report and the recent events at the school.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan reported on recent activities at the school and the upcoming 505h anniversary celebration of the school.

Special Services: Mrs. Freeston reported the staff is working on transition, students moving from elementary to middle school, and the middle school students moving to the high school. She added that the Preschool staff is working collaboratively with the Preschool program in Redding.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Pierson Ugol reported the Staff and Administrative evaluation plans are being finalized for submission to the State Dept. of Education.

Director of Finance: Mrs. Sullivan was not present. Dr. Josefsberg noted that the Health Insurance Claims were high for the month of March, but that trend is not expected to continue.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg thanked Mrs. Bobroske and the Long Range Planning Committee for their work.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Thompson: Mrs. Thompson commented on some difficulties with transitioning from the Microsoft platform to the Google platform. She suggested that information and training be offered to parents.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hicks asked if some of the capital list items to be funded in the current year were progressing. Mrs. Kaplan reported a water fountain near the gym was installed today, and the tile replacement in Room 201, carpet replacement in the band room, and replacement of science room tables are all scheduled to be completed before June 30, 2015.

Dr. Peskay asked if board members could attend the planned Math Professional Development Day presentation on September 29, 2015, and if they could be included in the Google Training. Dr. Pierson Ugol indicated that board members would be welcome.

Mr. Parker suggested that board members consider the comments by Mr. Antonez regarding the Dare Program and discuss the issue further at the next meeting.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Dr. Josefsberg was invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 10:30 pm

#### RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 10:45 pm

**Motion: move to accept the negotiated contract for Tracy Edwards, Director of Special Services. Parker, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous**

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 pm

Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Board of Education Secretary  
Recorded by Mary Maday