

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES
Friday, December 16, 2016

Minutes of School Committee Workshop Meeting, December 16, 2016, 50 Oliver Street, Upstairs Conference Room, convened at 9:04 a.m. Present: Laurie Han, Caroline O'Neill, Nancy DeLuca, Jackie Weisman, Jane Martin, Dr. Keough, Marilyn Gordon and David Twombly.

Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Han called the workshop meeting to order at 9: 04 a.m.

Approval on Private Donation to EMS:

Dr. Keough said that the Easton Middle School received a wonderful donation.

Luke Carroll, Principal of Easton Middle School said that someone had reached out to offer a sizable donation to the school. He continued that the donor, who would like to remain anonymous, reached out via email to him after a back to school night. Mr. Carroll said the donor offered a donation in the amount of \$10,000.00. He continued that discussions then took place regarding the options for the donation such as a Science Program, potential greenhouse, google expeditions pilot program in which kids got to take 3D virtual reality field trips in the media center. He continued that they discussed taking a standard computer lab and turning it into a 21st Century Classroom; an active learning lab. Mr. Carroll said the room would have multiple uses and it would be completely outfitted with up to date state of the art technology. He continued that it encourages the use of the classroom to be more of a collaborative environment which focuses on the students working together and the teacher acting as the facilitator. Mr. Carroll said in the end, the group settled with the idea of the 21st Century Classroom. Mr. Carroll introduced Jessica Garbowski who spoke further about the idea.

Jessica Garbowski referred to the handout that was in the School Committee packets. Ms. Garbowski said that the room will basically start as an empty canvas. She continued that there will not be a teacher's desk, students will be able to move around and work collaboratively. She said there will be rolling chairs with an attached desk so they can easily be moved. Ms. Garbowski said students will be able to project onto the 70 inch prometean panel touch screen television which will be run by a HP mini desktop. She

stated that it does not require the use of a projector. Ms. Garbowski said an interactive panel will be the main focus in the room. She continued that there will be six (6) 40" Smart LED TVs that will be mounted around the outskirts of the room. Ms. Garbowski said they will be using Google Chromecasts which are basically little USB flash drives which will allow the chromebooks to wirelessly project to the TVs. Ms. Garbowski said that Shaun Melendy, Easton Public Schools maintenance, has offered to install and John Sousa, Director of Technology, will help with the technology portion, which will save money. She said that Mr. Carroll suggested painting one of the walls with whiteboard paint. She said because the desks that are currently in the room are bolted to the floor, they will need to replace the carpeting in the room.

Dr. Keough said that he is very excited about this and that this is the direction that we should be heading in as most schools are now looking into Makerspaces and Innovation centers. He continued that we should bring students to the Innovation Centers in Cambridge and in Boston which have spaces similar to what they are discussing right now. He said that this is fantastic and thanked the donor for their generosity.

Ms. Garbowski said that they are repurposing the projector that was in the room by moving it back so that it can project on the wall for viewing.

Ms. Martin asked because it is a new environment, new way of thinking, what will we be doing to support the teachers in using this space.

Mr. Carroll said that this is how college classrooms are currently being designed and that all the teachers can sign up to use the room. He continued that the Technology Facilitator, Jessica Garbowski, works out of the library media center at the middle school, so she is in the building available to work with the teachers.

Ms. O'Neill expressed her gratitude and said it was so generous and asked the donor if they were involved in the discussion.

The donor said that she had emailed Mr. Carroll stating that she wanted to donate some money to the school and asked for some ideas. She continued that they met within a week and among three (3) ideas, this is the idea that was decided upon. She said that she will donate \$12,000.00 towards the 21st Century Classroom at Easton Middle School.

Dr. Keough said he will do a taping of Keough's Corner dedicated to the room once it is completed.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the wonderful generous donation.

Approval of Stadium Lighting Proposal:

David Twombly said he reached out to the electrical engineer who designed the project and in the School Committee packets were some information that Ms. O'Neill had requested. He continued that the cost of the Stadium Lighting Proposal came in at \$269,000.00, cost of the lights came in at \$150,000.00, cost for the poles \$70,000.00 and the installation \$49,000.00. He said that life expectancy of the poles is forty (40) years but we have a twenty five (25) year warranty. Mr. Twombly referred to the photographs of the current poles that were in the School Committee packets. Mr. Twombly confirmed with Bill Matthews that they want to start the project in the spring.

Ms. Gordon confirmed that the gate receipts and user fees will pay for the project.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the contract with Island Power and Lighting.

Approval of Donation to Moreau Hall School:

Tom Higgins, Principal of Moreau Hall, said he was approached by the Mellion family who have two (2) daughters in the Easton Public Schools. He continued that Mrs. Mellion's mother, is a concert pianist and they have two (2) pianos one of which they would like to donate to Moreau Hall. Mr. Higgins said it is a beautiful Baldwin Upright. He continued that the piano that they currently have has seen better days. Mr. Higgins said the Mellions also requested having a plaque put on the piano in honor of Mrs. Mellion's mother.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the donation of the Baldwin Upright piano from the Mellion family.

The Committee suggested contacting Paula Vogler to do an article on donations to the Easton Public Schools.

2017-2018 School Calendar (First Reading):

Dr. Keough said that they have three (3) versions of the 2017-2018 calendar proposals. Dr. Keough said Dr. Cabral did a great job vetting all of this and he spoke to the Cabinet members and they preferred draft number two (2) followed by draft number three (3).

Ms. De Luca questioned the half day in May that is used for placement and happens to fall on the day of the Senior Prom.

Dr. Keough said that there was a concern with the Principals regarding the November 1st Professional Development day. He continued that some members of the team felt that November 13 or November 27th would be preferred over the November 1st day.

Dr. Keough said that according to contract, the last day of school for 2017-2018 School Year will be half day for students and full day for staff.

The Committee decided to go with draft number two (2) and have Lisha give her input regarding the November Professional Development day in question, before the Committee votes on it.

Review Policy L (Second Reading):

Dr. Keough suggested that when all the School Committee policies for the Policy Manual have been reviewed, they will ask Rebecca Bryant, Counsel for Easton Public Schools, to look it over.

Chair Han suggested having the Policy Subcommittee, Ms. Martin and herself, meet and go over the remaining policies then have Rebecca Bryant go through all the policies and advise.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved Policy L with the understanding that it is mostly statements of principle.

Review of Policies From Counsel:

a. JICH and IHAMB

b. JBA, JEB, JF, JF-E1, JFABC, JFABD, JHD, JIC, JICF, JICGB, JICG, JIH, JII, JJIF, JK JKAA, JKF

On a motion by Chair Han, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to table the Policies referred by Counsel.

Review Policy on Community Use of Facilities and Non-Student Based Fund Raising Activities:

The Committee tabled the discussion of the Policy on Community Use of Facilities and Non-Student Based Fund Raising Activities.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to move Superintendent Notes to the next order of business.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough said a letter went out to the families regarding the District's core values. He continued that a family responded back to him with appreciation regarding the letter because her daughter and her daughter's friend had racial comments made to her by

other students. Dr. Keough asked to meet with her daughter and her friend. He said he has a meeting set with the mother and daughter, the friend declined meeting.

Ms. Martin said that while she was at the high school for conferences, she heard a lot of really supportive feedback from teachers in support of that letter.

Dr. Keough said that the new resource officer, Tim McPeck, will be starting after the holidays. He continued that we will be splitting the cost with the Police Department, it costs Easton Public Schools \$32,000.00 a year. Dr. Keough suggested keeping the hall monitors along with the resource officer. He continued that it costs the district \$5,000.00 and they have a huge impact with the students.

Budget Update:

Marilyn Gordon said because the budget is so overwhelming she broke it up into categories so that it is easier to follow.

Dr. Keough reminded the Committee that the document is the current year, existing money that is in the accounts.

Ms. Gordon explained that the top page is a summary of each account and following is the breakdown summary of each account.

Ms. Gordon explained that "School Instructional" consists of all schools, teachers, supplies, equipment, everything that goes into a school except utilities, custodians, paras. Ms. Gordon said that the 240 Grant, which is approximately \$850,000.00 pays for one Special Ed secretary and some paras.

Ms. Martin asked Ms. Gordon to do one sheet that will show the two big Grants.

Ms. Gordon said that the Budget Subcommittee met with the Principals and that they all gave their requests, one time requests or long term; they also met with Technology and Special Ed. She continued that now they will take all that information and figure out what can be done this year, one time items and what can be done long term.

Dr. Keough said what you will see with the Budget going forward with everyone's requests will be one time items, and what we think we can have in FY18, and FY19. He continued that they will go over this with the Cabinet on Monday then the next step is to bring forth at the January 5th School Committee Meeting, the Preliminary Budget. Dr. Keough said they will share with the Budget Subcommittee between now and the January 5th School Committee Meeting. Dr. Keough suggested having Theresa Skinner at the Academic Review Subcommittee Meeting along with Luke Carroll, who will present his proposed schedule.

The Committee discussed areas where they might have potential savings and apply those savings to the needs of the District.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

None.

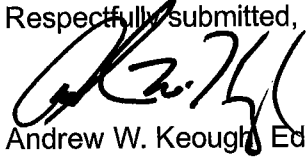
School Committee Notes:

None.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Keough Ed.D.
Secretary