

# EASTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Eastford Elementary School  
12 Westford Road  
Eastford, CT 06242  
April 20, 2023

Present: Lauren Barlow, Michael Bilica, Stephen Bowen, Terry Cote (virtual), Adam Minor,  
Jessica Perry (virtual)  
Absent: Robert Ellsworth  
Also Present: Dr. Donna Leake, Superintendent; Carole McCombe, Principal; Mary Polchaninoff, Pupil  
Services Director

## **I. Call to Order**

Chair Bowen called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

## **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Bowen led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **III. Citizens of the Trimester**

William Whipple, grade 8 student, and Emma-Lynn Salony, grade 3 student, were named recipients of the Trimester Citizenship Award. The Board of Education recognizes students who exemplify the qualities of leadership, respect, support of peers and involvement in school activities. Emma-Lynn was able to attend the meeting virtually and be congratulated by the Board.

## **IV. Citizen Participation**

None.

## **V. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: (Bilica/Minor) That the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2023 and Special Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2023 be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. Correspondence, Communications**

- Letters to Citizen of the Trimester families
- Notice of HVAC Reimbursement Grant Award from the Connecticut Department of Administrative services
- Article on New Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Requirements in CT Schools
- Announcement from Governor Lamont regarding grants being awarded to public schools for air filtration system upgrades
- Letter from the State Comptroller's Office providing the 2023-2024 Healthcare Rates

## **VII. Committee Reports**

- A. Executive/Personnel— None.
- B. Fiscal— The Board received the minutes of the April 6, 2023 special meeting.
- C. Policy— The Board received the minutes of the March 20, 2023 meeting.
- D. Woodstock Academy – None.
- E. EastConn— None.
- F. Long Range Facilities— None.
- G. Transportation – None.
- H. Curriculum— The committee held a meeting prior to this one.

- I. Scholarship Steering Committee – None.
- J. School Safety Committee – The committee held a meeting on April 18. Minutes will be provided at the May meeting.

### **VIII. Superintendent Report**

Provided the BOE with updates including:

- Highlight of the Month – Portrait of an Eastford Learner
- Student Achievement – Increased evidence of students interacting with and providing encouragement to each other
- Climate and Culture – Receipt of an HVAC reimbursement grant
- Collaboration and Communication – Continued communication with the Town
- Comments on selected agenda items

### **IX. Principal Report**

Received the Principal's report which discussed and/or provided the following information:

- Field Trips/ Virtual Field Trips
- Readiness Program/ Council Update
- Update on Grants
- Data on Student Progress
- High School Information
- Professional Development
- Community and Other Events
- Special Thanks

Mr. Kernan spoke on the middle school parent survey that was sent out following student-led conferences.

### **X. Director of Pupil Services Report**

The Board received the April report, which shows no changes from the March report.

### **XI. Unfinished Business**

None.

### **XII. New Business**

#### **A. Approve Submission of the IDEA Grant**

MOTION: (Bilica/Barlow) To approve submission of the 2023-2025 IDEA Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. Approve Submission of the School Readiness Grant**

MOTION: (Bilica/Minor) To approve submission of the 2023-2024 School Readiness Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bowen noted that there were numerous policy updates on the agenda and asked if the Board could approve them under one motion, which the Board agreed to.

Revisions to Policies listed as items C, D and E of New Business

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To accept the revisions to Policy 5144.1, Student Restraint and Seclusion; Policy 5149, Search and Seizure; and Policy 5157, Student Privacy. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cote left the meeting.

F. Policies 5151, Freedom of Speech, Expression and Dress; 5153, Student Grievance Procedure; 5154, Surrogate Parent Program; 5155, Police in Schools; and 5156, Student Probation/Police/Courts

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To repeal Policies 5151, Freedom of Speech, Expression and Dress; 5153, Student Grievance Procedure; 5154, Surrogate Parent Program; 5155, Police in Schools; and 5156, Student Probation/Police/Courts. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Set the last day of school

MOTION: (Bilica/Barlow) To set the last day of school for students as June 15, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Set date of Grade 8 graduation

MOTION: (Bilica/Barlow) To set the Grade 8 graduation date as June 15, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Additional Agenda Items**

None.

**XIV. Financial Reports**

A. March 2023 Disbursements—sent to BOE via email

B. Monthly Financial Summary, March 2023  
The Board received and reviewed the monthly report.

C. Budget Transfers  
None.

**XV. Citizen Participation**

Mr. Bowen thanked the Board for all their work.

**XVI. Adjournment**

MOTION: (Minor/Bilica) Motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 6:45 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

KyMBERLI A. GAYLOR, Clerk