

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Long Range Planning Committee
Special Meeting
February 18, 2015
Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members: Regina Bobroske, Bettina Grob, Adam Horowitz, Bernard Josefsberg, Vida Peskay, Gabriel Rossi, Tom McMorrان

Administration: Stephanie Pierson-Ugol

Others: Tina from Easton Courier

- I. **Call to Order** - Regina Bobroske called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

- II. **Approval of December 1, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes** – Horowitz, Peskay – Approved, Unanimous.

- III. **Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. Committee reviewed list of required action, which included defining criteria for evaluation of options, developing a list of possible options, selecting recommendations for options to pursue and determining next steps in understanding, further evaluation of and pursuit of those options. This information will be presented to the Easton BOE in May.

 - B. Discussion of criteria/metrics for consideration of options.
 - a. The committee discussed at length what the criteria should be and how they are defined. There was agreement that the full definition of the criteria is fluid at this phase of planning, and that flushing them out will remain a conversation and will likely be part of the next steps/future work against determining the best options. Key criteria determined to be:
 - i. Preserve/enhance educational quality/opportunity
 - ii. Cost effectiveness/cost-benefit
 - iii. Executable – complexity of implementation
 - b. The committee discussed creating a list of future work required/next steps as part of the discussion. Required future work includes:
 - i. Establishing key time frames in population decline that require action
 - ii. A capacity study based on facilities and population
 - iii. Cost analysis as options crystalize
 - iv. Definition/meaning of educational quality
 - v. Check points against educational vision of the district
 - vi. Understanding of what the future world of work will look like for our students.

 - C. Brainstorming on options/how to get to options – The committee talked about what is important, what things might guide us, possible tools, resources and key factors to be evaluated. Future meetings will generate more work against potential options.
Discussion points/ideas included:

- a. Use of instructional technology to reduce costs
 - b. Facilities/buildings – capacity
 - c. Possible frameworks for authentic learning – age groups, class size, instructional style, use of existing space
 - d. Redeployment of existing resources
 - e. Searching for efficiencies – consolidation horizontally (across towns, by grades) vs. vertically (within town) may offer more opportunities for educational quality enhancement and efficiencies.
 - f. Possibility for pilots/experimentation with options.
 - g. Resource sharing – as currently doing with leadership in Special education. Instructional leaders across districts.
- D. Community Conversation – the committee agreed on the need to involve key stake holders and the community at large in the process of defining/determining options to enhance the likelihood of successful decisions and execution.
- a. Stakeholders include:
 - i. Taxpayers – seniors, parents, and families without students in Easton schools
 - ii. Students – all factions
 - iii. Teachers and Staff
 - iv. Town Governance - BOF, BOS, BOE
 - v. Sister districts – Redding and Region 9
 - b. Facilitation – discussion around probable need for a facilitator for community conversation – Jonathan Costa suggested as a strong option as facilitator.
 - c. Timing – need to define appropriate timing for inclusion of stakeholders/community conversations, as well as identifying individuals who can help develop solutions.

IV. Public Comment: None

V. Board Member Comment – None

VI. Adjournment

Motion: move that the Easton Long Range Planning Committee adjourn the meeting. Peskay, Horowitz. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM

Respectfully Submitted by Regina Bobroske, Committee Chairperson

Recorded by Regina Bobroske