

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, April 7, 2016

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, April 7, 2016, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 6:30 p.m. Present: Fred Isleib, Laurie Han, Sean Mullen, Jackie Weisman, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

Approval of Minutes: Regular 2/4/2016, 3/3/2016; Q and A Minutes/Transcript 2/4/2016; Workshop 2/12/2016; Executive Session 2/4/2016, 2/12/2016, 3/3/2016, 3/22/2016:

On a motion by Dr. Han, seconded by Chair Isleib, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Regular School Committee Minutes of 2/4/2016.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Regular School Committee Minutes of 3/3/2016.

On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the School Committee's Question and Answer Minutes/Transcripts of 2/4/2016.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the School Committee Workshop Minutes of 2/12/2016.

On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Chair Isleib, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved, but not to be released, the School Committee Executive Session Minutes of 2/4/2016.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved, but not to be released, the School Committee Executive Session Minutes of 2/12/2016.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved, but not to be released, the School Committee Executive Session Minutes of 3/3/2016.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved, but not to be released, the School Committee Executive Session Minutes of 3/22/2016.

Ms. O'Neill requested to table the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session on 3/8/2016.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

Personnel Change: Retirement

a. Teacher at Easton Middle School

Dr. Keough announced the retirement of Alyson Sousa, an ELA teacher at Easton Middle School.

Chair Isleib read Ms. Sousa's retirement letter.

Dr. Keough said there is truly no way to honor the efforts of this person.

Ms. O'Neill said that she has heard great things about Ms. Sousa and that it will be a significant loss to the Easton Public Schools.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, second Ms. O'Neill, with 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted Ms. Sousa's retirement letter, with regret.

Start Time Discussion / Vote:

Chair Isleib stated that the Committee had asked Bill Lucini from Lucini Bus Company to attend the School Committee Workshop on March 25 to answer a series of questions put forth by the Committee. He continued that the start times came down to two options; one option had the high school starting at 7:55 and the other option had the high school starting at 8:00.

Chair Isleib asked the Committee if anyone would like to add anything to the discussion of Start Time.

Ms. O'Neill said that this has been a cause for her for fifteen (15) years. She continued that every minute of extra sleep benefits the children and the health and well being of the children is the Committee's primary concern.

Dr. Han added that she would love to see an 8:30 start time but the Committee is sensitive to the concerns of the parents of Easton. She continued that adding a half hour will improve student's performance, studies show a decline in car accidents and that this is something that can be revisited down the road.

Ms. Weisman thanked Dr. Han and Ms. O'Neill for all the research they provided to the Committee and the community which allowed everyone to have important information to make a wise decision.

Dr. Mullen thanked the community for their patience during this time and said that he respected the Committee on how they handled the whole process.

Chair Isleib read the two options put forth for the proposed Start Times.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee voted to change the Start Times to Option One, which has the high school starting at 7:55 a.m. beginning in September of 2016. The new start / end times of all the schools for the 2016-2017 School Year will be as follows:

- Oliver Ames High School 7:55 am - 2:25 pm
- Easton Middle School 7:55 am - 2:25 pm
- Richardson Olmsted School 8:40 am - 3:00 pm
- PK-2 Schools 9:10 am - 3:30 pm

Approval of Foreign Travel Trip (Michelle Marro):

Michelle Marro, a teacher at Oliver Ames High School, on behalf of the Science Department, discussed her proposal for a February 2017 trip to The Galapagos Islands. Ms. Marro continued that the trip is offered to all students in grades 9 through 11, the cost of the trip is being paid for by the students and their families.

Dr. Mullen discussed concerns of the Zika virus.

Courtney Mullins, from EF Educational Tours, explained the "EF's Piece of Mind Program" which states that plans can change due to unforeseen circumstances without penalty to the students. Ms. Mullins continued to say that they follow the CDC and state department travel alerts.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the trip "as it is" with the understanding that the group comes before the Committee in November to provide an update.

FY17 Budget / Override Discussion:

Chair Isleib said that the Board of Selectmen voted in favor to have an override ballot for the Town Meeting. He continued that at the Town Meeting they will vote to appropriate the funds for the override and providing that was voted favorably at Town Meeting, on June 7th the town will vote either yes or no on the actual override itself. Chair Isleib said Dr. Cabral spoke at the Board of Selectmen's meeting and the Board of Selectmen supported the School Committee and the Administration with the amount the school department requested. He continued that the Board of Selectmen gave the School Department a little more incremental funding related to Curriculum Coordinators that would service Grades K through six.

Chair Isleib explained that the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee had recommended to make the cost of the improvements proposed in the security audit be pushed to a capital budget item as this is a one time cost, in the hopes it will be approved.

A discussion followed regarding the decrease of Title I funds that have been allotted to the district and how the funds are allocated by the state.

Dr. Han said that there have been several community override meetings that provide information.

Chair Isleib encouraged people to visit www.base2016.org as this is a website that explains why we need an override.

Dr. Mullen stated that on the town's website there is a calculator that people can plug in their home value and it will calculate what the impact on their tax bill will be should the override pass.

Dr. Keough encouraged the public to go onto www.Cleargov.com and see how Easton spends their money and the comparisons to other towns and school districts.

Chair Isleib commended Dan Smith for his help.

Dr. Mullen commended the excellent leadership of Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral for all the hours they put in for the school district.

Senior Letter Approval:

Dr. Keough read the letter and explained that this is the letter that goes home to the parents and guardians of the senior class towards the end of the school year to remind them of the importance of behavior.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Senior Letter.

Naming of School Facilities & Grounds Policy File FFA (First Reading):

Chair Isleib explained that the School Committee is updating the district policy manual with the assistance of MASC.

Dr. Han said the Committee is bringing the policies up to state standards.

Dr. Keough said the policies will be posted to the website.

Public Comment:

Dave Lundin, a resident of Taunton discussed a situation at Oliver Ames High School regarding his son.

Chair Isleib suggested Mr. Lundin email the information to the Committee so they may be informed of the situation in order to make judgements or comments on the situation. Mr. Lundin agreed to do so.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough said he was given the opportunity to attend the ASCD Conference in Atlanta and it was an amazing opportunity to network and to get ideas that are critical to being a school leader. He continued that Pedro Nogueira, a fabulous speaker from Stanford, originally from Harvard University, spoke on issues of equity and innovation. He concluded it was a great event, so excited to be there and come back with some great ideas.

Dr. Keough said he wanted to throw some compliments out to the School Council members of Moreau Hall, Parkview and Center Schools. He continued that they came together as the new Central Council and had a joint meeting in which they examined the major goals of the Strategic Plan, to brainstorm together on how they might meet those goals.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral noted that parent conferences are this week and that the Administration appreciates parents taking time to come in and talk to the teachers about their student's achievements.

Dr. Cabral continued that the second annual STEAM Family Night will be coming to the Richardson Olmsted School on May 20th for PK-2 students.

She thanked Mr. Carroll and Ms. Canty and others who worked hard for the recent STEAM event that was held at Easton Middle School. She also thanked Dan Smith as he was instrumental in getting Congressman Kennedy to come again. She added that representatives from iRobot, Science from Scientists, Siemens, Massachusetts Business Roundtable and Dr. Keough were also on the panel. Dr. Cabral said you can watch the event on the Easton Public Schools website.

Dr. Cabral concluded that there was a boy scout contingency today in the audience, Troop 193, working on their communications badge. She thanked them for being there and wished them the best of luck.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. O'Neill announced that this was the last televised meeting for Chair Isleib. She continued that Chair Isleib has been directly responsible for advocating strongly for the

district and the panel and has many accomplishments. She continued to list several of Chair Isleib's contributions to the Easton Public Schools. She offered a heartfelt "thank you" from the Easton Public Schools and the Town.

Chair Isleib said that it may be difficult to see now, but with Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral part of the district and the work of the Committee, he said the district is on the cusp of really starting to gain momentum. He said he will miss being part of that. He thanked the Committee members and said they work hard and always have the student's best interest at hand.

Ms. Weisman said that the Ames Free Library has started a program called "Little Free Libraries in Easton". She said they will be putting up little wooden boxes that will be decorated and people can take a book and leave a book. She continued that the unveiling will be April 13th at 5:00 p.m. Queset Gardens, and then handed off to the various locations as Community Gardens, the YMCA gym on Barrows Street, NRT, Children's Museum, Borderland State Park, Queset Gardens and possibly at the Residents at Five Corners. She continued that on an invitation from Principal Getchell at Parkview, she attended the STEAM electives and it was wonderful. She said that the kids were grouped all throughout the school, doing projects, they were so excited, the staff couldn't wait to tell her what they were working on. She continued that they were dancing, measuring, building bridges out of gummy drops and toothpicks, testing the strength of materials, building a life size game board. Ms. Weisman said it is such a great program.

Dr. Keough added that it is a Bridgewater State Easton Public Schools joint initiative.

Dr. Keough thanked Chair Isleib for so much he has done for him personally and everything he has accomplished for the district.

Possible Executive Session RE: Update on Negotiations:

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved to enter into Executive Session not to return to open session at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.
Secretary