

# EASTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Eastford Elementary School  
12 Westford Road  
Eastford, CT 06242  
February 9, 2023

Present: Lauren Barlow (remote), Michael Bilica, Stephen Bowen, Terry Cote, Robert Ellsworth, Adam Minor, Jessica Perry (remote)  
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. Citizen Participation**

None.

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: (Ellsworth/Bilica) That the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2023 be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

## **V. Correspondence, Communications**

- ARPA School Mental Health Workers Grant award announcement
- Resignation letter from Joseph Tomanelli, Music Teacher

## **VI. Committee Reports**

- A. Executive/Personnel— None.
- B. Fiscal— The Board received the minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting and the agenda for the meeting held prior to this one.
- C. Policy— The Board received the minutes of the January 19, 2023 and February 6, 2023 meetings.
- D. Woodstock Academy – None.
- E. EastConn— Ms. Cote noted EastConn just appointed a new Board Chair and Vice Chair.
- F. Long Range Facilities— The Board received the minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting.
- G. Transportation – None.
- H. Curriculum— None.
- I. Scholarship Steering Committee – None.
- J. School Safety Committee – None.

## **VII. Superintendent Report**

Provided the BOE with updates including:

- Highlight of the Month – Highlighted the wonderful learning experiences taking place in our classrooms
- Student Achievement – Administration and BOE are working on the 2023-24 budget
- Climate and Culture – Thank you to Carole McCombe for her work on the Mental Health Workers grant

- Collaboration and Communication – Continued communication with other districts and the Town
- Comments on selected agenda items

### **VIII. 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
- The Science of Reading
- High School Information and Open Houses
- Update on School Sports and the Gym Renovation Grant (Mr. Kernan provided these updates)
- Professional Development
- Community and Other Events
- Special Thanks

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

The Board received the February report, which shows changes from the January report.

### **X. Unfinished Business**

- A. New Policy, Chemical Health for Student Athletes  
MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To adopt new policy, Chemical Health for Student Athletes. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. New Policy, Education Stability Procedures  
MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To adopt new policy, Education Stability Procedures. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. School Calendar, 2023-2024  
MOTION: (Bilica/Cote) To approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Budget 2023-2024  
MOTION: (Minor/Ellsworth) To accept the 2023-2024 budget of \$4,675,358, which represents a 10.98% increase, and send it to the Board of Selectmen. Motion passed unanimously.

### **XI. New Business**

- A. Resignation of Music Teacher  
MOTION: (Bilica/Cote) To accept, with regret and thanks, the resignation of Music Teacher Joe Tomanelli at the end of this school year. Motion passed unanimously.  
Numerous Board members stated how Mr. Tomanelli is a great teacher and he will really be missed.
- B. Approve Submission of the CT-SEDS Grant  
MOTION: (Cote/Ellsworth) To approve submission of the CT-SEDS Grant. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Policy 5125, Confidentiality and Access to Education Records (FERPA)  
The Board received the policy for first reading.
- D. Policy 5141.7, Student Sports – Concussion and Head Injuries  
MOTION: (Barlow/Cote) To repeal Policy 5141.7, Student Sports – Concussion and Head Injuries. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Policy 4119.2, Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches  
The Board received the policy for first reading.

- F. Policy 5142.2, Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drug Use  
The Board received the policy for first reading.

**XII. Additional Agenda Items**

None.

**XIII. Financial Reports**

- A. January 2023 Disbursements—sent to BOE via email  
B. Monthly Financial Summary, January 2023  
The Board received and reviewed the monthly report.  
C. Budget Transfers  
MOTION: (Bilica/Minor) To authorize the proposed transfers in the FY 2023 budget:

\$15,000 from 100.1200.3.112.00.5 (Salary, Para, SE) to 100.1200.3.121.03.5 (Substitutes, Non-Certified, SE)  
\$8,184 from 100.1000.2.561.33.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EO Smith) to 100.1000.2.561.31.5 (Tuition, Secondary, WA)  
\$918.66 from 100.1000.2.561.33.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EO Smith) to 100.1200.3.561.31.5 (Tuition, SE, WA)  
\$4687.74 from 100.1000.2.561.33.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EO Smith) to 100.1200.3.563.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Private)  
\$273.00 from 100.1000.2.561.32.5 (Tuition, Secondary, Killingly) to 100.1200.3.563.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Private)

Motion passed unanimously.

**XIV. Citizen Participation**

Citizen and teacher Michelle Bibeault expressed her appreciation to the Board for valuing and supporting the teachers.

Mr. Bowen thanked the members of the Board for their work, on the Board as a whole and on their committees.

**XV. Adjournment**

MOTION: (Minor/Ellsworth) Motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 6:40 PM.  
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kymberli A. Gaylor, Clerk