

*Filed subject to approval*

Easton Board of Education  
Special Board Meeting  
September 15, 2014  
Minutes

Attendance:

Board of Education: Bobroske, Hicks, Horowitz, Parker, Peskay, Underberger

Administration: Pierson Ugol

Others: none

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

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education recess to Executive Session to discuss the paraprofessional union contract. Bobroske. Horowitz. Approved. Unanimous. Executive Session commenced at 7:31 p.m.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education resume Public Session. Bobroske. Horowitz. Approved. Unanimous. Public Session commenced at 7:55 p.m.**

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Paraprofessional Union Contract: no action taken

Short- and Long-Term Planning Discussions

The Board continued their discussion from the July 6, 2014 special Board meeting. Mr. Parker referred to the 14 points and list of major components board members had agreed to during their previous meeting. Is there a duplication of items? Should the list be consolidated? What should the objective be for the next hour? Mr. Parker stated the short- and long-term plan should focus on: Technology, Parent, Student, and Staff, as well as look at the education component differently. The hope is to break down the list to 4 or 5 key points which various areas could feed into. We also need to address differentiation. What do we need to do to make it all happen?

A discussion ensued which raised numerous questions. Do we match individual items to the major components? What is most important to each component? We need to discuss the deliverables and timing and how to combine into a vision. Do we know enough? Is it reasonable to present to central office administrators, school administrators and the public? Do we scope out what we would like to see and ask administration to present and define deliverables? What is the Board's vision and hope? The Board should ask for assistance from administration and the work should be hand in hand.

Regarding deliverables, are we looking for something that would translate into action this budget season? Do we take a small piece? Do we look for gaps in our research and turn to administration?

Dr. Peskay: We need to look at what is fueling our shrinking school district. Easton is not a growing community. How do we make it stand out? If we ask for anything at budget time, it should be to fund the research. Do we hold onto what we have, or develop something new? Is our goal to present to the Board of Finance by budget time or advise them we have a committee looking at Easton's future?

Mr. Parker: The Board needs to be sensitive to the fact the administrators work for 3 districts and attend numerous meetings. Mrs. Bobroske feels the driver needs to be how we do things differently and better to face the challenge and present a vision, not just define gaps.

Mr. Parker asked Mrs. Pierson-Ugol what role she would like to assume. With reference to the focus of the plan, Mrs. Pierson-Ugol stated the student is the core and supports make goals for the learner possible. The teacher is the most immediate. Technology plays into the process of achieving goals. What does bold education look like? It may not show absolute effectiveness. Trying to achieve all of this within the budget base does not allow for a lot of extra. How would we create inter-disciplinary learning experiences when technology is at the center, and achieve expectations for core content?

Dr. Peskay: How do you move from one instructional model to another? How do we re-train staff? How do we get there?

Mrs. Pierson Ugol: We need to see what is in process now to achieve goals. What time line is feasible? How radical is the plan?

Mr. Parker stated the Board of Finance is impressed with new programs (with a zero budge increase). The vision is to continue, and enhance, what we are doing. The question is are the improvements sustainable.

Mr. Underberger stated the following should drive the research: 1) What would make us cutting edge? 2) What can we do short-term? 3) What aren't we doing? 4) What are we willing to give up? 5) What are our aspirations?

Mrs. Pierson-Ugol stated the punch list is very broad and it would be helpful to translate into a vision (a step not yet taken by the group). It was suggested to reconnect individual items to the major components, or "buckets" as well as narrowing the buckets down to something attainable.

In closing, the following questions were posed: Where is the shortcoming with students? What programs will help make Easton a desirable school district? What is our goal and what are we trying to accomplish at the end of the day? If we are to create a vision, we cannot be ready by December. Is the goal to be ready by the next budget year? It was agreed each member should start their research and that the next meeting date is to be determined.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT – none.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Bobroske, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Wendy Brighindi