

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
EASTON, MA**

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, August 20, 2015, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 6:35 p.m. Present: Fred Isleib, Laurie Han, Caroline O'Neill, Jackie Weisman, Sean Mullen and Dr. Keough.

Dr. Keough opened the meeting in absence of Chair Isleib and introduced Sean Mullen as the new school committee member.

School Committee Reorganization:

Dr. Keough made a motion to fill the Vice Chair position, Ms. O'Neill nominated Dr. Han, seconded by Ms. Weisman and with a 4-0 vote, Dr. Han was appointed Vice Chair.

Dr. Keough suggested the order of the agenda be changed to Public Participation, Synergy Security Presentation, Establish Policy Manual Sub-Committee with MASC, Minutes, Schedule of Payments, Personnel Changes, then continue to follow the agenda from item #8 on as scheduled.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Han and with a 4-0 vote, the agenda was reorganized.

Public Participation:

Kirstie Wheeler, an Easton home school parent, requested the committee extend the waiver that the committee approved last year for her son, Naaman, to continue attending recess and lunch at Richardson Olmsted School.

Ms. O'Neill explained that it cannot be voted on at this time because it was not part of the agenda.

Dr. Keough recommended that he forward the email to the school committee that he received from Ms. Wheeler so the committee can review it and put it on the agenda for future consideration.

Synergy Security Presentation:

Jay Brennan with Synergy 911, an Emergency Management Company that has been working with the Town of Easton on a school safety initiative for the past year explained the final phase of the initiative is a staff education program called

Lockdown, Leave, Live. Mr. Brennan explained the philosophy of Lockdown, Leave, Live is to prepare and train the staff if there was a violent intruder to come into the building. Training would be during a professional development day teaching the staff the appropriate steps they can use to protect the students and themselves. Mr. Brennan explained that when the program is complete Synergy will come back to Easton with an after action program. Training would be for all staff members.

On a motion from Chair Isleib, and second by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the committee voted to accept the training from Synergy as scheduled.

Establish Policy Manual Sub-Committee with MASC:

Dr. Keough introduced Jim Hardy, from the Mass. Association of School Committees (MASC). Mr. Hardy explained the steps of updating the School Committee Policy Manual. Mr. Hardy explained that the current Policy Manual will be in effect until the new Policy Manual is completed. A subcommittee will be appointed which will consist of two school committee members. The new Policy Manual will be updated by the end of the school year if the Sub Committee starts in September. Chair Isleib proposed that the new subcommittee representatives be decided during the subcommittee assignments later in the meeting.

Minutes-Regular 7/9/15, Executive Session 5/8/15, 7/9/15:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, and with a 5-0 vote, the Minutes of the 07/09/15 School Committee Meeting was approved.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Chair Isleib, and with a 5-0 vote, the Minutes of the 05/08/15 Executive Workshop Meeting was approved.

On a motion by Dr. Han, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, and with a 5-0 vote, the Minutes of the 07/09/15 Executive School Committee Meeting was approved.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

Personnel Changes

1) Retirement: Custodian – EMS

2) 2015-2016 Staffing Update

Chair Isleib read the letter of resignation from Dominic Palano, a night custodian at Easton Middle School. Dr. Keough thanked Dominic Palano for his services and wished him well. Chair Isleib commended the work of the custodians.

Dr. Keough has been impressed with the caliber of people that have been hired this school year stating that they are well educated, experienced and genuinely good people. Dr. Keough thanked all the teams of people who contributed to helping us with our hiring process. Chair Isleib noticed going through the resumes we are hiring people with more experience as opposed to graduates directly from college this year. Dr. Keough stated that this was in part due to the fact that there were many “high demand” positions which require more experience.

Adolescent Health Survey:

Dr. Keough circulated packets to the committee. Dr. Keough explained that it is an Adolescent Wellness Survey; it is not going to be called a “Youth Risk Survey” as the word “risk” makes people uncomfortable. Dr. Keough proposed this survey go out to the high school first. Dr. Keough reiterated that this is one of the action steps involved in our strategic plan centered around emotional health and wellness.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Dr. Han, and with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved the Adolescent Health Survey to move forward.

Continue Discussion of F1Visas to International Students Policy JF-E-3:

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O’Neill, and with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved the revisions that were made to the F1 Visas to International Students Policy JF-E-3.

Vote on 2015-2016 Sub-Committee Assignments:

The committee discussed the 2015-2016 Sub-Committee Assignments and finalized appointments.

Revision of Policy GCO Part-time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment (2nd Reading):

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Dr. Han, and with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved the Revision of Policy GCO Part-time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment rate.

Professional Status Recommendation:

Dr. Keough was happy to mention that Meghan Sharkey is eligible for professional teaching status and was inadvertently omitted from the list.

Chair Isleib thanked Meghan for her services and noted she will be recognized.

Approval of Annual Vendor Requirement Contract:

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, and with a 5-0 vote, the WB Mason contract was approved.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough commended the custodians on their progress on getting the schools bright and clean for opening day. The New Teacher Induction Program will be held on August 25 and August 26 and the school committee is invited to attend. Dr. Keough will be running the Induction Program in place of Dr. Cabral. Theresa Skinner will present on August 26 on Special Education. The Induction Program will be held at Richardson Olmsted School cafeteria. September 1st is the first day for staff and a similar event to last year's will be held at Richardson Olmsted School cafeteria. School Committee is welcome to attend. Students arrive on September 2nd and September 3rd, there will be no school on September 4th.

Kindergarten starts on September 8th. Dr. Keough mentioned all the wonderful welcoming events happening in the district for the students and families over the coming week.

Dr. Keough announced that he has been invited to the inauguration of the next President of Bridgewater State University.

School Committee Notes:

Chair Isleib welcomed Sean Mullen to the School Committee. Chair Isleib commended Deborah Hammett, the principal of Richardson Olmsted, on her meet and greets, he reported that the response has been tremendous.

Ms. O'Neill read an article in the Boston Globe about the Town of Easton and how Easton is addressing the opioid crisis with their Narcan policy. She offered kudos to the nurses and the committee for being out in front on this topic.

Ms. Weisman attended a budget sub committee meeting to discuss the energy we are getting from residents on the override. It was a positive discussion and a lot of issues were brought up.

Dr. Keough suggested the folks at home check out the video recordings on ECAT regarding the topic of the override.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Chair Isleib, and with a 5-0 vote, the committee voted to adjourn the School Committee Meeting and go into Executive Session not to return to open session at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew W. Keough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Andrew W. Keough, Ed. D.
Secretary