

EASTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

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

Present: Lauren Barlow, Michael Bilica (6:01 PM), Stephen Bowen, Terry Cote (remote), Robert Ellsworth (remote), 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 6:00 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Citizen Participation

March is Board Appreciation month. Dr. Leake thanked the Board for all they do, giving of their time to support education in Eastford.

Teacher and Student Council Advisor Candice Mead thanked the Board on behalf of the student council and introduced grade eight student Matthew Johndrow, who read from a ‘thank you’ card that was presented to the Board.

The student council provided cupcakes, made by Mrs. Tammy Hull, for the Board as a token of appreciation, and Dr. Leake purchased a set of books to be donated to the school library on behalf of the Board.

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Correspondence, Communications

- 2023-2024 Budget Request from First Selectman Deb Richards
- Thank you letter to EES Basketball coach Zachary Hutchings from the Board
- Letter from EES Student Council to the Boston Red Sox Community Relations, nominating teacher Elizabeth Rhynhart as a Most Valuable Educator
- Thank you card to the Board from the EES Student Council
- Current and estimated 23-24 EES Student Count
- Documents that were and will be provided to the Board of Selectmen to assist with the 2023-2024 school budget

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Executive/Personnel— None.
- B. Fiscal— The Board received the minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting.
- C. Policy— The Board received the agenda for the March 15, 2023 meeting.
- D. Woodstock Academy – None.
- E. EastConn— None.
- F. Long Range Facilities— The PV project needs to go out for re-bid.

- G. Transportation—None.
- H. Curriculum— None.
- I. Scholarship Steering Committee – The Scholarship Committee met prior to this meeting.
- J. School Safety Committee – None.

VII. Superintendent Report

Provided the BOE with updates including:

- Highlight of the Month – Recognition of the BOE members
- Student Achievement – Reading waiver completed by Carole McCombe
- Climate and Culture – Continued advertisement for part time social worker
- Collaboration and Communication – Continued work with 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
- Most Valuable Educator Recognition
- Professional Development
- Community and Other Events
- Special Thanks to

IX. Director of Pupil Services Report

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

X. Unfinished Business

A. Policy 5125, Confidentiality and Access to Education Records

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To adopt the revisions to Policy 5125, Confidentiality and Access to Education Records. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Policy 4119.2, Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To adopt the revisions to Policy 4119.2, Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Policy 5142.2, Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drug Use

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To adopt the revisions to Policy 5142.2, Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drug Use and renumber it to become Policy 4136. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. New Business

A. Approve Seventh and Eighth Grade trip to Washington, D.C. May 16-19, 2023

MOTION: (Bilica/Barlow) To approve the seventh and eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. May 16-19, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Security Grant Submission, Discussion and Possible Action

MOTION: (Bilica/Minor) To approve the submission of the Security Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

C. REAP Grant Submission

MOTION: (Bilica/Barlow) To approve the submission of the Fiscal Year 2023 REAP Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Budget 2023-2024, Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Bowen and Dr. Leake met with the selectmen on March 6 and Mr. Bowen described it as a 'good meeting'. The selectmen will meet again and provide their responses to the Board.

Mr. Ellsworth left the meeting at 6:33 PM.

XII. Additional Agenda Items

MOTION: (Cote/Barlow) To amend the agenda to include New Business, E. Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship Recipient(s). Motion passed unanimously.

XI. New Business, cont.

E. Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship Recipient(s)

MOTION: (Cote/Bilica) To approve the recommendation(s) of the Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship Selection Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Financial Reports

A. February 2023 Disbursements—sent to BOE via email

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

C. Budget Transfers
None.

XIV. Citizen Participation

Mr. Bowen thanked the Board for their hard work and thanked the staff and students for all they do and for their appreciation of the Board.

XV. Adjournment

MOTION: (Minor/Bilica) Motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 6:36 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kymerli A. Gaylor, Clerk