

Special Meeting
Easton Board of Education
Helen Keller Middle School-Learning Commons
Friday, March 29, 2019
6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Easton Board of Education: J. Parker, J. Chieda, D. Bindelglass, R. Hicks, K. Reed
Administration: T. McMorran, S. Reiss, V. Cram, K. Fox Santora, A. Mohr
Others: 50 members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ruma Giamolo, Kachele Street, Easton: said she supports bus data analytics and cutting the third and fifth grade teacher.

Anne Manusky, Morning Glory Drive, Easton: spoke of her concerns about the Common Core curriculum and social emotional learning.

Jessica Zannetti, Bayberry Lane, Easton: asked questions about the distance children can walk to a bus stop and sought clarification as to whether it was a town policy or state regulation.

Sheri Williams, Riley Road, Easton: voiced support of air conditioning for the middle school and asked where she could access the master education budget.

Rachel Mazzarelli, Ground Pine Lane, Easton: spoke about the importance of small class size.

Carolyn Oppenheim, Hunting Ridge Road, Easton: thanked the Board and the administrators for their hard work and commitment to the children.

Alison Bonoff, Gregory Farm Road, Easton: expressed concern about people moving out of the state of CT and stated that her average children are not getting anything more out of the education budget.

Brad Canor, Chester Road, Easton: spoke in support of maintaining small class sizes.

Nikki Kaldawy, Staples Road, Easton: expressed concern about class size and keeping Easton attractive to potential faculty working for Sacred Heart and Fairfield Universities.

Brian Briones, Flat Rock Road, Easton: encouraged people to contact their local legislators, Tony Hwang, Will Haskill, and Anne Hughes, about forced regionalization.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: REDUCTIONS TO PROPOSED 2019-2020 BUDGET

Mr. Parker confirmed that the number of dollars that the Board of Finance cut were \$230,306 from what the Easton Board of Education had approved. Dr. McMorran suggested four staff cuts and cuts in tuition reimbursement, as well as moving up a potential capital project to put heaters in the ceilings of Samuel Staples Elementary School. The Board reviewed those cuts and cut the media specialist at Helen Keller Middle School, a kindergarten teacher and kindergarten aide, as well as \$47,000 in extracurricular activities from Helen Keller Middle School. Additionally, the Board moved a capital project to the current fiscal year (fence at Samuel Staples Elementary School) and more tuition reimbursement to get the dollars needed (\$53,000) to retain a first grade teaching position.

Motion: approve the Easton School District budget for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$16,684,000. Bindelglass, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to remediate the oil tank at Helen Keller Middle School and to install space heaters at Samuel Staples Elementary School using anticipated unexpended funds from the 18-19 fiscal year. The Director of Finance and Operations is authorized to transfer up to \$68,000 from 11-1200-510 to 11-2600-450. Hicks, Reed. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Board members thanked the members of the public in attendance and encouraged people to get involved in the budget process earlier on and to vote in the November elections for town positions.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary