

**East Hampton
Board of Education
East Hampton, CT 06424**

MINUTES: March 25, 2019

1. The special meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Mr. Goff, at 5:04 p.m. in the High School T-Bell.

- 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Members present: Mr. Goff, Ms. Barmasse, Mr. Lambert, Ms. Oakley, Ms. Villa, Ms. Amtmanis, Mr. Carlson and Ms. Caldwell (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)

Members absent: Mr. Bushey

Administration present: Mr. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Asetta, School Business Manager

2. Public Comment

Ms. Sones called for communication to all the community and not just parents regarding the tax communication from the town.

3. Board Discussion of the Board of Finance Mailing

Mr. Goff stated that he was shocked at how the mailing was presented. He had no knowledge. He likes the transparency, but the way it was done was like a beacon for the Board of Education. He would be willing to help with the process for the next year to break down Education amount.

Ms. Oakley noted that she wasn't aware that a separate mailing was being presented rather than into next tax bills. Spoke to transparency, but an effort to shine unfair light on education budget since bifurcation. If information is already available to people, what was the purpose? What was the value?

Ms. Barmasse suggested a positive outreach to the community concerning school achievement on budget.

Mr. Carlson noted that the information is already out there. Things are already transparent. The purpose was clear of this mailing.

Ms. Villa noted that the mailing should show uniformity of transparency. It should show the same thing for the Town budget and the school budget. Break them down the same way.

Ms. Amtmanis noted that the budget information is accessible but most people don't want too much information. How valuable is a mailer? Expense involved. Social media for free.

Mr. Lambert noted that the mailer is not new news and wonders if this would be an annual mailing. Information from the school would need to be compiled and mailed. This would be timely and expensive.

Ms. Caldwell noted that the mailer was expected. People had sticker shock but were not necessarily surprised. She is disappointed in unnecessary politics in the background and believes that this mailer was a “dig” to education.

Dr. Brown questioned why would the Board of Education not want the public to know the information? In the future, it will be sent with tax bills and questioned the motive for not wanting the public to know.

Ms. McLennan noted that the flyer was worked on by Mr. Jylkka for quite a while. They pushed him to get it done by March.

A conversation continued.

4. Board Action Regarding the Board of Finance Mailing
 - 4.1 Motion by Ms. Villa, seconded by Ms. Barmasse, to do single topic updates. Voted unanimously.
5. Public Comment - None
6. Adjournment
 - 6.1 Motion by Ms. Barmasse, seconded by Mr. Lambert, to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jarod Bushey,
Secretary
(Notes by Paul K. Smith)

CG:PKS:rs