

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, November 3, 2016

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting, November 3, 2016**, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 6:32 p.m. Present: Laurie Han, Jackie Weisman, Caroline O'Neill, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

**Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting 9/8/2016, 10/6/2016; Workshop 9/23/2016; Executive Session 9/8/2016:**

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the regular minutes of the 9/8/2016 meeting.

Ms. Martin abstained from voting.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the regular minutes of the 10/6/2016 meeting.

Ms. Martin abstained from voting.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the workshop minutes of the 9/23/2016 meeting.

Ms. Martin abstained from voting.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the executive session minutes of the 9/8/2016 meeting but not to be released.

Ms. Martin abstained from voting.

**Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

**Revisit foreign Travel Trip to Galapagos Islands for Update:**

Dr. Keough said Maria Annunziato, Helen VanReil and Michelle Marro came last April and presented to the Committee their foreign travel proposal to the Galapagos Islands. He continued that the trip was tentatively approved by the Committee in April.

Dr. Han said the concern at the time was the risk for the Zika virus. She continued that the risk for the virus on the Galapagos Islands currently is null.

Dr. Keough said it is a great learning opportunity and offered much gratitude to the staff for being willing to attend the trip.

No vote was needed at this time.

**Out of State Field Trip - Iron Tigers Robotics Team:**

John Manos, President of the Iron Tigers Robotics Team requested permission from the Committee to attend the *FIRST* Robotics competitions which are out of state, with the purpose/goal to qualify for New England and National Championships. He continued that the first competition is a regular district competition which is in Rhode Island and if they qualify for the regional competition that is held in new Hampshire, and if they do really well, they will go to the world championship which is in St. Louis.

Dr. Keough said it has been a steady progression for the Iron Tigers which is now situated at the Oliver Ames High School.

On a motion Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Robotics out of state trips and any future trips based upon how they precede in the competition.

**MCAS School Results Presentation:**

Wes Paul, Principal of the Oliver Ames High School, presented the MCAS School Results to the Committee.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

Luke Carroll, Principal of Easton Middle School, presented the MCAS School Results to the Committee.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

Deborah Hammett, Principal of the Richardson Olmsted School, presented the MCAS School Results to the Committee.

Ann Weintrob, Principal of Center School, Chris Getchell, Principal of Parkview School and Tom Higgins, Principal of Moreau Hall presented a collaborated presentation to the School Committee on benchmark data which they began collecting four years ago, with universal screenings to kindergarteners through second grade.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

**Acceptance of Two Donations for Oliver Ames High School:**

Dr. Keough said Oliver Ames High School received two \$1,000.00 donations from the Thornburg Investment Management on behalf of Thornburg employees' children who attend Oliver Ames High School.

Chair Han read one of the letters and said it was wonderful.

Dr. Keough said that it was very generous and that a letter of gratitude acknowledging the donations will be sent out to Thornburg Investment Management.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the two donations from Thornburg Investment Management.

**Acceptance of the Donation for the Science from Scientists Program:**

Dr. Keough said that the district has been desperately trying to fund the Science from Scientists program, which is \$30,000.00 per year, per grade. He continued that Dr. Cabral has been asking for corporate sponsorship and was fortunate to receive word that Mr. and Mrs. David Howe made a donation to cover the Science from Scientists program for the current year as well as the next school year. He said this is fabulous news that the program will still be available and that we are very appreciative of the donation.

Chair Han said that it is a generous donation.

Dr. Keough said it will have a huge impact on our kids and the district.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the generous donation of \$30,000.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Howe was accepted.

**Budget discussion - FY 18 Preliminary Discussion:**

Dr. Keough said he has items to discuss with the Budget Sub Committee at the first meeting prior to meeting with the building principals. He continued that he would like to set this meeting within next couple of weeks.

**Superintendent and School Committee Goals:**

Dr. Keough said he took the feedback from the School Committee's meeting on the Superintendent / School Committee Goals and had a conversation with Chair Han. Dr. Keough requested that this be put on the agenda for the November 18th meeting. He

continued that the teachers deserve a lot of credit as they are stepping up because they love the kids.

Chair Han said the action portion will be ready for the next meeting. Dr. Keough confirmed.

**Accept Contract Extension for Dr. Keough:**

Chair Han explained that the School Committee extended Dr. Keough's contract for a five (5) year term. She continued that Dr. Keough agreed to a contract of 2% increase this year, retroactive, 3% next year and because Dr. Keough completed the New Superintendent Program they have decided to put that money to his salary.

Dr. Keough thanked the Committee.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the contract extension for Dr. Keough as written through June 30th 2018.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Superintendent Notes:**

None

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Cabral said the Easton STEAM team, which is going into their fourth year, presented at the Massachusetts Stem Summit. Dr. Cabral said the group represented included Dottie Fulginiti, a parent and government representative, Kerri Murphy, Teacher at Oliver Ames High School and Paula Martel from North Easton Machine. She continued that they talked about how to create an effective STEAM community. She continued that it was a great day and they received wonderful feedback. Dr. Cabral wanted to remind everyone that the election day, November 8, will be a full day Professional Development day, no school for students. Dr. Cabral said she would like to give a public thank you to her assistant, Julie Shine, who has been really helpful behind the scenes helping find the professional development for every person in the district and arranging the professional development. She continued that she has done a wonderful job and doesn't nearly get enough credit. Dr. Cabral said the Curriculum Leaders are now facilitating the professional development for the teachers and working very hard. She said the Principals are stepping up as instructional leaders along with the many hats they wear.

**School Committee Notes:**

Ms. Weisman thanked Dr. Keough and the building principals for allowing the School Committee to go into the schools. She continued that it was a great and wonderful experience to go into the classrooms.

Dr. Keough said the principals and teachers really appreciated it and he said he looks forward to the Committee rotating through in the Spring again so that each member tours each school.

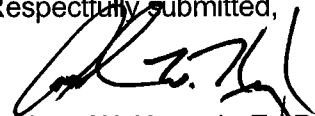
Ms. O'Neill gave a shout out to all the sports teams who have been performing extremely well. She continued that she and Ms. Weisman attended the Budget Subcommittee meeting and it will be a challenging budget year especially because there are new financial guidelines in effect and suggested that the Committee have a discussion on this at some point. Ms. O'Neill said it is great to have a school/town relationship like we do. She continued that the FEEE Volleyball Tournament is on November 18th and that they need referees. Ms. O'Neill said they will have a large turnout on election day and reminded the public there is no smoking on school grounds, including in the parking lot, as it is a state law.

Chair Han reminded everyone that there is no school on Friday.

**Possible Executive Session: RE: Preparation for a Hearing on a Personnel Matter:**

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, the Committee was polled, and with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned at 9:38 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing preparation for a hearing on a personnel matter, not to return to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.  
Secretary