

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA**

**EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, December 3, 2015**

**Minutes of School Committee meeting, December 3, 2015,** Simmons Lecture Hall, Oliver Ames High School, 101 Lothrop Street, convened at 6:30 p.m. Present: Fred Isleib, Laurie Han, Caroline O'Neill, Sean Mullen, Jackie Weisman, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

**Approval of Minutes 11/5/15; Workshop 10/2/15, 11/20/15:**

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of 11/5/15 were approved.

On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the workshop minutes of 10/2/15 were approved.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the workshop minutes of 11/20/15 were approved.

**Recognition of Firefighters and Center School Staff:**

Certificates were awarded to Colleen Clark, nurse at Center School, Tom Baker, firefighter, Stephen Gellman, firefighter, Jason Healey, firefighter, Larry Machado, firefighter, David McRae, firefighter, Rob Powell, firefighter and Ann Weintrob, Principal at Center School for their heroic acts and immediate action that helped Devin Larkin, a student at Center School.

The Larkin family was present for the ceremony.

**Acceptance of Donation: NE Patriots Foundation – STEM Support in Acknowledgement of “STEM Teacher of the Year” – Kerri Murphy:**

Chair Isleib presented to Kerri Murphy, a Math teacher at Oliver Ames High School, the \$5,000.00 donation check from New England Patriots Foundation for being recognized as the “STEM Teacher of the Year”.. Dr. Keough said it was a great honor and thanked Ms. Murphy for her work in STEM.

**Personnel Change:****a. Appointment: Admin. Assistant to Superintendent:**

Dr. Keough announced the appointment of Lynn Souza as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

**World Challenge Trip Request:**

Kyle Sousa, a teacher from Oliver Ames introduced Dan Porter, a representative from "World Challenge" who did a presentation on "World Challenge" to the committee. Mr. Porter explained that this will be the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) trip Oliver Ames High School students have participated in and the trip which has been scheduled for the summer of 2017 will be to Thailand. Mr. Porter explained the expedition will last twenty one (21) days.

Chair Isleib thanked Mr. Porter and Mr. Sousa and explained that the committee cannot vote on the trip tonight. Chair Isleib asked Mr. Sousa to fill out the proper forms and return to the administration office in order for it to be voted on at the next School Committee Meeting.

**Curriculum Leaders Presentation: ELA**

A presentation was given by Joanne Coffman, ELA Department Chair, Jeannie Baxter, ELA Curriculum Leader at Easton Middle School, Cindy Olson, ELA Curriculum Leader at Richardson Olmsted School and Kim Krockta, ELA Curriculum Leader at Center School on the work being done on the ELA Curriculum across the district. A number of questions were raised by the committee members.

**School Calendar 2016-2017 (First Reading):**

A discussion took place regarding the School Calendar for 2016-2017 and the three options that have been drafted. Chair Isleib noted that draft #1 and draft #3 have students starting before Labor Day and draft #2 have students starting school after Labor Day. Chair Isleib mentioned that there are a total of five (5) half days on the proposed 2016-2017 calendars as opposed to thirteen (13) half days this calendar year. Chair Isleib thanked the Easton Educators Association as this was part of the negotiations that was approved.

Dr. Keough stated that through negotiations they were able to get two (2) full Professional Development days.

The consensus of the committee was to bring back calendar draft # 3 with the changes for a second reading.

**Change in Schedule of January School Committee Meeting:**

Chair Isleib suggested moving the next School Committee Meeting from January 7<sup>th</sup> to January 14<sup>th</sup>. Chair Isleib suggested scheduling a School Committee

**MCAS or PARCC for Spring 2016 – Administration Recommendation:**

Dr. Cabral said we were given the opportunity across the state last year to choose MCAS or move to PARCC. Dr. Cabral said we decided to stay with MCAS. Dr. Cabral mentioned that Mitchell Chester, the Commissioner of Education, has decided that the state will not move to PARCC, instead starting in 2017, the state will have MCAS 2.0.

A discussion took place over the pros and cons of whether to go with PARCC or go to MCAS 2.0.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved to stay with MCAS.

**Audit Update:**

Chair Isleib discussed the results of the Audit Committee Meeting from December 1. Chair Isleib provided to the Audit Committee the pie chart and the list of items that the administration and the School Committee compiled for the Audit Committee to consider. Chair Isleib stated that the two areas that were discussed and didn't feel the need to evaluate were the Special Education Department due to the current audit through the Department of Education, which is extremely through, and salaries which represent 80% of the school budget. Chair Isleib said the Audit Committee will meet again on December 22 at 7:15 pm. at Town Hall and would like to invite the School Committee, Dr. Keough, Dr. Cabral and Marilyn Gordon to attend.

**Review and Approval Revised Section B of School Policy Manual:**

The committee reviewed the revisions of File #BEDH, BEDH-E, BEDD, BEDB and BBA. Dr. Han stated the new revisions are highlighted in green. Chair Isleib suggested the committee make additional revisions and approve at a workshop meeting.

**Approval of Budget Guidelines and Guiding Principles:**

Dr. Keough recommended that they continue utilizing the Strategic Plan but suggested changing the dates to include 2015-2018. Dr. Keough stated that this Strategic Plan is what is driving our decision making. Ms. O'Neill suggested changing under the letter "E" "2016" to "2018" and to remove the word

“Improvement” from the first bullet under “Budget Guidelines”. Chair Isleib recommended a different language under the letter “D”, “circuit breaker”. Dr. Keough suggested rephrasing to “past student expenses and state subsidies (circuit breakers)”.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved the Budget Guidelines and Guiding Principles as amended.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Keough pointed out that Dr. Cabral hosted the last Keough’s Corner with a new program on Science from Scientists which included Bryan Aries, a teacher from the Middle School, Luke Carroll, Principal of the Middle School and a sixth grade student. Dr. Keough said the program was awesome and will be posted on the website.

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Cabral said that FEEE was a contributor to the Science from Scientist program. Dr. Cabral announced that FEEE raised \$11,000.00 from the volleyball event for the program and she thanked FEEE. Dr. Cabral said the “Hour of Code” is coming up, code.org, which is an organization that supports the use of computer coding and it is a critical skill and one of the fundamentals of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dr. Cabral said we have several groups in the district taking part in it. Dr. Cabral mentioned that on December 10 at Bridgewater State University the Envision Team of young ladies from the Middle School who attended the program in the summer, are going to take part in a replication program at Bridgewater. Dr. Cabral said Bridgewater State University and Southeastern STEM network asked Easton to speak at the program as a model district for our efforts in the STEAM program. Dr. Cabral echoed the sentiments of Dr. Keough in congratulating her partner, Lynn Souza, who is going to be Dr. Keough’s Executive Assistant.

**School Committee Notes:**

Ms. O’Neill said the volleyball tournament was a ton of fun and commended the great people of FEEE for their hard work that they do to support Easton Public Schools. Ms. O’Neill mentioned she also attended the Athletic Hall of Fame on November 21<sup>st</sup>, and said it is a touching and fascinating demonstration of people who come back years later, and it is a remarkable event. Ms. O’Neill mentioned

that she is the School Committee representative for the Start Time Committee that Dr. Keough put together. Ms. O'Neill read a quote from the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding start time and the effects on the adolescent brain development; she indicated that they were working on a proposal to bring forward to the School Committee in the future.

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

Chair Isleib stated the Executive Session was not needed.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the committee adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.  
Secretary