

*Filed subject to approval*

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2018  
7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Easton Board of Education Members: Parker, Chieda, Reed, Shortt  
Administration: McMorran, Reiss, Fox Santora, Kaplan, Pierson Ugol, Twiss  
Others: 3 members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 9, 2018 Special Joint Meeting of the Easton and Redding Boards of Education. Reed, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 9, 2018 Special Meeting that commenced at 8:44 p.m. Chieda, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 23, 2018 Regular Joint Meeting of the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 Boards of Education. Shortt, Reed. Chieda, Reed abstained. Approved 2-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Chieda inquired about the decision to eliminate the Invention Convention. She spoke about the reduction in programs in the preschool and noted that the class size is 8 students this year. Mrs. Chieda also requested more information regarding the number of hours that there is a SSO at SSES and what differentiates between a SSO and a SRO. Ms. Reed congratulated the accomplishments of the orchestra band at SSES.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan shared the news of the success of the Veterans Day "Thank You" flags tribute to our armed forces. She spoke about a guest speaker who provided education about Veterans Day to students, and she applauded the generosity of students, staff and parents in writing letter and sending care packages to soldiers, veterans, and emergency responders.

Mrs. Kaplan also reported on flood damages from the storm on September 25, 2018. The gym floor at HKMS was damaged and is unusable until it can be repaired. She congratulated the gym

teachers on their efforts to find alternative areas for student gym classes. In addition, the floor tiles in several classroom are in need of replacement. Mr. Reiss, Director of Finance and Operations, reported that insurance will cover the repairs minus the \$1,000.00 deductible.

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora expressed her appreciation to students, staff and parents for the "Turkey Trot" food baskets donated to Easton Seniors as well as letters written to Veterans by students from SSES.

#### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Pierson Ugol discussed the PSAT test in eighth grade and how it can facilitate the transition for students going to high school. She considers the PSAT a useful tool for student instruction in preparation for the PSAT in high school. Mr. Reiss referred to the Budget Object Summary and Transfers Report to answer questions about adequate funds for expenditures. Mr. Parker asked about encumbering future funds for unforeseen expenses. Mr. Reiss said he would have a better idea about encumbering funds in February. He did not have any concerns regarding the Special Education budget at the time of the meeting. Mr. Reiss requested a transfer of funds in response to the addition of a teacher.

**Motion: move to approve the budget transfer of funds for the amount of \$10,576.00 from line 12-1100-111 to line 12-1200-111. Reed, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.**

Further discussion regarding the damage to tiles at HKMS continued, and Mr. Parker suggested that an update on the status of the repairs be part of each board meeting.

Dr. Twiss provided updates on the special education team's work to help students gain independence.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: LINKING ADMINISTRATIVE THINKING ABOUT STUDENT PERFORMANCE WITH RESOURCE REQUESTS

Dr. McMorran gave a power point presentation on the ways resources can drive student achievement. Mrs. Kaplan and Mrs. Fox Santora spoke about the importance of professional development for staff and paraprofessional support for students.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF EIAA BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENT

**Motion: move to approve the contract with EIAA Bargaining Unit for July 1, 2019-June 30, 2022. Chieda, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: BUS SEATBELTS

Dr. McMorran reported that, in the coming year, ER9 will commence a new contract with a bus company. New buses will be built with the option of adding seat belts. He indicated the need for a timely response from the Board. A discussion followed between members of the Board regarding types and sizes of seat belts to accommodate students of various ages.

**Motion: move to approve 3-point seat belts for buses currently under construction with intention to consult with the bus company regarding sizing of seat belts for students. Chieda, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: ELECTION FOR BOARD SECRETARY  
Current Easton Board of Education Secretary, Mrs. Chieda, decided to continue in her role for the present time.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Reed reported on Chartwells and stated that all of their associates will have allergy training.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Parker reported on his submission of a school security grant to the state of Connecticut for security cameras at the schools. He appreciated all the assistance he received from Mr. Reiss with the application process and considered it a great learning experience.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

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

The Easton Board of Education Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda,  
Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo