

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACADEMIC REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

**Minutes of School Committee Academic Review Subcommittee Meeting, January 3, 2017**, 50 Oliver Street, Superintendent's Conference Room convened at 11:08 a.m. Present: Jackie Weisman, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, Dr. Keough, Dr. Cabral, Marilyn Gordon, Theresa Skinner, Luke Carroll and Mike Ciliberto.

**Call Meeting to Order:**

The School Committee Academic Review Subcommittee Meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

**Review of Proposed Easton Middle School Schedule:**

Dr. Keough gave a short introduction of the proposed changes to be discussed.

Mr. Carroll explained the long history of this work. These discussions began as part of the transition from a Jr. High School of 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> graders to a Middle School of 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders as part of the Transition Subcommittee. Most recently, Mr. Carroll has continued the work of the Transitions Subcommittee in order to create a Middle School schedule that encompassed a 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. The Subcommittee researched the top performing middle schools across the country including those in our area, visited several high performing districts in Massachusetts, and spoke with leaders in other top performing districts in the State. Based on the information collected, the Subcommittee has proposed a draft of a new EMS schedule although as Mr. Carroll explained, he is still considering the length of classes and how specials subjects may be impacted.

Mr. Carroll reviewed his handout of the new drop block schedule and explained that it would rotate over twelve days. He stated that he believes that this schedule will add to instructional time for students. The additional instructional time comes from having only one set of announcements in the middle of the day and reducing the "changing time" between classes. This is possible because team classes are naturally grouped in the same physical area of the school.

Mr. Carroll also explained that there would be an extension of period 4 to be used as an "on team" period that would allow for students to receive targeted interventions, as needed and for flexible grouping instruction for students who did not need intervention. This 27-minute block could also be used for meeting with guidance counselors or for an advisory, which may be introduced in the future.

Mr. Carroll stated that a pilot run with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class went well.

Several issues were raised that required clarification and/or additional work before this schedule can be finalized. These issues included the PE/Electives block, the Tiger Block, the Specials Block, Prep time for teachers, Time on Learning numbers, and the staffing and budget issues that may be associated with moving to this schedule. In addition, an issue came up concerning how credits and GPA's from EMS classes (language and math) move up to the High School. This issue requires some additional clarification. However, it is more directly tied to the Program of Studies review rather than the proposed new schedule.

Dr. Keough set out the next steps he believes should be taken: (1) Mr. Carroll should speak to the EEA leadership; and (2) Mr. Carroll should speak to the Chair of the Music Department.

Dr. Keough thanked Mr. Carroll and Mr. Ciliberto for their presentation. Mr. Carroll, Mr. Ciliberto, Ms. Skinner and Ms. Gordon exited the meeting.

**Review Topics to be Studied Discussed at 10/28/2016 Meeting:**

The committee reviewed the topics discussed at the last meeting (1) EMS schedule change, (2) class size, (3) advanced learning, (4) homework policy, (5) graduation requirements.

Ms. Martin suggested that since the proposed EMS schedule change could impact items 1, 2 and 3 that the committee should focus on the EMS schedule change at this time. All agreed.

**Possible Academic Review Subcommittee/Cabinet Meeting – Update:**

School Committee members on the academic subcommittee will not meet with Dr. Keough's cabinet members at this time. The building administrators will meet with the academic subcommittee at a later date once the school improvement plans are drafted.

**Adjournment:**

The Academic Review Subcommittee Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline Weisman  
Secretary