

*Filed subject to approval*

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

June 21, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.

Held Remotely Pursuant to Executive Order No. 7B

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93035490248?pwd=N0dze1dHM3pZMjFoNW5ZTFJRR3dHZz09>

Meeting ID: 93035490248 - Passcode: 06612

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Stinson, Hicks, Parker, Wible

Absent: Chieda

Administration: Harrison, Pierson Ugol, Zachery

Others: 12 members of the staff and public, and the recording secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

J. Stinson called the Easton Board of Education Special meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Benson, Pond Road, said that he is concerned about the integrity of the parental DEI survey since parents are able to go to a different server and take the survey multiple times. He said that he respects Dr. Harrison and D. Wible's work and hopes that people do not ruin the integrity of the survey.

Maureen Hanley, Andrews Road, said that she has read on Facebook that parents have taken the DEI survey multiple times and she doesn't understand why controls were not put on it.

Anne Manusky, Morning Glory Road, said that she was there to support parents' concerns about the surveys and wanted to know why individuals were able to have multiple actions.

Kevin (no last name given), Lilac Lane, said that the survey is a huge problem and the parents who have spoken out about it have been ignored. He said the BOE needs to do something to get it right.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

D. Wible said that it's important to be transparent and that the DEI survey was sent out in the same way as all other District surveys. She said that the expectation is not to take advantage of the survey because that would result in hurting the kids in the District.

R. Hicks asked if there is a way to make the survey so that it is essentially not possible to do what people are saying has been done, without making it overly complicated.

Dr. Harrison said that he is looking into the issue. He said that they have used Survey Monkey quite a bit this year and that the same protocols were used for the DEI survey as with all the others. Dr. Harrison said that while these work-arounds can happen, we wouldn't expect that they would happen.

J. Stinson said that depending on the District contract with Survey Monkey, we can ask them to remove duplicate responses. He said that the District is not able to do this, but that Survey Monkey is able to do this.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2020-2021 BUDGET YEAR CLOSE OUT AND ALLOCATION OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS

Director of Finance & Operations, Clarence Zachery, presented a financial update that included outstanding contractual obligations and other committed funds, and said that the projected amount of unspent funds for FY21 will be \$384,742.66. C. Zachery presented a list of needs at the school buildings that was broken into the four categories of: Safety, Operational, Site Improvement and Facility Improvement.

The conversation first focused on the health insurance reserve with C. Zachery stating that the District will end the year with approximately the same amount as what they started. He said that the District had undergone a good year in terms of claims.

The discussion shifted to the need and merits of the projects listed, with particular attention on water and drainage issues at HKMS, computer server replacement, a structural survey at HKMS and the cost of parking lot resurfacing and sidewalk replacement at SSES. C. Zachery confirmed that the SSES pavement and sidewalk project estimate was over \$1M.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education allocate an amount not to exceed \$145,000 for the operational and safety related items identified on Director of Finance & Operations, Clarence Zachery's spreadsheet. (Wible, Parker). Approved. 4-0.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SUPERINTENDENT OUTLOOK FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rydell Harrison, said that the District is waiting for guidance from the State of Connecticut for a reopening plan for 2021-2022. In terms of mitigation strategies, he said that the District also needs to wait for specific guidelines from the CDC and the State. Dr. Harrison said that the feedback from a recent parent survey said that people wanted flexibility for masks; he said that the District can consider that. He said that he and Dr. Pierson Ugol will be working with the Center for School Change on issues of acceleration in terms of instruction, time management, technology and resources to improve instruction. Dr. Harrison said that there will not be a Cohort C next year, as that mandate was lifted, and they are looking at options for future quarantine situations. He said everyone is looking forward to getting back to nurturing the relationships we have with our students.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Benson, Pond Road, questioned the price of the carbon monoxide detectors; questioned the cost of the pavement and sidewalk project at SSES; and said that Tighe & Bond is a good firm.

Anne Manusky, Morning Glory Road, asked why there was no video of the public at the meeting; asked why Easton and Redding had separate meetings on this evening; (inaudible because of connectivity issue) something about masks; said that the health and wellness education of 4th graders needs to be corrected; and said that the 1776 Commission needs to be considered.

J. Stinson replied to A. Manusky's comment about no video for the public by explaining that at the last ER9 meeting, there were several instances of inappropriate videos from the public and in an effort to maintain decorum, public videos had been disabled.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Special meeting be adjourned. (Hicks, Wible). Approved. 4-0.**

The Easton Board of Education special meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by  
Easton Board of Education

Recorded by  
Sarah Ota