

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES
Friday, May 13, 2016

Minutes of School Committee Workshop Meeting, May 13, 2016, 50 Oliver Street, Upstairs Conference Room, convened at 9:03 a.m. Present: Laurie Han, Jackie Weisman, Caroline O'Neill, Sean Mullen, Nancy De Luca, Dr. Keough, Dr. Cabral, David Twombly and Marilyn Gordon.

Call meeting to order:

Chair Han called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Chair Han, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved to move the Approval of VHS Contract to the first order of business.

Approval of VHS Contract:

David Twombly stated that VHS Transportation handles all our Special Education transports and that they do a great job. He introduced Vincent Savill from VHS. He said that the three year contract consists of no increase for the 2016-2017 school year, a 2 ½ percent increase for the 2017-2018 school year and a 2 ½ percent increase for the 2018-2019 school year. He continued that they are a local company.

Dr. Keough explained to Mr. Savill the potential budget scenario if the override does not pass.

Mr. Savill told the Committee that if Easton Public Schools runs into financial problems he can certainly go back to revisit the contract with the School Committee.

Marilyn Gordon said the key to this transportation is sharing the ride with other districts.

Mr. Savill said they have attempted to bring in other towns to participate and it does bring down the cost.

Ms. Gordon said she will give the results of the audit report on transportation, to the School Committee.

Ms. O'Neill said she reviewed the contract prior to the workshop and she supports the contract.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the VHS Contract was approved.

Mr. Twombly left the meeting.

Policy Sections F, G and H (first reading):

On File FF, in the last sentence, the Committee decided to eliminate the word "me" in the sentence, it now reads: *"Much confusion in accounts, files, and records can be avoided if a new school can be identified by name before planning starts"*.

On File FF-R, the Committee decided to change number two (2) under "Procedure" to *"Naming proposals will be considered at any time the School Committee so chooses, including when such proposals are recommended prior to construction, when construction is in progress, after a building or adjacent public space is acquired by the District, or when renaming or dedicating a facility or space"*.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Mullen, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved Policy Section F with the exception of Policy File FF-R, "Naming of School Facilities and Grounds".

On File GA, number three (3), the Committee decided to reword as *"To provide positive staff development programs that contribute both to improvement of the educational program and to each staff member's career development aspirations."*

On File GBD under "Staff Communications to the School Committee" to add the word *"official"* in between *"All"* and *"communications"*.

Under "School Committee Communications to Staff" in the last sentence the Committee removed the word *"problems"* from *"The Superintendent will develop appropriate methods to keep staff fully informed of the Committee's concerns and actions"*.

It was decided that if a School Committee member wanted to visit the schools, they will place a call to the Superintendent's Assistant at Central Administration.

On File GBEA in the last paragraph it was decided to add *"(LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:52; 268A: 1 et seq.)"* after *"In order to avoid the appearance of any possible conflict, it is the policy of the School Committee that no employee be hired who is related to any member of the School Committee or who is related to any administrator of the Easton Public Schools without following the prescribed statutory procedures"*.

On File GBEC under "Fundraising", the Committee added after the last sentence *"This applies to all fundraising activities at school-sponsored events in accordance with the fundraising policy"*.

The Committee decided to table Policy Sections GBK and H to a future School Committee Meeting or Workshop.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Dr. Mullen, with a 5-0, the Committee agreed to move the Sub Committee Assignments for 2016-2017 as the next order of business.

Sub Committee Assignments for 2016-2017:

Chair Han read the Sub Committees from the list and a discussion took place over the frequency each of the committees meet.

The assignments for the 2016-2017 Sub Committees were decided as:

1. Town Budget Subcommittee: Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Weisman
2. Municipal Building Committee: inactive and not assigned
3. School Planning Committee: Ms. O'Neill
4. Negotiations Sub-Committee: Ms. Weisman and Ms. O'Neill
5. Food Advisory Sub-Committee: Chair. Han and Dr. Mullen
6. Curriculum Coordinating Council: Ms. De Luca
7. Frothingham Board: Chair Han
8. Audit Sub-Committee: Ms. De Luca
9. FEEE Committee: Dr. Mullen (Ms. O'Neill as an alternate)
10. Human Rights Committee: Ms. O'Neill
11. Green Communities Committee: Dr. Mullen
12. Activate Easton Committee: Chair. Han
13. School Committee Finance Sub Committee: Chair Han and Ms. O'Neill
14. Academic Dashboard: Dr. Mullen and Ms. Weisman
15. Animal Assisted Therapy Oversight Committee: inactive and not assigned
16. Charter Commission: inactive and not assigned

Dr. Keough suggested that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Sub Committee, the Wellness Committee and the Activate Easton be combined to one committee.

Ms. Weisman said that she attended the Evaluate Your Superintendent at MASC and one of the things they discussed was to have a Sub Committee of the School Committee as a Finance Committee. She continued that this will help them be informed throughout the year of the budget.

It was decided that Chair Han would be on the Sub Committee and that Marilyn Gordon would be a key component to the Sub Committee.

The Committee discussed ways to communicate with the community. A discussion took place over possibly streaming meetings live and having virtual meetings.

Review of Policy File BDD, School Committee-Superintendent Relationship:

On File BDD, "School Committee-Superintendent Relationship", item number two (2), the Committee changed the wording to *"The Superintendent will assist the Committee in*

reaching sound judgments and establishing policies, and will place before the Committee all relevant facts, information, and reports necessary to keep the Committee adequately informed of situations or business at hand”.

On item number three (3), the Committee changed the wording to “ *The Superintendent shall notify the School Committee via the Chair, or the next ranking member of the School Committee, and the informed School Committee member will in turn notify the remaining members, as promptly as is reasonably possible regarding matters of a critical or emergency nature*”.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O’Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to the amendments of Policy File BDD.

Budget / Override - Update Discussion:

Chair Han asked the Committee if anyone had comments regarding Town Meeting on Monday night.

Dr. Keough said he and Dr. Cabral will divide the slides, and that they have a nice slideshow that explains this is why we do what we do.

A discussion took place regarding the Town Meeting and presenting it to the community at the Town Meeting.

Superintendent Evaluation Discussion:

Chair Han told the Committee that they need to start thinking about the Superintendent Evaluation schedule and that everyone will do their own evaluation on the standardized form and it will be compiled. She suggested having a Superintendent Evaluation Sub Committee.

Ms. O’Neill suggested having an Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s contract.

Superintendent Notes:

None.

Assistant Superintendent Notes

None.

School Committee Notes:

None.

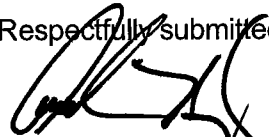
Possibly Executive Session RE: Contract Negotiations:

Not needed.

Adjournment:

An a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned the Workshop Meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew W. Keough', written over the printed name below.

Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.
Secretary