

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, February 2, 2017

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, February 2, 2017, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 6:31pm Present: Laurie Han, Jackie Weisman, Caroline O'Neill, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

Minutes: Regular 1/5/2017; Executive Session 11/10/2016, 11/18/2016, 12/1/2016:

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Regular Minutes of the 1/05/2016 meeting were approved.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0, the Committee tabled the Executive Meeting Minutes of 11/10/2016, 11/18/2016 and 12/1/2016 until a future Executive Session occurs to make changes.

Dr. Keough suggested adding an Executive Session to the February 10th workshop meeting for review of the Executive Session Minutes of 11/10/2016, 11/18/2016 and 12/1/2016.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to add the Executive Session Minutes of 11/10/2016, 11/18/2016 and 12/1/2016 as an Executive Session agenda item on the February 10th School Committee Workshop Meeting.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

Foreign Travel Trip - Greece:

Dr. Keough introduced Eveline Johnson and Susan Hadge.

Eveline Johnson and Susan Hadge presented a foreign trip proposal to Greece for grades 9 through 12 during the April school vacation in 2018. Ms. Johnson stated that this will be Oliver Ames' seventh trip to Greece, the first trip was in 1990 and it has been a wonderful trip for the students. She continued that the itinerary that she provided to the School Committee is a 10 day trip. Ms. Johnson said all expenses for the trip are paid by the parents and students. She continued that the price of the trip includes all the guides, meals, hotels, flights and medical services. Ms. Johnson said the trip is coordinated through American Council for International Studies and that she and Ms. Hadge have a wonderful relationship with them and that they are very supportive of the school.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the foreign travel trip proposal to Greece in April of 2018.

Ms. Johnson thanked the School Committee and the Administration for their support.

Approval of the Agreement on Allocating School Operating Costs Not Directly in the School Department Budget:

Dr. Keough said that the point of this agenda item is to approve the agreement on the allocation of school operating costs that are not directly in the School Department's budget. Dr. Keough said that the school department's budget does not consist of costs such as DPW costs and yet we rely on them. He continued that this agreement was formed years ago with the Town that states a portion of their budget is actually school department money and it factors into the pupil expenditures. Marilyn Gordon, the Director of Business, said that the figures on this document are on the end of year report and generally it is the same year to year.

Chair Han referred to the "General Administrative Indirect Costs" and if *"This amount will be calculated using the Per Pupil Administrative Cost Average as determined by the Department of Education multiplied by the foundation enrollment."* she asked if this is the state's average administrative costs. Ms. Gordon said the state comes up with the amount for the General Administrative Indirect Costs or we can come up with our own methodology by taking a percentage of the town's administrative's salary, the town's accountant's salary, the town's treasury collector's salary and their staff or we can go to the DOE website and they will give a suggested amount to use and they update the amount every year. She continued that the amount is \$111.82 per pupil.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote the Committee approved the Agreement on Allocating School Operating Costs Not Directly in the School Department Budget.

Select Members of the Task Force Charged with Reviewing District Needs and Goals with Regards to Replacing Dr. Keough:

Chair Han said she wanted to clarify on the agenda that item number five (5) had a typo and should read: *"Select Members of the Task Force Charged with Reviewing District Needs and Goals with Regards to Replacing Dr. Keough"*. Chair Han said that the Committee wanted to address filling Dr. Keough's position and one of the things the Committee decided upon was to revisit the work that was done in previous Superintendent Searches from three (3) years ago with the help from the community. She continued that a letter went out asking for volunteers to assist on a Task Force. Chair Han said she received fifteen responses and thanked everyone who did respond. Chair Han read the names of all the people who had sent in a letter requesting to be part of the Task Force.

Ms. Martin said she wanted to clarify the role of the Task Group. She continued that three (3) years ago they had extensive community wide focus groups that included teachers, members of the community and parents and those focus groups were responsible for developing a set of criteria and important characteristics that Easton would look for in a Superintendent. Ms. Martin said that the Committee is now asking this Task Force to validate that criteria for us, look around at what other superintendent searches have just completed or are in process, and to get a sense of the candidate pool. She continued that those are two important goals of this Task Force and the group will bring those results back to the School Committee.

Chair Han said that the Committee will select the Task Force tonight, then she will contact the group with their first meeting date and have the Task Force present their findings to the School Committee on March 2nd, the next regular School Committee Meeting.

Ms. O'Neill said she was very impressed by the quality of both the experience and volunteer activities from the people who have volunteered for the Task Force. She continued that she appreciates everyone who had volunteered. Ms. Martin noted that only three (3) teachers from the district responded even though the Committee requested four (4) teachers. Each School Committee Member choose eight (8) people and then chose nine (9) finalists who were chosen the most. The following people were chosen for the Task Force:

- Jesse Barnett
- Lauren Egizio
- Jon Fass
- Lisa Cary
- Sue Hadge
- Michelle Durrance
- Karen Rodgers
- Meredith Lamb
- Matthew Borushko

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved to have following people appointed to the Task Force; Jesse Barnett, Lauren Egizio, Jon Fass, Lisa Cary, Sue Hadge, Michelle Durrance, Karen Rodgers, Meredith Lamb and Matthew Borushko.

Chair Han said she will email the group with some dates for a first meeting. Ms. O'Neill suggested having Chair Han be the representative from the School Committee on the Task Force as it makes the most sense because the Chair has the authority to make minor decisions. Chair Han agreed to be the representative from the School Committee on the Task Force.

Ms. Martin thanked everyone who put their name in to be on the Task Force.

Chair Han acknowledged that several people on the list for the Task Force are newcomers to the Town of Easton. Ms. O'Neill said that FEEE is looking for new members if any of

these wonderful volunteers would like to be part of FEEE they can contact her or the go to the link for FEEE on the Easton Public Schools' website.

Responding to Open Meeting Law Complaint Regarding Academic Review Subcommittee Meeting on January 3, 2017:

Chair Han said that on January 15th she received an Open Meeting Law Complaint regarding an agenda item for the January 3rd, Academic Subcommittee Meeting. She continued that the complaint had been addressed and the response was sent to the gentleman who made the complaint as well as a copy to the Attorney General. Chair Han said anyone can request a copy of the response as it is accessible in the Office of the Superintendent. Ms. De Luca said that each of the School Committee members are also on Subcommittees as well and they do their best in getting the word out.

Public Comment:

None

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough said he expects to hear from the MSBA next week, their third and final call before their board meets and decide who they are inviting into the construction process. He said that it just means that if we are selected Easton will then be invited to the process that they recommend of deliberations and investigating what would need to be done next. He continued that after that point there are multiple conversations that take place which could take months and years before construction would begin. Dr. Keough said that this is the first hurdle and he thinks that Easton has a really good chance at being selected. He continued that he will keep the Committee informed. Dr. Keough said that a small group of people would attend the announcement on February 15th at 9:00 am which would include a member of the School Committee, member of the Board of Selectmen, acting Town Administrator, himself and David Twombly, Director of Operations. Ms. Martin suggested putting the MSBA conversation as far as the next steps, on the next School Committee Meeting following the February 15th MSBA meeting.

Dr. Keough said there had been a wonderful event at Center School called Cardboard Challenge. He continued that this was organized by Leah Raub and you can see the pictures on the website and watch a story called "Caine's Arcade" about what kids can do with cardboard and their imaginations. He thanked Ms. Raub and Ms. Weintrob for organizing the event.

Dr. Keough said he had lunch with some Easton Middle School staff members who shared their thoughts and he thanked them for their hospitality. He continued that he had the opportunity to attend a swim meet, it was senior night, and that it was amazing how kids support each other and cheer each other on. Dr. Keough congratulated all the winter athletes.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral said last night they held their "Screenagers" screening, and over seventy (70) parents, community members and children aged middle school to high school attended. She continued that Ms. O'Neill attended. She said that they had great conversations following the screening and it was interesting to hear what the kids had to say and what the parents had to say. Dr. Cabral said there is a website for Screenagers, www.screenagersmovie.com, for some ideas having to do with teenagers and tweens screen time. Dr. Cabral said it is from the point of view of a doctor who happens to be a mom navigating this area with her twelve year old child and teenage boy. She continued that it includes a lot of concrete useful strategies including "parent contract" that she used with her children and resources on some pro social games kids can play. Dr. Cabral thanked the people who came out and participated in the discussion.

Ms. O'Neill said it was wonderful and appreciated that Dr. Cabral made that available to the community and she thanked Jessica Garbowski and John Sousa.

Dr. Cabral reminded everyone that on February 11th Robotics will be having a fundraising event, an Adult Comedy Night at the Easton Country Club, more information can be found on the school's website. She continued that Center School had "Ability Awareness Day" which was organized by the SEPAC, a group of special needs parents working with Mrs. Alterman. Dr. Cabral said this group of parents will be bringing the "Ability Awareness Day" to Moreau Hall next week, they have presented at Richardson Olmsted and Center Schools. She continued that it is a very well structured, organized and engaging event where the children go to centers and learn about different disabilities of children and adults. Dr. Cabral said the children learn about sensory disabilities, visible and invisible disabilities and emotional disabilities. Dr. Cabral thanked Mrs. Alterman for all the work in organizing the event. Dr. Cabral mentioned that she attended a joint School Council meeting for the three elementary schools. She continued that the three Principals, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Getchell and Ms. Weintrob, have been working to coordinate across the school district by looking at data together, teachers are writing units together and having their staff meetings together. She continued that it takes a lot of coordination and effort to make it work. Dr. Cabral wanted to let parents know that because of this collaboration of these three leaders, it doesn't matter which elementary school your child attends, all the children are receiving the highest level of care.

School Committee Notes:

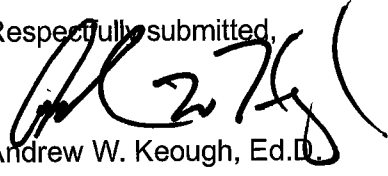
Ms. O'Neill said the TEMPO Dessert Show is on February 10th. She continued that it is a terrific event and encourages people to attend.

Ms. Martin said that Wes Paul, Principal of Oliver Ames High School, attended a School Committee Meeting a month ago and presented an exchange program to China. She wanted to remind people that if anyone is interested in hosting an exchange student they should contact Mr. Paul. She continued that she attended the Poetry Out Loud event last night at Oliver Ames High School and it was delightful to listen to students recite their poems. Ms. Martin said the high school is sponsoring a financial awareness day called "Credit of Life", held on March 7th, 10:00 am at Stonehill College. She continued that any parent wishing to volunteer please contact Mr. Paul at the high school.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.
Secretary