

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, April 6, 2017

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting, April 6, 2017**, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 6:30 p.m. Present: Laurie Han, Jackie Weisman, Caroline O'Neill, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

**Presentation by Douglas Armitage Followed by Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Filming of Movie at Oliver Ames High School:**

Dr. Keough said this is no longer an item to vote on as the assistant location manager informed Easton that they decided to film at another school.

**Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

**Update and Discussion - Article 23 - CPA Funding of the Practice Field and Funding of a Study of the Turf Field:**

Dr. Keough said that Article 23, CPA Funding of the Practice Field and Funding of a Study of the Turf Field at Oliver Ames High School will have to be approved at Town Meeting. Article 23 would provide funding to cover costs associated with the construction of a new practice field on existing land at the further end of the high school and to fund the completion of a field engineering plan in preparation for replacing the turf field at Oliver Ames High School. He continued that Mr. Matthews presented this to the CPA and has received their support to fund this project. Dr. Keough said that Mr. Matthews had presented this to the School Committee at a workshop a few months back and that the turf itself will be funded through fundraising.

Chair Han said that bad turf does lead to bad injuries.

Ms. Martin said that perhaps over the summer Mr. Matthews can attend a School Committee Meeting to explore what avenues he will be taking to raise the funds for the turf.

**Presentation and Discussion of the Implementation of Unleveled Classroom Model for 2017-18 at EMS:**

Dr. Keough said that Luke Carroll, Principal of Easton Middle School, presented his School Improvement Plan to the School Committee last year. He continued that Mr. Carroll outlined the goals in the SIP and what actions needed to be taken to achieve

those goals. Dr. Keough continued that Mr. Carroll's presentation will detail what has been done at EMS and the action steps of implementing the goals.

Mr. Carroll introduced the members of the Scheduling and Leveling Subcommittees.

Mr. Carroll presented the powerpoint he presented to the Easton School community during an information meeting that was held on April 5, 2017.

A discussion took place after the presentation.

**Vote to Approve a Change in Status of FEEE to a 501 (c) (3) Organization:**

Dr. Keough said that FEEE is of the opinion that they can be a better support system to the schools as a 501 (c) (3) as their own separate entity away from the schools. He continued that FEEE voted to break off from the schools at their last meeting as their own fundraising entity for the schools however, this has to be approved by the School Committee.

Chair Han stated that this would make FEEE a non-profit organization.

Maureen Silverleib confirmed it would and said that FEEE has been discussing this decision for quite some time and they feel that now is the perfect time to act on it. She continued that she had a conversation with Marilyn Gordon, the school's Director of Business, on how FEEE is losing out on a lot of donations because as private donations come in some of the corporations are willing to match the donation but, due to the fact that FEEE is not a 501 organization they cannot match the donations. She continued that making this transition would bring in those corporate donations. She said it passed unanimously on the FEEE Board. Ms. Silverleib said legal and CPA services for FEEE will be donated to FEEE by a former FEEE Board member. Ms. Silverleib said it is critical to keep at least one School Committee member on the board along with the Superintendent. She continued that the current School Committee members who are on the School Committee, Caroline O'Neill and Nancy De Luca, do not fund raise for FEEE. Ms. O'Neill wanted to mention that this is the local Foundation for Excellence in Education in Easton, FEEE and that Maureen has been a fantastic Chair and really worked above and beyond. Ms. O'Neill congratulated Lisa Carey and Amy Segill, the new Co Chairs of FEEE. She continued that Ms. Carey just received the Spirit of the PTA award from the Massachusetts Association of PTAs.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the School Committee approved FEEE to become a 501 (c) (3) organization.

**Review of School Building Committee - Make-Up Recommendations:**

Dr. Keough said he originally put this on the agenda based on a form sent from the MSBA. He continued that the Mass School Building Authority is the agency in Massachusetts that grants funding and oversight of school construction. He said that Easton submitted a request to be considered for participation in their process and if admitted, accepted and

able to comply with all their demands, we could potentially get a new building or a renovation of one of our buildings. He continued that we could get considerable reimbursements from the state. He said that one of the stipulations of this process is to form a School Building Committee. Dr. Keough said that they reached out to school counsel, Sarah Belino, and after discussion it was determined that more information is needed before they move forward forming the School Building Committee.

Dr. Keough suggested he reach out to some school districts that have recently gone through this process.

**Approval of MSBA Initial Compliance Certification (ICC) Form:**

Dr. Keough said in adhering to the law this is a formality, and we have to sign off on it.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to have Chair Han sign the MSBA Initial Compliance Certification Form on behalf of the School Committee.

**Discussion and Vote Regarding Advertising Banners to Support OA Softball and Fund the Dugout Project:**

Chair Han said they want to put covered dugouts over by the softball field and the Softball Boosters have asked for consideration in an effort to raise money to fund the dugout project to have family oriented businesses put advertising banners up behind home plate. She continued the cost of the project is \$6,000.00.

Ms. Martin suggested having Bill Matthews review the banners to make sure they are family friendly.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 4-0 vote, Chair Han abstained from voting as her daughter is involved in softball, the Committee approved the OA Softball Boosters to fundraise through the sale of field banners.

**Public Comment:**

none

**Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Keough said that MCAS testing had begun at Easton Middle School and will soon begin at Richardson Olmsted School. He continued that feedback had been really good and that the Jessica Garbowski, the Director of Instructional Technology, is invaluable and he also thanked John Sousa. Dr. Keough said Mr. Carroll will lend some staff members to Richardson Olmsted to assist with their testing.

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Cabral said she wanted to update the Committee on the progress of the Math and Health Committees. She continued that they haven't come to final conclusions yet, they are both going through the same process, looking at resource materials to help supplement what they are doing with their units as they are creating them. She said we have an outdated program in Mathematics for elementary through grade six. She said we need to update the current program or get another program. Dr. Cabral said that they have a committee together made up of Administrators and Teachers representing grades PK through twelve. She continued that they have been working hard and were able to narrow their choices to six programs that they discussed as a group and made recommendations of two of the programs that they wanted to see materials and two programs they have requested the vendors to come in and present their materials. She said when vendors come in they are provided with our rubric and they have to tailor their program to our rubric. Dr. Cabral said the same process was used for the Health Committee and that they are down to two programs that they are reviewing.

Ms. Martin asked if the process will be done before the end of the year.

Dr. Cabral said that the process will be done by the end of this year.

**School Committee Notes:**

Ms. Weisman thanked Mr. Paul, Principal of Oliver Ames for the time he spent with her touring the high school and thanked Ms. Hammett, Principal of Richardson Olmsted School for taking the time to tour RO with her and Ms. Martin.

Ms. Weisman said Mr. Paul spent a lot of time with her throughout the tour. She continued that it was a wonderful experience seeing the interaction between teachers and the students. Ms. Weisman said Mr. Paul also invited her to sit in on an advisory meeting and it was nice to hear what the kids were saying. She said it was a wonderful experience and appreciated him taking the time out of his schedule.

Chair Han congratulated the Iron Tigers and their accomplishments.

Ms. Martin congratulated Chris Getchell, Principal of Parkview School, on being awarded the Thomas c. Passios Massachusetts Principal of the Year and said Easton is fortunate to have Mr. Getchell in the district. She continued that she was at the Parkview PTA meeting when they celebrated with a cake for Mr. Getchell.

Dr. Keough said Mr. Getchell will now have the opportunity to move forward for national recognition.

Ms. O'Neill said although there is a School Committee Workshop coming up, she wanted to acknowledge Chair Han's decision to leave the School Committee. She continued that she has a deep personal sense of loss.

Ms. O'Neill read a letter she prepared.

Ms. O'Neill said, *"from the very beginning of her time on the Committee, Laurie has embraced every aspect of the complex and multi faceted role of a School Committee member. Her keen intelligence, her diligence her pension for critical analysis especially,*

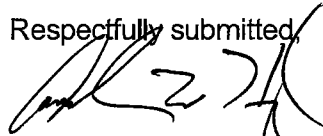
*and her incredible work ethic has inspired us all. Most recently her one year as Chair, has constituted almost another full time job for her, she has faced more than the typical member of time consuming policy revisions, implementation of new legislated mandates, legal questions that have come up and since it is the Chair's role to act as the liaison among all the parties as these things come up with the Administration, the School Committee the Attorneys and other parties, it can be incredibly absorbing and I know that Laurie always took particular pains to research every question or concern so she can find the rest of the Committee with the information so we can make thoughtful decisions. In her capacity as a physician Laurie has been a tremendous asset to the District, she took the lead in proposing important revisions to our wellness policies, she lobbied successfully for the Administration of the Youth Risk Survey for our middle and high school students, she made available to us the latest research in such areas as concussion risks, adolescence sleep patterns as they relate to school start times and healthier school lunches and snacks for kids. That wasn't your most popular. Forgetting for a moment all that Laurie has done on behalf of the School Committee and the district and all she contributed to our schools as a parent volunteer, Laurie is quite simply a lovely human being. She puts everyone at ease, she is compassionate to a fault, she genuinely cares about all of our students and not everyone knows this, she can be laugh out loud funny. I feel extremely fortunate to have served with Laurie on the School Committee for the last six years, I know she won't be going away however, and will continue to be a strong advocate for continuous improvements in our schools."*

Chair Han said there's so much to this job, it was great and it was a hard decision. She thanked Ms. O'Neill.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 roll call vote, the Committee entered into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. not to return to open session to discuss contract negotiations for Dr. Cabral.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.  
Secretary

