

*Filed subject to approval*

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2018

Attendance:

Easton Board of Education Members: Parker, Chieda, Hicks, Shortt, Reed, Bindelglass  
Administration: McMorran, Reiss, Fox Santora, Kaplan, Brownstein, Torre, Visners  
Others: 8 members of the public and staff

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Helen Keller Learning Commons.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes of December 11, 2017 regular meeting as submitted. Mrs. Chieda noted that the toy drive and pancake breakfast took place at Helen Keller Middle School in Easton, not at Samuel Staples Elementary School. Hicks, Shortt. Approved. Mrs. Reed abstained.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

**Motion: move to add an item to this agenda under Discussion and Possible Action as Item, A. 1. Policy on Gifts and Grants. Shortt, Chieda. Approved. Unanimous.**

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora reported events at SSES.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan reported on school events and the upcoming play and winter concerts.

Special Services: Mrs. Torre reported on student special education services. Mr. Parker noted that there seems to be a significant rise in the number of students requiring special services. Mrs. Torre reported on the importance of early intervention for special needs students and that she and her co-workers will continue to monitor students.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Parker recommended reviewing the list of committee assignments and asked members if they wanted to continue their committee assignments. Updates are as follows:

1. Calendar Committee: Cindy Shortt will continue.
2. Policy Committee: Cindy Shortt will continue.
3. Insurance Committee: David Bindelglass will continue.
4. Health and Wellness Committee: Katy Reed will continue.
5. Long Range Planning Committee: Randy Hicks will continue. Jenny Chieda defers.
6. Transportation Committee: Randy Hicks will continue.
7. Food Service Committee: Jeffrey Parker will continue.

Mr. Parker thanked each board member in advance for their participation serving the committees.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: GIFTS AND GRANTS POLICY

There was discussion on setting amounts for gifts requiring approval from the superintendent. Gifts in amounts of \$500 - \$1,500 can be approved by the superintendent. Any gifts over \$1,500 will require approval of the Easton Board of Education.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the Policy on Gifts and Grants as proposed. Bindelglass, Reed. Approved. Unanimous.**

Request for Approval to Receive PTA Grants: Mrs. Kaplan requested approval to receive PTA grants to offset expense of two upcoming student trips.

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept grants from the Easton PTA as proposed. Bindelglass, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2018-2019: POINT OF DEPARTURE

Dr. McMorran gave a power point presentation on Point of Departure for budget. Mr. Parker asked board members to review the budget.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Reiss reported on grants that were recently applied to the budget and the effects of snow removal costs and special education costs. Health Insurance claims were lowest in November 2017. Mr. Parker suggested exploring ways to keep insurance costs low.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Vinod Menon - Stones Throw Road, Easton, asked about the percentage the budget has gone up in past years.

Nikki Kaldawy - Staples Road, Easton, asked about grants in excess of \$1,500 needing approval from the Board of Education.

Carolyn Oppenheim - Hunting Ridge Road, Easton, spoke about the importance of early recognition of special needs students.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Shortt spoke about the merits of the Anti-Defamation League and thanked Mrs. Kaplan and Mrs. Fox Santora for their efforts.

Mr. Parker spoke about the challenge of creating a workable budget.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo