

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Board of Education: Parker, Chieda, Hicks, Reed, Shortt

Administration: McMorran, Reiss, Fox-Santora, Kaplan, Torre

Others: 6 members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 13, 2018 Regular Easton Board of Education Meeting and Budget Workshop:

Motion: move to approve Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop minutes from February 13, 2018. Approved, 4-0-1. Chieda abstained.

February 21, 2018 Easton Board of Education Budget Workshop:

Motion: move to approve Easton Board of Education Budget Workshop minutes from February 21, 2018. Hicks, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Bussolotta, Sunset Rd., Easton: Thanked the board for approving the addition of an SSO to HKMS.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Shortt spoke about Mrs. Kaplan's thoughtful memorial to the Parkland, FL incident and appreciated her support of the students. Dr. McMorran and Mr. Reiss reported that they are working on the documents and spreadsheets requested by the Board of Finance. Mr. Parker spoke about the March 26, 2018 Town Meeting and that the Board will explain how they arrived at 4.4% and answer questions. Mr. Parker also shared information he obtained from the Redding Police Department regarding SSOs, and that there are two different levels of certification.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Mrs. Fox Santora and Mrs. Kaplan spoke about the contributions made by Michael San Souci and shared that he will be greatly missed.



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CHRISTINE HALLORAN
TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora spoke about the process for providing interventions and support for students. She spoke about how small group support in math and reading build confidence in students.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan spoke about the math interventionist hired at HKMS, and provided updates on the geography bee and the math meet with Weston Middle School. She also spoke about a successful internet safety presentation by Rich Colangelo and Mark Pastor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: HEALTH CARE RESERVE

Mr. Reiss stated the health insurance reserve fund is at \$194,236, down \$35,000 from last month. The year-to-date average monthly claims are consistent with the last three-year average of \$221,000 per month, and Mr. Reiss predicts that in coming months the reserve will go negative. Mr. Reiss recommended that the Board act now and transfer funds from object code 111 to object code 270.

Motion: move to empower Mr. Reiss to move \$100,000 from object code 111 to object code 270 to cover anticipated health care claim expenses. Shortt, Reed. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CURRENT YEAR BUDGET

Mr. Reiss reported that a large amount of Special Education reimbursements have come in and some excess cost payments are expected to come in the amount of \$50,000.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RIGOR/RELEVANCE FRAMEWORK

Dr. McMorran gave a PowerPoint presentation, available to view online, to the Board of Education. Dr. McMorran spoke about the importance of preparing students for the world in which they will be living.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2018-2019 BUDGET

Mr. Parker spoke about the 4.4% increase for the 2018-19 budget and asked Board members if there were any additional thoughts or comment. There were none.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Special Services: Mrs. Torre reported that she is working with Mrs. Fox Santora and teachers in a year-long professional development called Read Com. The emphasis of this program is to strengthen student reading skills.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Shortt spoke about meeting with the Town of Redding to discuss policy and the importance of both towns being in alignment.

Mr. Hicks spoke about the transportation committee meeting and that there were 5 vendors in attendance. Mr. Reiss said responses are due and a date can be scheduled for April 2018. Mr. Parker spoke about scheduling a Board of Finance meeting with the Board of Education for after March 26, 2018, the date of the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Manusky, Morning Glory Dr., Easton: Spoke about the March 14, 2018 walk-out and the possibility of it being against existing laws. She spoke about her disappointment in the Board of Education's lack of reply to her recent letters.

Niki Kaldawy, Staples Rd., Easton: Spoke about departure of eighth grade math teacher Kathy Thompson, Mile Common, Easton: Spoke about being disappointed that school administration sanctioned the school walk-out on March 14, 2018.

Dave Bussolotta, Sunset Rd., Easton: Spoke about how the increase in budget is necessary and he appreciates the Board's support.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Chieda responded to Mrs. Thompson's concerns regarding the school walk-out, saying that it met student's needs and provided a way for them to express their concerns regarding school violence. Mr. Parker spoke about the fact that student participation in the walk-out was optional and was not related in any way to any partisan organizations, which the Board of Education would definitely not support.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Hicks, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda, Easton Board of Education Secretary
Recorded by Deborah DeLorenzo