

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018

ATTENDANCE

Easton Board Of Education Members: Parker, Chieda, Bindelglass, Hicks, Reed
Administration: McMorran, Kaplan, Fox-Santora, Pierson-Ugol, Reiss, Twiss, Visners
Others: 2 members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 19, 2018 Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting:

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes from the June 19, 2018 Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting. Bindelglass, Chieda, Approved 4-0, Reed abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marion Carlson, Soundview Rd., Easton: Thanked the board for all of their hard work.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox-Santora complimented the custodial staff for their work in preparing the schools for the new school year. She also spoke about long term substitute teachers that were hired to cover teachers out on maternity and sick leave. She thanked the PTA for their addition of motivational stickers placed in hallways that provide positive reinforcement for students during the school day. Mrs. Fox-Santora spoke about teacher participation in summer training programs for professional development. Mr. Hicks asked about single gender classrooms and Mrs. Fox-Santora answered that studies have not shown any benefit from mixed classrooms. Dr. Bindelglass asked if the Board is retaining Dr. Prowda again this year, Dr. McMorran answered yes.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan spoke about Dr. Thomas's, school counselor, tour for new students and its success. She thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for excellent grounds maintenance. Current enrollment at Helen Keller Middle School is 333 students. Mrs. Kaplan reported that Amber Dunkerton has returned to HKMS as a math specialist. She also thanked the Board and committee for including SSO officer "Ray" in the budget for the year. Mr. Hicks asked about the SSO's attire, and Mrs. Kaplan answered that he wears a uniform shirt with initials "SSO" on it and khaki pants and is armed.



INSTR # M2018000578
DATE FILED 09/18/2018 10:56:50 AM
CHRISTINE HALLORAN
TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TEACHER EVALUATION RANKINGS FOR 2017-2018

Mrs. Fox-Santora reported about the 2017-2018 evaluation of staff members at Samuel Staples: 7 teachers were found to be “leaders”, 42 teachers were found to be “effective”, and 1 teacher was found to be “developing”. Mrs. Kaplan reported about the 2017-2018 evaluation of staff members at Helen Keller: 3 teachers were found to be “leaders”, 29 teachers were found to be “effective”, and 1 teacher was found to be “developing”. Dr. Pierson-Ugol clarified that, in order to be categorized as a leader, a teacher is seen to go beyond what is expected, such as initiating a new project or providing more depth to a study than is normal.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: POLICIES FOR REVIEW-2ND READING

Mrs. Shortt and her Redding counterpart have worked hard on this review, Dr. McMorran reported. Mrs. Chieda asked if flu shots would be administered in schools per policy 6165.5, and Dr. McMorran answered that we will not be administering flu shots in the schools.

Motion: move to approve all four Policies for Review-2nd Reading, as presented.

-6159: Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program

-6162.51: Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)

-6163.32: Live Animals in the Classroom

-5144 Appendix: Alternative Educational Opportunities for Eligible Expelled Students

Hicks, Reed. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: OVERVIEW OF HKMS WINGMAN PROGRAM

Mrs. Kaplan provided an update and slide presentation on the HKMS Student Led School Climate Initiative. She spoke about the motivational speakers and enrichment programs funded by the Wingman program.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: BUDGET TRANSFERS

Motion: Transfer #1: move to approve budget transfer for SSO from Other Professional Services to Non-Certified Salaries for the amount of \$30,000.00. Request to transfer from line 11-2600-330 to line 11-2600-112. Hicks, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Transfer #2: move to approve budget transfer for Interim Director of Special Education from Certified Salary to Other Professional Services for the amount of \$76,500.00. Request to transfer \$38,250.00 from 11-1200-111 to 11-1200-330 and \$38,250.00 from 12-1200-111 to 12-1200-330. Hicks, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Transfer #3: move to approve budget transfer for a new BASES teacher at SSES from Other Professional Services to Certified Salary for the amount of \$47,766.00. Request to transfer from 12-1200-330 to 12-1200-111. Hicks, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Transfer #4: move to approve moving budget for magnet school tuition from function code 2330 (Magnet School) to 1118 (Magnet School) a new function code. This is a technical change required due to new CT State Department of Education (CSDE) guidelines for the Education Financial System (EFS) which was implemented in July 2018. Request to transfer as follows:

1. \$3,000.00 from 11-2330-561 to 11-1118-565
2. \$9,000.00 from 12-2330-561 to 12-1118-565

Hicks, Bindelglass. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Transfer #5: move to change Preschool budget from function code 1200 (Special Education) to 1201 (Preschool), a new function code. Request to transfer \$273,765.19 from function code 1200 (Special Education) to 1201 (Preschool). Chieda, Reed. Approved. Unanimous.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Parker asked for clarification on items in the Transfer Report including text books. Mr. Reiss explained that funds were moved in order to be in the correct line item category. Mr. Hicks asked about electrical costs and lease of solar panels. Mr. Reiss spoke about the Health Insurance Analysis and reported that he did not yet have July and August 2018 numbers. He also spoke about the month of June 2018 and how the numbers can be variable. Dr. Pierson-Ugol spoke about curriculum writing and how teachers worked extra hard during the months of May and June. Mr. Parker asked about the new NGSS science curriculum, and Dr. Pierson-Ugol answered that they would not be using textbooks as a primary resource. Mrs. Twiss spoke about Special Education and how students are identified and serviced. She also spoke about the extended school year program in Special Education. Dr. McMorran gave a slideshow presentation about the sustained, systemic effort given by the faculty to provide excellent education. Dr. McMorran gave a brief presentation of the Easton Smarter Balanced Assessment scores for 2017-2018. Easton scored 85.3% achievement in English Language Arts, ranking number two out of 192 districts, and scored 79% achievement in Math, ranking number eight out of 192 districts. A full report will be given at the October board meeting.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Reed attended a Health and Wellness committee meeting on May 10, 2018. The School Lunch Survey was discussed and Chartwells is planning to adjust the menu according to the survey results.

Mr. Hicks spoke about the Transportation committee meeting. He is working with vendors to have bids ready at the next meeting. Dr. Bindelglass attended the Tri-Health Insurance meeting in July 2018. They are in the process of comparing different insurance options and will look at new RFPs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Manusky, Morning Glory Dr., Easton: Spoke about the curriculum in Easton. She claims that there are no records of an active curriculum committee since 2012.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo