

Easton Board of Education
Special Meeting
HKMS Library Media Center
Thursday, March 16, 2017- 7:30pm

ATTENDANCE

Board of Education: Bindelglass, Bobroske, Chieda (7:42pm arrival), Hicks, Parker, Shortt
Administration: Brownstein, Burke, Edwards, Fox, Kaplan, Lagas, Pierson-Ugol
Others: Approximately 15 members of the public were in attendance

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting held on February 13, 2017 as submitted. Bindelglass, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the Board of Education Budget Workshop meeting held on February 15, 2017 as submitted. Shortt, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Parker mentioned that Dr. McMorran was absent due to personal business.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

2017-2018 OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Parker urged the Board to read through the proposed budget that was Board approved on February 15, 2017. All questions should be submitted to Dr. McMorran via email.

POSSIBILITY OF TWO-TIER BUSING

Mr. Parker gave a brief overview of the existing bus runs and overall plan based on existing runs. He then presented a potential proposed plan leading to an estimated savings of \$70,000 per year. Bus routes would have to be modified to comply with state regulated transportation times. The modification for consideration is consolidating bus stops. Consolidation would consider concentration of stops, age of students and safety. The major concerns regarding the possible 2-tier runs would be the mix of ages of students riding, the amount of time students spend in transit, and the safety of added walking to consolidate bus stops. The Board noted that the actual ridership of the bus was between 40% and 50%, and they requested to look further into inquiry that took place in the past regarding actual ridership. Mr. Parker presented 15 slides depicting potential new combined HKMS and SSES runs. These runs would slightly alter the start/end time of HKMS by approximately 10-15 minutes. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education add Executive Session to the Agenda after VIII. Board member comment. Bobroske, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

INSR # M2017000203 REC'D 03/21/2017 12:31:53 PM
CHRISTINE MALLON TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

CONSIDERATION OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT HKMS AS 11-MONTH POSITION HKMS

Assistant Principal Kathy Burke announced that she would be taking a position as Principal at Amity Middle School beginning in July. Mr. Parker then stated that due to population projections the move of this position to an 11-month time frame was to be considered. Ms. Burke's departure calls for the board to continue discussion around this subject. The Board asked Principal Kaplan to report her opinion on the impact of this potential change. She replied that it would be added work, but not detrimental to students.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Interim Director of Finance & Operations: Dr. Lagas referred to the Health Insurance Analysis handout. He stated that we have slightly more than 1.05% coverage ratio. He recommends having at least 3% incurred but not reported coverage ratio. Dr. Lagas then presented the Transfer report, noting that transfers are more frequent at this time of year. Dr. Lagas reported that we are currently at 94.7% of budget; he will be presenting at the end of May the projections for end of year, as per Dr. McMorran's request.

Samuel Staples Elementary School: In addition to the report provided to the Board on paper, Principal Fox noted that she was having difficulty filling the open Remedial Reading Teacher position due to the time of year. They are currently making due with current staffing however, it is affecting students and teachers.

Helen Keller Middle School: In addition to the report provided to the Board on paper, Principal Kaplan wished to acknowledge Claire Wilkes and her volunteer work with the play "Alice in Wonderland". Also, two music teachers will be taking a number of students to perform at a special concert for Fairfield County Schools. She then invited the Board to take place in Keller Connects Day on March 30th, and event that also involves Senior Citizens from the community.

Director of Special Services: To be brief, Ms. Edwards referred the Board to her written report and noted that they are already preparing for the summer transitioning period.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Pierson Ugol referenced her written report and noted that the three districts will begin the curriculum review process associated with the adoption of new Arts standards this spring.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Parker reported that he and Dr. Lagas met with DATTCO employees, Ed Nagy and Adam Dunsby, regarding the bus depot. The space behind SSES will be used as bus parking and parking for bus drivers cars, and will include a small building for dispatch and restroom. It will be a gravel surface. The busses will be serviced in Bridgeport, but there will be a technician on site supplied by DATTCO. There will be a \$320-\$350K upfront cost, but the Board will save \$65,000 yearly on rent currently paid to Bethel and expects a two-year payback. They will also be collecting rent from Redding. There will be additional insurance and tax savings. The goal is to have control over revenue stream.

Mr. Parker noted that the previously discussed Site Evaluation of both schools will occur the week after April break. They will be assessing the utilization of space and potential usage possibilities at SSES and HKMS.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Hicks requested to see an aggregate Transfer Report showing the year in full.

Mr. Parker noted that the Easton Learning Foundation's Trivia Bee was moved to March 29th due to weather, and he urged Board Members and the public to attend.

The meeting recessed to executive session at 8:47 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting to public session at 9:54PM.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education approve the proposal for reduction of the Helen Keller Middle School Assistant Principal from a full time position to a position with a work year of 216 days, and to give the Board Chairman the authority to sign the associated Memorandum of Agreement of behalf of the Board of Education. Bobroske, Shortt. Approved. 5-1

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting. Hicks, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.

Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Secretary of the Easton Board of Education.

Recorded by Elise Cavanaugh.