

Filed Subject to Approval

Regular Meeting
Easton Board of Education
Helen Keller Middle School-Learning Commons
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Easton Board of Education: Parker, Chieda, Bindelglass, Hicks, Reed, Shortt
Administration: McMorran, Reiss, Pierson Ugol, Twiss, Fox Santora, Mohr
Others: 10 members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 21, 2019 Easton Board of Education Budget Workshop. Bindelglass, Reed. Approved 5-1, Hicks abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL FLOOR UPDATE

Mr. Reiss provided an update on the insurance policy for the gym floor and discussed what is covered by insurance and what is not covered by insurance. An example of some of the areas not covered are areas of repeated condensation beneath floor and areas where furniture movement contributed to wear on the tiles. He said that a total estimate of areas not covered by insurance will be provided soon. Mr. Reiss said he plans to begin floor work promptly when school begins summer recess in June of 2019. A decision will need to be made by the Board regarding continuing with wood flooring or moving to synthetic flooring, which will add an approximate expense of \$40,000.00 and which would not be covered by insurance. The recommendation from the Physical Education teachers at HKMS is for wood flooring due to its shock absorption ability.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2019-2020 OPERATING BUDGET

Dr. McMorran discussed with the Board the need to decide on a number for the budget as soon as possible. He spoke about the uncertain costs in the budget, including the Governor's proposal of shifting the state's contribution of the Teacher's Retirement Bureau from the state to local

districts and cost of oil tank removal at HKMS. He also presented a handout describing the Math Specialist Schedule Breakdown. Dr. McMorran emphasized that student performance is greatly improved by the presence of a Math Specialist in the school. Dr. McMorran reported on the current budget status for the 2019-2020 school year. Dr. Bindelglass asked about class size and what would be the optimal class size. Discussion ensued between board members and administration and the conclusion was under 20 students for grades K-3, low 20's for following grades. However, these numbers depend on individual students and their needs and the overall cohort of children at that grade level.

Motion: move to approve Easton Board of Education Budget for 2019-2020 at 2.88% for the amount of \$16,914.306.00. Hicks, Reed. Approved 5-1, Chieda opposed.

REPORTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Bindelglass reported on his meeting with health insurance company Brown & Brown. He said Easton is doing well on the current plan and is more cost effective than the surrounding towns. The Health Insurance committee voted to continue as it stands presently with insurance. Mr. Parker thanked committee members for all their hard work.

REPORTS: DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Twiss spoke about special education and that the prevalence rate is 14% in our district as compared to the state average of 15%. Mr. Reiss discussed the Budget Object Summary and how he anticipates that there may be \$200-250,000 unexpended this year as budget needs have changed. He said that health insurance claims are slowly increasing, but are lower than they were in 2013-2014 at this time. Dr. Pierson Ugol provided updates on the Next Generation Science Standard Testing as it is being administered for the first time this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Ronen, Tuckahoe Road, Easton: said she is thankful that the media center paraprofessional remains in the budget for 2019-2020, as she sees many students using the library.

Nikki Kaldawy, Staples Road, Easton: spoke about class size and how the potential reassignment of teachers can affect students.

Heidi Hanson, Wilson Road, Easton: spoke about the importance of recess and how it contributes to student learning.

Alison Bonoff, Gregory Farm Road, Easton: voiced her approval of students using the bus transportation for school. She discussed special education with Mrs. Twiss, and she emphasized the importance of early intervention.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Parker thanked all board members for their hard work and thanked the public for their attendance at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the meeting be adjourned. Shortt, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

The Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary