

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Virtual via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93035490248?pwd=N0dzeldHM3pZMjFoNW5ZTFJRR3dHZz09>

Meeting ID: 930 3549 0248 Passcode: 06612

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Stinson, Chieda, deJesus, Hicks, Parker, Wible

Administration: McMorran, Pierson Ugol

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Stinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

J. Chieda spoke about her concern surrounding the details for the opening of school and that parents needed this information.

J. Parker stated that reviewing the report from Shipman and Goodwin of the Statutory Changes Affecting Students for the upcoming year. He was surprised there was no mention of "children being required to wear masks" and although it was not on the agenda suggested that the board seek a legal opinion for our attorney on the efficacy of the Governor's Executive Order 13A (which mandates mask wearing until September 30, 2021.)

Randy Hicks asked if the academic schedule at Helen Keller MS would return to "normal" as in pre-pandemic

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Interim Superintendent Dr. Tom McMorran covered the mask wearing component of Executive Order 13A, announced that our two building principals would be sending out detailed instructions surrounding the opening of school by as early as Friday of this week and commented that Easton was a very good town that looked after each other.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol also spoke, stating that HKMS will be on a class schedule very similar to 2019 (pre-pandemic).

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN AUTHORIZED SIGNER OF THE ED-099 AGREEMENT FOR THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve to change the authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program to Dr. Thomas McMorran, Superintendent, effective immediately. Wible, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RATIFICATION OF EASTON SUPPORT STAFF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH BOE

J. Parker and R. Hicks, the two board members who negotiated the paraprofessional contract for the district, spoke about the negotiation process. J. Parker reported that the negotiating team had 3 sessions with the union representatives, the discussions were amicable with both sides happy with the results. R. Hicks echoed the comments made by J. Parker, reporting it was one of the most pleasant negotiations he has experienced.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the recommendation of the negotiating committee and ratify the Easton Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement. Parker, Wible. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: BOARD GOVERNANCE

J. Stinson introduced the topic of Board Governance covering four topics: Board Member Responsibilities, Operations, Connectivity with District Employees, and Communication with the Public. A discussion ensued with all board members contributing on how to find the balance between being an advocate for the parents in the district while respecting the Superintendent's authority to run our schools. Also, how can the boards put less of a burden on administrators, how social media can be misinterpreted as board policy/action if the board member placed the post as a board member and not a private citizen, and finally the need for a better performing district website that is easy to manage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patrick Duplessis, Tersana Drive, Easton: shared his view that masks on our children were unnecessary, unhealthy and that both the Superintendent and Board of Education have broad discretion according to the Governor's Executive Order 13A to unmask our younger children if we so choose.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting be adjourned. Chieda, deJesus. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by Jeffrey Parker
Easton Board of Education Secretary