



*Filed subject to approval*

Easton Board of Education  
Meeting  
December 7, 2015  
Minutes

Attendance:

Board of Education: Bindelglass, Bobroske, Chieda (7:40 pm), Hicks, Parker, Underberger  
Administration: McMorran, Sullivan, Pierson Ugol, Edwards, Freeston, Fox-Santora, Kaplan, Burke  
Others: eight members of the staff and community, and a representative of the Easton Courier

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the November 10, 2015 meeting as submitted. Underberger, Hicks. Approved. 4-0-1. Mrs. Bobroske abstained.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Bindelglass commented that the primary issues with AEDs (automated external defibrillators) stations on athletic fields are the maintenance of the devices and the fact that they are temperature sensitive.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON 2016 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the 2016 Board Meeting Schedule as amended, changing the Budget Workshop to January 21, 2016 and the October meeting to October 13, 2016. Underberger, Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.**

SSES APEX FUN RUN PTA DONATION

Mrs. Fox-Santora stated that the PTA sponsored Apex Fun Run brought in over \$43,000. The PTA's plan is for 10% of the earnings to go to the classroom teachers of the two schools.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the donation of funds from the PTA Fun Run to the Student Activity Fund of each school, to be earmarked for use by the classroom teachers and distributed by the end of the school year. Underberger, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE DONATION

Dr. Pierson Ugol announced that an anonymous benefactor has offered a donation of golf equipment to the schools of ER9. The equipment would be used in conjunction with the existing "striking" unit on golf in the physical education program. She noted that there is no direct benefit of the donation to the benefactor and the equipment is not branded.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the anonymous donation of \$2,000 of physical education equipment for a golf unit to the Easton and Redding schools, with gratitude. Bobroske, Hicks. Approved. Unanimous.**

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TERMINOLOGY Director of Special Services, Tracy Edwards, provided descriptions and information on the differences between Accommodations and Modifications in relation to special services. Accommodations are changes that help a student overcome or work around his/her disability and are a part of the student's IEP. Modifications are a change in what is being taught to the student or what is expected of the student.

#### BUDGET 2016-17, PART 1

Dr. McMorran presented information or background of factors that impact the preparation of the budget. He stressed the importance of education, the relationship between education and the student potential and suggested a review of the strategic vision for education in Redding. Dr. McMorran will be back next month to discuss how to continue the good work the schools are doing and what it will cost to continue that work.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox-Santora described the HOTS program and its impact on students and staff.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan described the life of a middle school student at HKMS and the school's small community feeling. She highlighted the importance of extracurricular activities and impact on student learning and achievement.

Special Services Report: Ms. Edwards reported on staffing changes and staff training.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Pierson Ugol reported the World Language Leadership team has been working on revisions to current curriculum and vertical progression. The World Language consultant completed the second coaching cycle in middle school classrooms and will return for a third cycle.

Director of Finance: Mrs. Sullivan reported the health insurance claims for November were about \$150,000, much lower than the previous two months. She would like one more month of claims before going to the Board of Finance for additional funding. She has been in contact with the Board of Finance Chair regarding the unusually high claims and the projected shortfall in the Reserve Fund. The Food Service contract will go out to bid as soon as the State provides the Request for Proposal guidelines. Mr. Parker suggested surveying parents to determine what they feel is good and what is lacking in the current food service program. He is working with Dr. Pierson Ugol on a survey to be sent out after the first of the year and believes that input will be helpful in discussions with vendors.

Superintendent: Dr. McMorran commented that the CT Association of Superintendents is concerned about the state deficit, the potential reductions in Excess Cost for education, reduced support for the regional educational service centers, and reductions in municipal aid.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long Range Planning Committee: Dr. Underberger has agreed to chair this committee and Mrs. Chieda will be a committee member. Mrs. Bobroske commented that the second phase of the plan should be completed by the end of the current school year. There was a general discussion of committee structure and the potential of including town officials, parents and other stakeholders.

Calendar Committee: Dr. Underberger reported the Tri-District Committee will meet this week to discuss the 2016-17 calendar. The calendar approval will be an agenda item for the Tri-District meeting in January.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Keane, Wedgewood Drive: Mrs. Keane commented on the frequency of classroom teachers being out of the classroom for meetings or other functions. She finds this especially disruptive for the youngest of learners.

Unidentified: This person agreed with the comments made by Mrs. Keane.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hicks expressed his desire to understand how many hours the teacher is out of the classroom, and agreed that something needs to be done to curtail these frequent disruptions. He suggested the board take a hard look at the issue and have a full discussion.

Mrs. Chieda seconded the comments made by Mr. Hicks. She asked how meetings are scheduled and if they could be scheduled outside the usual classroom hours.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday