

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, August 18, 2016

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, August 18, 2016, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 6:32 p.m. Present: Laurie Han, Jackie Weisman, Caroline O'Neill, Nancy De Luca and Dr. Keough.

Approval of Minutes: Workshop, 6/24/2016, Regular, 7/14/2016, Executive Session 7/14/2016:

On a motion by Ms. DeLuca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the workshop minutes of 6/24/2016 were approved as amended.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. DeLuca, with a 4-0 vote, the regular minutes of 7/14/2016 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the executive session minutes of 7/14/2016 were approved but not to be released.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

Approval of the Natural Resources Trust of Easton, Inc. Contract:

Dr. Keough said that the Easton Public Schools use the Sheep Pasture as part of the curriculum through sixth grade. Dr. Keough continued that we have a three year contract with the Natural Resources Trust of Easton and the contract is paid through fees collected. He stated that he met with the representatives of the Sheep Pasture to make sure the curriculum aligned with the Science standards.

Ms. O'Neill said that it is a wonderful program and great for the kids

On a motion by Ms. DeLuca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the three year contract with the Natural Resources Trust of Easton which starts July 1, 2016.

Approval of the Weston & Sampson Wastewater Treatment Extension Agreement:

David Twombly stated that this a formality, Easton Public Schools had a one year contract with two option years, this is the third option year. He continued that the town accountant had required a contract in place and that it is a renewal contract. Mr. Twombly continued, the pricing is the same, it is an extension contract for one year.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. DeLuca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the Weston and Sampson Wastewater Treatment Extension Agreement.

Approval of the READS Collaborative Contract with WB Mason:

David Twombly stated that Easton Public Schools belongs to the READS Collaborative. He explained that it is a group of schools that got together to get better purchasing power. He continued that it allows us to purchase goods at a cheaper price. He continued that one of the annual contracts is with WB Mason.

On a motion by Ms. DeLuca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the READS Collaborative Contract with WB Mason.

Approval of Ice Melt and Rock Salt Donation from Hannaford's:

David Twombly explained that David Fields, the Director of the Easton DPW contacted him stating that Hannaford's Supermarket had ninety six (96) bags of ice melt that they wanted to donate to Easton and that it will be stored at the DPW. Mr. Twombly said that Hannaford's has been bought out by Big Y.

Ms. O'Neill stated that Hannaford's has been a really good neighbor.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. DeLuca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the donation of ice melt and rock salt from Hannaford's.

Approval of Medication Policy Revisions:

Dr. Keough introduced Sue Male, Easton Public Schools' lead nurse. Ms. Male introduced Eileen Gardner, nurse at Easton Middle School and Lynne LeBlanc, nurse at Oliver Ames High School. Ms. Male explained that they have tweaked some of the language of the Medication Policy.

A discussion followed regarding the changes proposed.

Ms. O'Neill said that the Committee can approve this and revisit it at a later date if necessary.

Chair Han said that the Committee needs to be sure there are no conflicts with this policy and the policies that we are reviewing with MASC.

On a motion by Chair Han, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved Policy File JLCD as presented tonight.

On a motion by Ms. DeLuca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved to change the order of the agenda by moving the "Consideration and Possible Approval of New RO Afternoon Bus Drop Off Protocol" to the next order of business.

Consideration and Possible Approval of New RO Afternoon Bus Drop Off Protocol:

Dr. Keough introduced Deborah Hammett, Principal of Richardson Olmsted School who presented to the Committee the proposed afternoon bus drop off changes.

Ms. Hammett suggested having parents write a note to the school stating that their child is not allowed to walk home alone from the bus stop. Ms. Hammett continued that in the event a note has been submitted and no adult is awaiting the child at the bus stop, the child will be returned to the school.

Dr. Keough said that no vote is needed, it was to inform the School Committee of the changes.

Budget Discussion:

Dr. Keough said that in the packets are the Funds Balance Policy from the Town Hall. He continued that this is for the Committee's review and that this will not impact the way Easton Schools conduct business.

Chair Han said that discussions about the budget should begin at the September meeting.

EEA Presentation:

Ms. DeLuca introduce Steve McGinnis, from the MTA and Gary Erickson from the EEA. Mr. McGinnis presented to the Committee information regarding Question #2 which will be on the ballot regarding raising the cap on the number of Charter Schools allowable in Massachusetts. He asked that they consider taking a vote as many School Committees in Massachusetts have done, in opposition to Question #2.

A discussion followed.

Mr. McGinnis thanked the Committee for considering supporting the Save Our Schools and vote no on Question #2 on the ballot.

Personnel Change: Retirements and Resignations:

Dr. Keough said at this time of year it is not uncommon to see a lot of movement with personnel. He said that we have had some retirements and some resignations. He continued that it has been a very busy summer with hiring new staff.

Chair Han read the retirement letters.

On a motion by Ms. DeLuca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee accepted Beth Young's notice to retire at the end of this calendar year.

Ms. DeLuca said Ms. Young is a fabulous teacher.

On a motion by Ms. DeLuca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee accepted Kathy Weeks' notice to retire.

Review of Policy File I, J, K, L (second readings):

On a motion by Chair Han, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved to table the "Review of Policy File I, J, K and L" to the next workshop in September.

Easton Middle School Gymnasium Plaque Honoring Greg Chapman:

Chair Han said that Dan Farren could not be present.

Dr. Keough said that a plaque honoring Greg Chapman will be placed inside the entrance of the Easton Middle School Gymnasium. He said that Mr. Farren is also requesting to paint a wall inside the gymnasium.

Chair Han said that she walked the physical space with Mr. Farren and that instead of doing another sign Mr. Farren requested painting on one wall inside the gym. Chair Han said that during the football game on September 13th Greg Chapman will be honored for his service and that a reception at the Easton Country Club will follow. She continued that people can make donations or purchase dinner tickets for \$25.00. Chair Han said more information can be found at honoringgregchapman.com.

Dr. Keough said that a link can be found on the Easton Public Schools website for more information as well.

Public Comment:

None.

Superintendent Evaluation:

Chair Han explained the process of the Superintendent Evaluation and that it is similar to the Administrator's evaluation and the Teachers evaluation process. She continued that the Superintendent's Evaluation is three (3) part, setting goals collaboratively with the School Committee and Dr. Keough, a mid cycle check and the end of the year reflection on the year.

Chair Han stated that she, Ms. Weisman and Ms. O'Neill attended a MASC conference on the evaluation process as this is a labor intensive document.

Ms. O'Neill said that it increased her sympathies to the educators who have to go through this process.

Dr. Keough said that he believes in this process and credits his special education background. Dr. Keough thanked the Committee for going through this process and said he appreciates the time and effort put into the evaluation and to acknowledge that it is a work in progress.

Ms. O'Neill expressed her appreciation for attending the Management Conference in July and referenced the book Mindset and an exchange she had with her grandson.

Dr. Keough suggested having a book talk on the book, Mindset offered through Easton University.

Chair Han said that the Committee does their own evaluation separately and then it is sent to her. She continued that these documents can be made available to the public.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough said that he has had great conversations with the new people who are joining the district; he said they are fabulous people. Dr. Keough thanked the teachers and principals who put teams together to hire people. He said they asked candidates to teach a sample lesson and that it went well. Dr. Keough said that work had been done around the buildings this summer, the solar panel work will begin soon and that it had been a productive summer. He continued that the Welcome Back letters went out, the bus stops are on the website and that he is excited about the return of the staff on August 31st and the students on September 1st. He stated that new start times are listed on the website.

Ms. DeLuca asked if the Committee was expected to attend the staff meeting on August 31st.

Dr. Keough said that the Committee is welcome to attend, usually the Chair of the School Committee will speak. He stated that a continental breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m., the location will be the Richardson Olmsted School cafeteria.

Ms. DeLuca asked if data is available that shows absence and tardiness for the school year so it can be compared to this year with the new start times.

Dr. Keough said that he would check into that.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

None.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. O'Neill thanked Sean Mullen for the time he spent on the School Committee. She continued that Mr. Mullen is moving and his resignation is effective as of August 23rd.

Chair Han said that Mr. Mullen was an advocate to STEM and that she wished him well.

Ms. Weisman said that Mr. Mullen had been very involved with the schools before joining the School Committee.

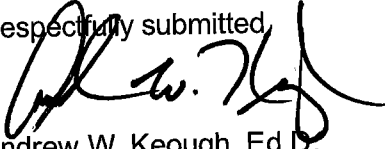
Ms. O'Neill said that Mr. Mullen was very active with FEEE.

Dr. Keough said Mr. Mullen had been a great supporter, committed to society and that he will be missed.

Possible Executive Session: RE: Contract Negotiations:

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, the Committee was polled and entered into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. not to return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,


Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.
Secretary