

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, December 1, 2016

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, December 1, 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.

Minutes: Workshop 10/21/2016, 10/28/2016:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the workshop minutes of 10/21/2016 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the workshop minutes of 10/28/2016 were approved.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

OA Program of Studies Presentation:

Dr. Keough introduced, Mr. Paul the Principal of Oliver Ames High School, and said he will be presenting the Program of Studies for Oliver Ames High School.

Wes Paul presented to the School Committee Oliver Ames High School's recommended Program of Studies revisions.

Following the presentation a question and answer period took place.

Dr. Keough congratulated Mr. Paul on a job well done with the Program of Studies.

An a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved Mr. Paul's recommended changes to the Program of Studies with the understanding there may be budgetary restraints.

State of Special Education:

Dr. Keough said that he had asked Theresa Skinner, Director of Special Services, to provide to the Committee an update on the happenings in the Special Education Department.

Ms. Skinner presented to the Committee the "State of Special Education".

Following the presentation a discussion took place.

Approval of Superintendent's Goals for 2016-17:

Dr. Keough said that it has been an intense effort working on the goals and that they align with the Strategic Plan. Dr. Keough said that this is something that should be done annually and that the School Committee evaluates the Superintendent on his goals. He continued that there are two District Improvement goals, two Student Learning goals and a Professional Practice goal. Dr. Keough said that the Professional Practice goal is about developing and maintaining communication between himself, the School Committee, the Cabinet and other shareholders so that they are making informed decisions.

Chair Han commented that when looking at these goals, they are taking the Strategic Plan and bringing them into the classroom, and that everyone understands the direction and standard operations.

Dr. Keough said that it is very helpful for the leaders that he supervises when they are writing their goals or working on initiatives for their schools, and that they know it is in line with what the Superintendent and the District are trying to accomplish.

Ms. Martin suggested changing the wording under the District Improvement 2. Possible Key Actions/Indicators to read, *"For the 2016-17 school year, further align and develop inclusionary practices across all grades, to ensure all students learn in the least restrictive environment."*

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Superintendent Goals and District Goals 2016-17.

Budget Discussion - FY18 Preliminary Discussion:

Dr. Keough said he wanted to let the folks at home know that they developed a Budget Subcommittee.

Chair Han said that the Budget Subcommittee has met twice so far and at the first meeting the School Committee members who are on the Budget Subcommittee include herself, Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Martin, met with Marilyn Gordon, Director of Business. Chair Han said the second meeting was with the building leaders. She continued that they are providing the Budget Subcommittee with information to have an understanding of priorities and needs of the schools.

Ms. O'Neill said it was enormously helpful. She requested that Ms. Weisman and Ms. De Luca receive the handouts from the second meeting that they received from the principals.

Chair Han asked if the Town Audit has come through the Central Administration offices yet. Dr. Keough said that they have been collecting information from the Business Office but nothing yet through the Central Administration Superintendent's Office. Ms. Gordon said Dr. Cabral has provided all the Professional Development materials and John Sousa, Director of Technology has provided the Technology materials.

Ms. De Luca said she attended an Audit meeting last evening and Connor Read went through the whole process of where the Town is at with the audit and that they were hoping to be done by March.

Dr. Keough said the Budget Subcommittee will meet with the elementary principals to talk about their budget requests and the Administration will build the preliminary budget.

Ms. Martin said that the Town has a Budget Subcommittee Meeting scheduled on December 15 which is a public meeting and will be televised.

Development of Professional Improvement Committee:

Dr. Cabral said that one of our teachers is working extremely hard on being accepted in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program. She continued, if accepted, the teacher will be given a travel opportunity to go to a location in the world, that she has chosen, to create a global competency program. Dr. Cabral said that this teacher's project is elementary focused and that it fits in with our vision for the District. She continued that according to the teacher's contract, there is a provision that states a teacher can have a leave for a period of time under certain conditions. She said that one condition is she has to make it clear by a certain date what the plan entails; second, she has to meet with Administration to be sure it meets and aligns with the District Goals and that she comes back and replicate those efforts with the rest of the District. Dr. Cabral said there needs to be a committee to approve that leave for that period of time and the contract stipulates that the EEA, Easton Educators Association, is to appoint three people to serve on the committee and the School Committee needs to appoint three people as well. Dr. Cabral said this committee will hear the teacher's presentation and if she is accepted into the program they would then be charged with approving the leave request. She continued that the leave would be January 2018 through approximately May of 2018.

Chair Han said that this is a great opportunity.

Ms. O'Neill asked if Dr. Cabral had any recommendations of who should be on the Professional Improvement Committee.

Dr. Cabral offered to serve on the Professional Improvement Committee.

Ms. Martin offered to serve on the Professional Improvement Committee.

Dr. Keough suggested asking one of the principals to serve on the Professional Improvement Committee.

Dr. Cabral said that updates will be given to the School Committee on the project.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Development of a Professional Improvement Committee which will consist of Dr. Cabral, Ms. Martin and a principal volunteer.

Public Comment:

None

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough said he went to a great presentation on mousetrap car building, a "design thinking" exercise with 5th graders and high school students. He continued that the students designed engines for cars with all recycled materials and they teamed up, came up with their concepts, they prototyped and tested them. He continued that it was a great exercise. Dr. Keough said Laura Ayasse, teacher at the high school, works with a number of the 5th grade teachers.

Dr. Cabral said that all the 5th graders attend and the high school students facilitate work with the students.

Dr. Keough said we have an excellent Robotics program at the middle school and the high school and that we now have a Robotics Club at the Richardson Olmsted School. He continued that it is one of six clubs at RO that parents are running and close to one hundred kids participate in these clubs. Dr. Keough gave a shout out to Cindy Boyce, a parent, and Deborah Hammett, Principal of Richardson Olmsted School, who organize the clubs at RO, they have done such a great job.

Dr. Keough said best wishes to our winter athletes.

Dr. Keough said the water testing is still ongoing, any test results that were problematic were submitted and the number of taps that were problematic on the second flush was under the amount of ten including all of the schools combined. He continued that they are flushing every day, monitoring the testing, logging the testing and will keep the public informed.

Dr. Keough said that he has not heard any news from the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) as of yet, but expects to hear this month.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral said she wanted to remind the School Committee about the Ability Day tomorrow at Parkview School, the timeline is 9:15-2:00 pm if they would like to observe. She continued that this is not open to the public, it is activities designed for the children.

Dr. Cabral wanted to remind parents and the community of the parent conferences on December 8th, which is a half a day for grades PK-12 and December 9th is a half day for grades PK-8. She continued that as part of our efforts to reduce the number of half days, the high school will still have a full day of school on December 9th.

Dr. Cabral said that the Togetherhood project, which is one of our community service projects that we are in partnership with the YMCA, will be working with Stonehill students and the Lions Club to help set up for the winter programs this weekend. She continued that they will be helping Friday, Saturday and Sunday, setting up, breaking down and walking the parade. She continued that anyone willing to volunteer, small windows of time are still available such as Friday between the hours of 3:00-6:00 pm and on Saturday anytime after 4:00 pm. Dr. Cabral said to contact Darcy Paiva at the YMCA.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. O'Neill said that there has been a significant uptick in harassment and intimidation directed at groups based on religion, race, sexual orientation, etcetera, and she read that it turns out the vast majority of these are turning up in the K-12 schools. She continued that she knows that Central Administration and our Administrative teams are aware of this but wanted to acknowledge it in response to the number of comments on Facebook. She continued that the Attorney General has received four hundred calls just this past week regarding this issue. Ms. O'Neill said she read that when kids are addressed about these issues in a group setting, the greater the positive effect.

Dr. Keough responded that as a Principal, he felt that the school meeting at the beginning of the school year was the most important meeting, addressing the students in a large group. He continued that he has spoken to the principals however, has not directed anything to the teachers or the parents but assured that the District does not tolerate this behavior and will suggest to the principals to speak to their entire student body.

Ms. O'Neill said that the teachers should speak to their classrooms as well.

Kerri Murphy, teacher at Oliver Ames High School, said that they just had an assembly similar at the high school with all the teachers and that they are having training.

Ms. Martin suggested sending a letter from the Superintendent to the parents in the community to let them know where we stand as a District and what we will be doing as an everyday practice to enforce those values.

Chair Han said that most school systems are trying to get on top of this, she noted that Sharon Public Schools has a beautiful sign at their high school.

Dr. Keough said that anytime anything has come up since he has been here, even post election, it has not been tolerated.

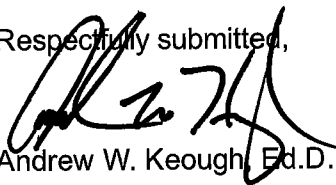
Ms. De Luca said that there will be a lot of music this weekend at the Rockery from the schools and it is a great weekend to come together as a community.

Ms. Martin said in addition, we are coming up on all the winter concerts, it's a great way to kick off the holiday season and she encourages parents to take young kids in particular to these events.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.
Secretary