

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, April 28, 2016

REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, April 28, 2016, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 6:35 p.m. Present: Laurie Han, Sean Mullen, Jackie Weisman, Caroline O'Neill, Nancy De Luca, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

Dr. Keough called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, Dr. Han was appointed Chair of the School Committee.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, Ms. Weisman was appointed Vice Chair of the School Committee.

Dr. Han welcomed Ms. Nancy De Luca as the newest member to the School Committee. Ms. De Luca said she was happy to be there.

Ms. O'Neill congratulated Dr. Sean Mullen for his reappointment on the School Committee.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

School Council Presentation Schedule:

Dr. Keough presented the schedule for the schools to present their School Improvement Plans to the Committee. He continued that Parkview, Center and Moreau Hall will present on May 26, 2016 and Oliver Ames, Easton Middle and Richardson Olmsted will present on June 9, 2016. He noted that both those meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Curriculum Leadership Presentations (Art and Music)

Dr. Keough introduced Charlene Dalrymple, Department Chair of Music and Kristyn Shea, Department Chair of Art who will be presenting to the School Committee their curriculum progress.

Ms. Shea said that in the past two years, since this process began in 2014, the Art Department took advantage of the three full day professional development days in addition to time offered during school to work on the UbD.

Ms. Shea presented the curriculum progress in Art from grades K through twelve. Ms. Shea stated that the opportunity to have all grade levels together was very beneficial and the biggest “ah ha” moment for the Art Department was to plan the unit framework and the biggest hurdle was deciding on the unit framework from grades K through twelve Art and how to best prepare students from year to year.

A discussion followed and the Committee asked questions and commended Ms. Shea and her Art Department on the progress they have made together as a team.

Ms. Dalrymple said the Music Department staff teaches Core Music in Grades K through six, performance ensembles in Chorus, Band and Orchestra in grades five through twelve and addition courses at the high school level. She stated that they have been fortunate to be able to add those additional courses, Music Technology sometimes called Garage Band, Guitar course and Theatre Arts course.

A discussion followed and the Committee asked questions and commended Ms. Dalrymple on the progress the Music Department has made together as a team.

Dr. Mullen stated that he has had multiple conversations with the Curriculum Leaders and every single person said how awesome it has been to work together throughout the grades and the amount of work they have been able to accomplish. He said they are excited about having the opportunity to work together during the Professional Development days that were provided to them.

Dr. Keough said that the teachers will tell you that their most prized experience during the school year, is working with their peers.

Dr. Han stated that full day Professional Development days are so much more valuable in terms of momentum.

Personnel Change

- a. Retirement - Paraprofessional at Center School**
- b. Retirement - Reading Specialist at Parkview School**
- c. Retirement - Grade 4 Teacher at Richardson Olmsted School**
- d. Resignation - Assistant Principal Richardson Olmsted School**

Dr. Han read Loretta Garofano, a Paraprofessional at Center School, retirement letter.
Dr. Keough said he wished Ms. Garofano the very best.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted Ms. Garofano's retirement letter.

Dr. Han read Louise Zamiara, Reading Specialist at Parkview School, retirement letter.

Dr. Han said that it was a wonderful letter.

Dr. Keough said there were a lot of tears and it was not an easy decision for Ms. Zamiara to make, it was not easy to say goodbye to someone who has been with the school for twenty years.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee, with deep regret, accepted Ms. Zamiara's retirement letter.

Dr. Han read Denise Giannone, Grade four Teacher at Richardson Olmsted School, retirement letter.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted Ms. Giannone's retirement letter.

Schedule "School Choice" Public Hearing:

Dr. Keough explained that every year the School Committee decides whether to allow children to choice into our school system in Easton. Dr. Keough said that Easton has not ever participated in school choice in his knowledge.

A discussion took place regarding the School Choice program.

Dr. Keough said that School Choice will be put on the next School Committee agenda to be put to a vote.

Budget Override Discussion:

Dr. Keough said that he attended a meeting at the Town Hall with Dr. Cabral, David Colton and other department leaders in the community to discuss about their presentations for the Town Meeting. He said that he has been told that the meeting with be televised and two community members representing both sides of the argument, will be interviewing himself, David Colton and other department leaders about the override questions and how they pertain to them. He continued that it is really important that the override list not just be about the numbers, it is about scores and how each number tells a story.

Dr. Han stated that they should all attend the meeting on Monday night and she will ask Paula Vogler to write an article regarding the Override and what year two will be like should the Override not pass.

A discussion took place regarding the Budget Override and the repercussions if the Override does not pass.

Colleen Less and Maureen Silverleib, members of the community, offered suggestions on how to get the Override message out to the community.

A discussion followed on how to initiate those suggestions.

Public Comment:

Colleen Less said there is some question about the budget and where the priorities should be. She stated that she understands the value in having Curriculum Coordinators however, the line item in the Budget for athletics is \$539,000 and the line item in the Budget for World Language is \$10,000 more than the line item for sports. She continued that we haven't been able to add to language in years. Ms. Less continued that the budget needs to be revisited and the lack of equity on how it is spread around based on what the priorities should be. She asked, "are we really getting the best bang for our buck?"

Maureen Silverleib stated in conclusion of Public Comment, that Easton has to come together and be one community; Easton has an amazing school system and the kids learn so much. She commended Ms. Louise Zamiara and the influence she had on her child and the students in Easton.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough said that a great event was held today. He continued that kids worked around town in honor of Devin Ness; the event was called Day of KindNess. He said it was a special event and brought the community together to honor this young man. It got the kids engaged and connected and everyone left feeling awesome. Dr. Keough said following the event, the Ness family put on a cookout at the high school, it was a fantastic event. He said you can see some pictures on his Twitter page located on the Easton School's website.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral said the next evolution of the curriculum unit writing is going to be made up of presentations to some Curriculum Leaders, and anyone else who wants to observe and participate. It will be similar to the former CCC. Units will be approved and any resource materials that need to be bought for them will be done and then it will be implemented across the grade or across the class. She continued, that as they heard tonight; they are ahead of schedule, she has a meeting with the Curriculum Leaders a week from Monday and they will be talking about if they want any of the units reviewed this year. She said that she will invite the Committee to any of the meetings that they may have to see the unit or units that may be ready to be approved for implementation next year.

School Committee Notes:

Dr. Han said on May 7th the MASC will be offering a course on Superintendent Evaluations. Dr. Han said also on May 7th at the same time, the MASC is offering "Charting the Course".

Ms. Weisman said it is important and a very informative for School Members to attend. She continued that you meet School Committee members from all over and you learn a lot.

Dr. Han stated that they need someone to fill in for former School Committee member, Fred Isleib, on the Audit Committee.

Ms. De Luca offered to take his spot and Dr. Han said she will be the alternate.

Ms. De Luca thanked the people of Easton for electing her to the School Committee and that she is proud to be part of the Committee as this was on her bucket list and she thanked her husband, Jack, for his support.

Dr. Keough offered his congratulations to Ms. De Luca.

Dr. Han said she was happy to have Ms. De Luca on the Committee.

Ms. De Luca said the EEA Retirement ceremony will be held on June 2nd.

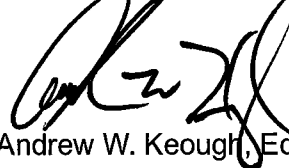
Executive Session RE: Negotiations Update:

Not needed.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Dr. Mullen, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.
Secretary