

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, June 9, 2016

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting, June 9, 2016**, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 5:35 p.m. Present: Laurie Han, Jackie Weisman, Caroline O'Neill, Sean Mullen, Nancy De Luca, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

**Approval of Minutes: Regular, 5/11/2016; Workshop, 3/25/2016, 5/13/2016; Executive Session, 5/24/2016:**

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of 5/11/2016 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 3-0 vote, Ms. De Luca and Dr. Mullen abstained from voting, the workshop minutes of 3/25/2016 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the workshop minutes of 5/13/2016 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote the executive session minutes of 5/24/2016 were approved but not to be released.

**Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

**Retirement - Paraprofessional at Oliver Ames High School:**

Dr. Keough said that Maria Yvonne Ventresco, a paraprofessional from Oliver Ames High School, is retiring after ten and a half (10 ½) years. He said that Ms. Ventresco has been a great addition to school system.

Ms. O'Neill said that Ms. Ventresco is a genuinely lovely person, truly delightful and the kids all loved her.

Chair Han read Ms. Ventresco's letter and said that it was a nice letter, she said good luck and wished her well.

Ms. O'Neill noted that on the minutes dated May 11th, page two (2), under "Budget / Override Discussion" the sentence, "Dr. Keough said the last time Easton had an override was in 2007" should be changed to "2006".

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Mullen, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the change to the 5/11/2016 minutes.

**Students Present Global Summit Trip to Iceland Experience:**

Helen Van Reil, thanked the Committee for having them attend the meeting to share their stories and experience about the trip to Iceland.

Ms. Van Reil along with students, Chris El Hayek, Olivia Moro and her mother, Linda, Alexandra Kallfelz and her father, Rory, shared their experiences from the trip to Iceland and thanked the Committee and Administration for allowing this amazing trip to occur.

Following the stories, a question and answer session took place.

**Foreign Travel Proposal to Quebec City:**

Rebecca Michael, the World Language Teacher at Easton Middle School, is proposing a trip to Quebec City.

Ms. Michael answered questions regarding the trip from the Committee and Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Weisman with a 5-0 vote, the trip proposal to Quebec City was approved.

**Out of State Trip Proposals:**

- a. **Cross Country - Warwick, RI**
- b. **Close Up Program - Washington, DC**

Dr. Keough asked Wes Paul, Principal of Oliver Ames High School, how many students participate in Cross Country.

Mr. Paul responded, over 100 students.

Dr. Keough said that he would recommend support of these trips.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Cross Country trip proposals to Warwick Rhode Island were approved.

Dr. Keough said that Matt Auger, Social Studies Teacher and Department Head, at Oliver Ames High School, was here on behalf of Courtney Keeney, also a Social Studies Teacher at Oliver Ames High School to propose a trip to Washington DC.

Mr. Auger proposed the trip and answered questions from the Committee and Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

On a motion by Dr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the trip proposal to Washington DC was approved.

**School Council Presentations:**

- a. **Oliver Ames High School**
- b. **Easton Middle School**
- c. **Richardson Olmsted School**

Dr. Keough introduced Wes Paul, Principal of Oliver Ames High School, Luke Carroll, Principal of Easton Middle School and Deborah Hammett, Principal of Richardson Olmsted School.

Dr. Keough stated that they are here to present their School Council presentations.

Mr. Paul, Mr. Carroll and Ms. Hammett presented their School Council Plans via a powerpoint presentation. They each reviewed their goals accomplished in 2015-2016 and detailed the goals set forth for the 2016-2017 school year. Following each presentation, a question and answer session took place.

**Naming of School Facilities & Grounds File: FFA (second reading):**

Chair Han said the Committee wanted to have a more robust Naming Policy and asked the Committee if anyone had any comments.

Ms. O'Neill said it was a very comprehensive policy.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Mullen, with a 5-0 vote, the Naming of School Facilities & Grounds File FFA Policy was approved.

**Professional Status Recommendations:**

Dr. Keough said that this is the list of teachers eligible for Professional Status. He continued that the brochure that was in the packets are used for the official ceremony in October.

Dr. Mullen asked Dr. Keough to explain to the people at home what Professional Status means.

Dr. Keough explained that every teacher that enters a school district enters with Non Professional teaching status and it takes three (3) years teaching in the same district to attain Professional Status.

Chair Han read the names listed in the brochure of all the teachers that are eligible for Professional Status.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote the Professional Status Recommendations were endorsed by the Committee.

**Budget Discussion:**

Dr. Keough said that he was disappointed that the override did not pass and that the budget was built with regard to the kids in Easton. He continued that the Administration will do everything in their power to make what they have work and that they will have to be creative.

Chair Han said that the budget was not a prioritized list on purpose, it was a comprehensive package to move the district forward and they didn't want anything to be perceived as having more weight than others. She continued that in order to move the district forward, they will have to start looking at things in a prioritized manner.

A discussion took place regarding the budget.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Keough said he had the opportunity to attend the Project Contemporary Competitiveness (PCC) orientation at Stonehill College. He said he spoke to 800 people. He said he attended the Habitat Expo at Center School followed by the second grade concert. He said he had some wonderful conversations with the children.

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Cabral said that she is still working on the Togetherhood project community service with the YMCA. She said they are raising a lot of supplies and monetary donations for Schools on Wheels. She continued that they are still accepting donations until Monday.

**School Committee Notes:**

Chair Han said that the Great East Music Festival, which is the Middle School music competition, did extremely well, the Easton kids did a beautiful job and congratulations to them.

Ms. O'Neill said that graduation was delightful.

Dr. Mullen said he attended Class Night and it was touching to see families who have lost loved ones there donating to the youth of this community and investing in their futures.

Ms. De Luca said congratulations to all the high school spring sports. She thanked Ms. O'Neill, Dr. Cabral and Dr. Keough for attending the EEA Retirement celebration and she congratulated everyone who retired, which included secretaries, custodians, not just the teachers. She said the EEA recognizes everyone. She said at the Historical Society they had the grade two students come through and it was great seeing what the second grade teachers are doing with the students about the history of Easton.

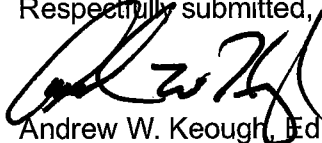
**Possible Executive Session: RE: Contract Negotiations:**

Not needed.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Mullen, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned at 9:59 p.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