

EASTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Eastford Elementary School
12 Westford Road
Eastford, CT 06242
January 12, 2023

Present: Lauren Barlow, Michael Bilica, Stephen Bowen, Terry Cote (virtual), Robert Ellsworth, Adam Minor, Jessica Perry
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 6:01 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/Minor) That the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2022 be approved. Barlow, Bilica, Ellsworth, Minor and Perry voted in favor. Cote abstained. Motion passed.

V. Correspondence, Communications

- EES First Trimester Honor Roll
- Letter from Christopher Sandford, The Woodstock Academy Head of School, regarding Eastford's 2023-2024 special education tuition costs
- Email from Christopher Sandford, The Woodstock Academy Head of School, regarding the Academy's 2023-2024 tuition rate

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Executive/Personnel— None.
- B. Fiscal— The Board received the minutes of the December 8, 2022 meeting.
- C. Policy— The Board received the agenda for the meeting held prior to this one.
- D. Woodstock Academy – Mr. Ellsworth noted that The Academy is in a fiscal conundrum which they are trying to fight their way out of.
- E. EastConn— Ms. Cote noted that EastConn is also trying to get their finances in order, as they have both a new Director and a new Finance Director.
- F. Long Range Facilities— The Board received the agenda for the meeting held prior to this one.
- 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 – Observing middle school students selecting books and interacting in the Library Media Center
- Student Achievement – Staff and students starting 2023 committed to learning
- Climate and Culture – New doors installed to assist in improving temperature control
- Collaboration and Communication – Continued communication with 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
- Professional Development
- Community and Other Events
- Special Thanks

IX. Director of Pupil Services Report

The Board received the January report, which shows no changes from the December report.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. New Business

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

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

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To accept the revisions to Policy 5140, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; Policy 5116, Student Discipline; Policy 5136, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students; Policy 6141.321, Student Use of District Technology and Policy 5131.81, Student Use of Private Technology Devices. Motion passed unanimously.

Repeal Policies listed as items F and G of New Business

MOTION: (Ellsworth/Minor) To repeal Policy 5124, Report to Parents and Policy 5131, Conduct at School and Activities. Motion passed unanimously.

- H. New Policy, Chemical Health for Student Athletes
The Board received the policy for first reading.
- I. New Policy, Education Stability Procedures
The Board received the policy for first reading.
- J. Discussion of Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship (Hartford Foundation)
Dr. Leake stated applications are due by February 2 and that the Scholarship Committee members will participate in the nomination process.
- K. School Calendar 2023-2024, Discussion and Possible Action
The Board was provided with a draft calendar, which they will review and vote on at next month's meeting.

- L. Capital Plan, Discussion and Possible Action
MOTION: (Ellsworth/Bilica) To accept the revisions to the Capital Improvement Plan as recommended by the Facilities Committee. Motion passed unanimously.
- M. Budget 2023-2024, Discussion
Dr. Leake provided an overview of next year's budget, which was shared with the Board.
Mr. Bowen instructed the Board to review it and have comments ready for the Fiscal Committee budget meeting on January 19.

XII. Additional Agenda Items

None.

XIII. Financial Reports

- A. December 2022 Disbursements—sent to BOE via email
- B. Monthly Financial Summary, December 2022
The Board received and reviewed the monthly report.
- C. Budget Transfers
None.

XIV. Citizen Participation

None.

XV. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kymerli A. Gaylor, Clerk