

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES  
Friday, December 18, 2015

**Minutes of School Committee Workshop Meeting, December 18, 2015**, Upstairs Conference Room, 50 Oliver Street, convened at 8:38 a.m. Present: Fred Isleib, Laurie Han, Caroline O'Neill, Sean Mullen, Jackie Weisman, Dr. Keough, Dr. Cabral and Marilyn Gordon.

**Call Meeting to Order:**

Chair Isleib called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

**Approval of Apple Sole Source Contract:**

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 4-0 vote, the state contract of Apple Sole Source was approved.

**Acceptance of Donation - Science from Scientists:**

Dr. Cabral announced that Easton Public Schools have received three donations towards the Science from Scientists program. Dr. Cabral stated that FEEE donated \$11,000.00 from the volleyball tournament, Woodward and Curran donated \$1,500.00 and Whelan Associates donated \$1,000.00. Dr. Cabral said the balance left for the Science from Scientists program is \$1,500.00 and that if need be, the balance will be paid from the Easton Public Schools funds. Chair Isleib asked when do we need to commit to the program for the school year of 2016-2017. Dr. Cabral stated that they will be doing exit interviews from teachers and students for feedback on the program; last year we committed in June however, the sooner we commit the better. Chair Isleib asked if the thought for next year is to expand the program to multiple grades. Dr. Cabral answered, that it would be best to stick with the same grade level next year. Dr. Keough stated that the program was not put into the budget for next year therefore, we will need to plan to fund the program through donations. Ms. O'Neill stated that it was such a wonderful program. Dr. Keough suggested possibly weaving the funding into the Professional Development budget. Dr. Han suggested having Ed Sharkansky, Chair of FEEE, attend a School Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of FEEE funding the program. Dr. Han asked Dr. Cabral how much it would cost to add an additional grade to the Science from Scientists program. Dr. Cabral said that it would cost \$30,000.00 and that if we add another grade she would suggest adding grade 5. Mr. Mullen concluded it would be \$60,000.00 total. Chair Isleib suggested doing a video advertising the program, showing the sponsors and add it on the website.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved the donations from FEEE, Woodward and Curran and Whelan Associates.

### **Audit, Scope and Prioritization:**

Chair Isleib stated that the School Committee will be speaking to the Audit Committee on December 22. Dr. Han discussed the comparison of the Ipswich Audit versus the Hanover Audit. Ms. Weisman asked what is expected at the Audit Committee meeting on December 22. Chair Isleib replied that they will review the list of items that will be presented to the Audit Committee by the School Committee incorporating some of the items Dr. Han suggested. The committee discussed and revised the list of items for the Audit Committee and separated it into a 2 Tier list.

Tier 1 consists of the following:

- Technology
- Fees
- Professional Development
- Evaluate schedule of support staff and administration in schools
- District wide organizational structure
- Program of studies

Tier 2 consists of the following:

- Lunch services
- Maintenance
- Regular Ed transportation
- Equipment and supplies

Chair Isleib suggested adding a statement. Dr. Han suggested using the mission statement and adding “and as such we have identified areas of needs for the Easton Public Schools systems and seek the assistance of an outside consultant service to perform an operational audit to identify areas of both savings and areas that need improvements”. Chair Isleib offered to add the language to the statement. Dr. Cabral suggested that as part of the statement to add “because this is our mission we have come up with these six priorities that we think directly impact student achievement. This is why we want you to focus on these six”. Chair Isleib stated that the scope is looking to be sent out to the auditors in March. Chair Isleib reminded everyone that the meeting is Tuesday, December 22 at 7:15 on the second floor of the Town Hall.

### **Approval of Section B of Policy Manual with Revisions:**

File BEDH #1 and File BEDH-E #1 was changed to “*A portion of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting shall be dedicated to public comment. A Chairperson may limit the length of public comment if warranted and without objection of the members of the School Committee. The Committee reserves the right to rearrange its agenda to accommodate scheduled presenters*”.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote Section B of the Policy Manual was approved as amended.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, Assistant Superintendent Notes was moved up on the agenda to item number 6.

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

None.

**First Review of FY17 Budget:**

A discussion took place over each of line items on the budget spreadsheet that Marilyn Gordon presented.

**Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Keough stated he attended the high school winter concert and commended the all the students who performed and the teacher who orchestrated the performance. Dr. Keough said it was heartwarming and absolutely awesome. Dr. Keough stated that Luke Carroll has asked him if their PAC can do a fundraiser activity called Color Races. Dr. Keough continued that this event is held by a company that comes into the school during the day. Dr. Han read the policy on PAC Fundraising. Dr. Keough suggested asking Jim Hardy for current policies on fundraising and that he will let Luke Carroll know that they will be checking into policies pertaining to fundraising. Dr. Keough and the committee discussed start times and how it will be mentioned at the January 14th School Committee Meeting and a Q and A will be held at the February meeting, 5:30-6:30 p.m. The committee decided that a decision regarding new start times will be made at the March School Committee Meeting.

**School Committee Notes:**

Ms. O'Neill stated that she has been getting inquiries from parents about how the new cross country coach has made the program into an elite intense program which has made it difficult for team players to participate in any other program that coincides with practice. Dr. Cabral questioned whether the music program has guidelines about missing rehearsals. Dr. Keough suggested having Bill Matthews, the Athletic Director, attend a School Committee Workshop meeting to clarify.

**Possible Executive Session RE: Negotiations Updates:**

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote the committee voted to enter into Executive Session not to return to open session.

**Adjournment:**

The School Committee Workshop meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.  
Secretary