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EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2018

ATTENDANCE

Easton Board of Education Members: Parker, Chieda, Bindelglass, Hicks, Reed, Shortt
Administration: McMorrان, 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 8:44 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes from the September 11, 2018 Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting. Hicks, Bindelglass. Approved. Approved 5-0, Shortt abstained.

After further discussion, the Board decided to make changes to the minutes of the September 11th meeting.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes from the September 11, 2018 Easton Board of Education Regular Meeting, as amended. Hicks, Chieda. Approved 5-0, Shortt abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Shortt commented on the group meeting for Back to School Night at Helen Keller. She thought it was a fun and energetic way to invite parents. She applauded the Administrators for having a focus on the clubs that students participate in and what they do to help in the community and make a well-rounded student.

In response to a discussion about the importance of class size when reporting data to the Board of Finance, Dr. McMorrان agreed to update the Board reports to incorporate the current total enrollment by grade since the first day of school at Samuel Staples and Helen Keller.

Mrs. Chieda noted that the importance of professional development was discussed during a recent Curriculum Committee meeting. Mrs. Chieda thought it would be beneficial to revisit strategies that give teachers the necessary time and resources to participate in professional development. She commented on the SciTech Instructional Coach used in the Redding district.

As a more recent member of the Board, Mrs. Chieda thought it would be helpful to understand

the Health Insurance Analysis Report when communicating with the public. Mr. Reiss agreed to provide a future educational session which would include an explanation of the codes and the impact to the bottom line. A suggestion was made to include Rob Fitzpatrick in this future discussion.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Samuel Staples Elementary School: Mrs. Fox Santora announced SRO, Mark Pastor, will retire in December after taking time off in November. His last day at the school will be October 31st. She met with Chief Shaw and reported the search for a new officer is underway, and the Chief plans to appoint one of the current Easton Police Officers, who have DARE training, to be their new SRO.

Helen Keller Middle School: Mrs. Kaplan noted recent staff changes and new hires. She announced the retirement of Mrs. Mangino and welcomed four new staff members to the meeting. She reported on grant funded opportunities for Tier 1 and Tier 2 math interventionists then provided an update on the School Climate initiative and Wingman Program assembly and training. Next she reported that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the gymnasium floor was a total loss after sustaining significant water damage following 2 major storms. She thanked Mr. Reiss for his prompt response in contacting the insurance restoration company. She stated that the gym would be closed during repairs and was optimistic that it would open before it got too cold. She also reported that the Connecticut Science Center field trip was cancelled due to transportation costs.

The Board noted the number of PPT meetings had declined as noted in the Special Services Update Report.

Next, Mr. Reiss reviewed the Transfers Report included in the materials. He noted a change in outplacement services at Hellen Keller and requested a transfer to cover this item. He noted a request would be made in the near future to address unemployment cost because of the change in outplacement services.

Motion: move to approve budget transfer for a change in outplacement services at Helen Keller Middle School from Tuition – Private School to Other Professional Services for the amount of \$37,740. Request to transfer from line 1200-563 to line 1200-330. Shortt, Reed. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. McMorran welcomed a student and future educator from Isabelle Farmington College of Education at Sacred Heart University.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SCHOOL BUS SEAT BELTS

Mr. Hicks reported on the cost of seatbelts in the new transportation/bus contract. He noted the difference between a 2- and 3-point harness. He stated that Redding has seat belts and Easton does not. The Board discussed trends, actual student use, and the frequency of incidents and/or accidents. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Hicks would inquire if Redding had a policy that addresses seatbelts on school buses. He reminded the Board of the upcoming Tri-Board vote on the new transportation vendor contract.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: STUDENT PERFORMANCE: SMARTER
BALANCED ASSESSMENT/SCHOOL-WIDE GOALS

Dr. McMorran referred to the presentation on the 2017-2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment data and reported on the school's strong performance in ELA and Math. He compared the schools' performance against other schools in the district and then reviewed state and district growth targets and the average percentage of growth in those subjects. Dr. McMorran stated that the information could also be found on the Department of Education's website. He noted that in the interest of time, he would give a more detailed review at a future meeting.

Mrs. Fox Santora reported that Easton, a small boutique district in comparison to larger districts, ranked #2 in ELA, #8 in Math and #5 in combined SBA in the State of Connecticut. She reviewed SBA results by Cohort and then discussed enrollment numbers, and universal screens in ELA and Math and the regular monitoring of student progress.

Mr. Brownstein discussed Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) support and how certain staff members assist in the development of positive social and emotional skills by targeting teaching to a student's unique, social, and emotional profiles. Included in his presentation were discussions of the Second Step program, Restorative Practices, Zones of Regulation, and updating the school social worker's status to full-time to provide social and emotional support on a full-time basis. He concluded with a discussion of the school's focus on empathy and trends in SEL.

Mrs. Fox Santora discussed school goals via feedback from the results of the School Climate Survey.

Mrs. Kaplan reviewed next steps, core data teams, Tier I strategies and interventions in the class, data cycles with all ILA and math teachers, social studies, and student learning objectives based on ELA state standards, among others.

Mrs. Mohr focused on the student-centered data teaming at Helen Keller. She reviewed the role of the Delta Teams, Core Team, and Consultants. She discussed the evolution of the Student Intervention Team Support, PSAT data, and other topics.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF EIAA BARGAINING UNIT
AGREEMENT

The Board postponed discussions of the EIAA Bargaining Unit Agreement because the agreement had not yet been approved. The Board agreed to address this matter at the November 13th Board meeting.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

None.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Parker announced that the Board met with members of the Board of Finance to discuss certain topics (e.g. budget, school safety, bus transportation). He shared a positive outlook. The

Board agreed to give the Board of Finance as much useful information before the final budget meeting and extend an invitation to one of the pre-budget meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Ronen, Tuckahoe Road: Ms. Ronen lamented the retirement of Officer Mark, the Invention Convention and other losses this year. She wondered if it was appropriate to now put a police officer at Helen Keller and the SSO at Samuel Staples.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

The Board commented on the usefulness of the SBAC results.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Submitted by Jenny Chieda,
Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Stephanie Benton