

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Friday, February 16, 2018

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, February 16, 2018, 50 Oliver Street, Upstairs Conference Room, convened at 9:15 a.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, and Caroline O'Neill.

Others present: Superintendent Dr. Cabral, Theresa Skinner, Director of Special Services, and Kelly Moroso, Early Childhood Coordinator.

Minutes: Workshop 12/29/2017, Executive Session 2/1/2018:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 3-0 vote, the Committee approved the workshop minutes of 12/29/2017 with changes. Chair Weisman abstained from voting as she was not present for the 12/29/2017 meeting.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the Executive minutes of 2/1/2018 but not to be released.

Schedule of Payments:

Payments circulated for signatures.

OA Psychology Field Trip Change of Site:

Dr. Cabral introduced Matt Auger, teacher at Oliver Ames High School and Social Studies Department Chair. Mr. Auger stated that in past years the senior Psychology class had attended field trips to the Old Colony Correctional Center in Bridgewater where students would meet with selected inmates in the visitors' room. Mr. Auger explained due to cuts in state funding for the Old Colony Correctional Center, the Center cannot provide the staff to cover the security measures for this field trip. Mr. Auger proposed the Massachusetts Correctional Institution, Cedar Junction in Walpole as the new site for the field trip. Mr. Auger said Cedar Junction has the funding to provide the staff to cover the safety measures for the students. He said it will be the same situation where the students will meet with selected inmates in the visitors' room. Mr. Auger said parental consent is required from all students who wish to attend.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the site change for the Psychology field trip.

Review of PK Schedule and Possible Vote on PK Tuition:

Dr. Cabral introduced Theresa Skinner, Director of Special Services, and Kelly Moroso, Early Childhood Coordinator. Dr. Cabral said Ms. Skinner and Ms. Moroso will present

their proposal to adjust the Preschool Schedule and proposed changes to the Preschool tuition costs. Ms. Moroso stated the proposed changes are based on the needs of the students and will be beneficial to the students and the staff. Ms. Moroso reviewed the proposed changes to include:

- Times/days
- Making prep/lunch time more equitable among Preschool staff and more similar to other elementary staff
- Finding weekly time for the Early Childhood Coordinator and staff to meet together
- Change in ratios among the classes

Ms. Moroso discussed the current Preschool tuition rates:

- 3 day, ½ day \$2,000 a year
- 4 day, ½ day \$2,250 a year
- 5 day, ½ day \$2,800 a year
- 5 day, full day \$4,000 a year

Ms. Moroso discussed the proposed changes to the Preschool tuition rates:

- 3 day, ½ day \$2,000 a year
- 4 day, ½ day \$2,400 a year
- 5 day, ½ day \$2,800 a year
- 5 day, full day \$4,500 a year

Ms. Moroso said areas of concern that have been discussed are the busing schedules and the change in paraprofessional work hours. She met with the teachers, paraprofessionals, and that the principals who were all on board with the proposal. She had a meeting with Dr. Cabral and Ms. Skinner. She received parent feedback, worked on concerns, and made changes. Dr. Cabral said she met with union reps and believe they came to a satisfactory agreement. Ms. Skinner said it was nice to see all the pieces come together. Dr. Cabral said she appreciates the incredible amount of work that had been done by Ms. Moroso and Ms. Skinner. She is pleased with the results and the proposed new schedule is an improvement.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the proposed Preschool schedule.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the proposed change to the Preschool tuition.

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

Dr. Cabral said that the Agreement on allocating school operating costs not directly in the School Department budget is an agreement between the School Committee and the Town of Easton. This agreement is the same as last year and no changes have been made; therefore, no vote is needed.

Vote to Accept Donation from Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance for EMS:

Dr. Cabral said Tammy Hansen, who works at a local Exxon Mobil station, delivered a letter to Central Office stating that the Easton Middle School was nominated to receive a \$500.00 donation from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program. The donation requires an acceptance vote by the School Committee.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee accepted the \$500.00 donation from Exxon Mobile Educational Alliance for the Easton Middle School with gratitude.

Review of Fundraising and Acceptance of Grants and Gifts Policy File JJE (second reading):

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee tabled the Review of Fundraising and Acceptance of Grants and Gifts Policy File JJE to a future meeting.

Update on School Planning Committee:

Ms. Martin said that the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) recommends forming a Procurement Subcommittee who would design the RFS (Request for Services) and to hire the OPM (Owner's Project Manager.) Dr. Cabral said that she, David Twombly, Rebecca Tellyer, David Fields, Ben Hampton, and Ken Carlson have been appointed by the School Planning Committee to comprise the Procurement Subcommittee. The subcommittee met and the MSBA requires the subcommittee to draft the advertisement for the RFS for the Owner's Project Manager, the actual RFS, and the timeline for the procurement process for hiring the Owner's Project Manager. The ad is scheduled to go out the second week of March and there are various steps that follow. These steps include a site visit for potential vendors to turn in bids, reviewing the bids, and the choice of the short list of vendors to be interviewed based on the rubric prepared by the Procurement Subcommittee. Dr. Cabral said three possible Owner's Project Managers will be forwarded to the Owner's Project Manager Board at the MSBA. She stated that it is a strict process and the next couple of months will require an extraordinary amount of work which is guided by a strict timeline.

Possible 2018-2019 Calendar Revision:

Dr. Cabral proposed two changes to the 2018-2019 School Calendar. The School Calendar had been previously approved by the School Committee. The changes do not affect the start or end dates. The first proposed change would add grades 6 through 12 to the March 22, 2019 early release day to be used for the Science Olympiad. Laura Ayasse, Science teacher at OA, does an incredible job every year and includes the entire RO school. If the School Committee members have the opportunity, they should attend the Science Olympiad as it is a wonderful event. The second change is a union concern about the first day for staff. She proposed switching August 28th, currently

scheduled as the professional development day and August 29th, currently scheduled as the first day for staff. August 28th would be the first day for staff and August 29th will be the professional development day.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the proposed changes to the 2018-2019 Calendar to reflect a half day for grades 6 through 12 on March 22nd, August 28th as the first day for staff and August 29th for a professional development day for staff.

Discussion and Possible Vote to Change Date of April 5, 2018 School Committee Meeting:

Dr. Cabral stated that she and Ms. Pruitt both have personal conflicts on the April 5th School Committee Meeting. She said if it is not possible to change the meeting date, she and Ms. Pruitt will make other arrangements. It was suggested moving the meeting to Friday, April 6th at 9:15am.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee changed the April 5, 2018 School Committee meeting to Friday, April 6, 2018 at 9:15am.

Review and Possible Vote on Annual Report of the School Committee:

The Committee reviewed the draft of the Annual Report of the School Committee prepared by Chair Weisman.

Ms. De Luca suggested adding "Mr. Carroll" to paragraph fifteen that reads, "We thank Mr. Paul and Mr. Carroll and our teachers for providing these incredible opportunities for our kids." She said she would meet with Chair Weisman after the meeting to go over a few minor changes.

Chair Weisman said she inserted the following sentence to the paragraph pertaining to the budget. "As a result of Capital Funds received from the Town, we were able to make several important security upgrades in our schools including additional security devices, a new visitor management system, and evacuation chairs for students who need exit assistance." A vote was not needed to accept.

Personnel Changes:

Dr. Cabral updated the Committee with changes in personnel including, new substitutes, transfers, long term substitutes, resignations, and retirements. Moving forward, she will update the list and present changes at the end of the fiscal year, in September, during budget discussions, and in January or February.

Public Comment:

None.

Superintendent's Notes:

Dr. Cabral said she wanted to speak to the horrifying tragedy that took place in Florida. She said that she had received security questions from the community and it is a constant concern in the school department. She sent an email to staff with resources particularly for students in grades preschool through five. She suggested, teachers "acknowledge and redirect." When questioned about the events that took place in Florida, staff should acknowledge "that it is something scary and that they are with people who care a lot about them and will protect them." Then suggest they talk to their parents."

She continued that she had also sent information about the security measures that have been taking place as a result of the security audit in 2015 in all the school buildings. Easton Police and Fire have been involved in all trainings and were part of the process in choosing Synergy Security. Members of the Synergy team are local law enforcement who are familiar with the Easton school buildings. The trainings to date have included live scenarios with every staff and table top exercises with the Cabinet team members. She continued that security upgrades have been made in the facilities, every school has a crisis team, and the training will continue with Synergy. Fire drills are being held at every school and first responders go to every school. Synergy had purposeful training, they trained the staff, the administrators, and then when appropriate, they will have training with the students. The district is not at the point to have training with the students.

Easton does not participate in ALICE training; it is not the procedure the district has chosen. Ms. O'Neill said that she is confident that Easton has an excellent safety team. Ms. Martin said she is appreciative of Dr. Cabral's leadership in handling the situation and that the email was beautifully written. Dr. Cabral said the safety of our school and staff is the number one priority.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

None.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. Martin congratulated OA senior Kayla Raymond, who scored her career 1,000th point at Friday's girls' basketball game. Ms. Martin said that Kayla is the 9th player to reach this goal at OA. Ms. Martin congratulated the OA Art students for their art work recognized at the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Competition. She said that it was an impressive accomplishment. Ms. Durrance said the Tempo Dessert Show was held on February 9th and the Robotics Fundraiser was held on February 10th. Ms. De Luca announced that the OA musical is coming up in March. Chair Weisman said the Sweetheart Dance at Parkview School was held on February 9th. Ms. De Luca said February 7th was the 100th day of school.

Executive Session RE: Purpose to Comply with The Open Meeting Law to Review Minutes of Prior Executive Session for Approval and/or Release: 7/14/2016, 8/5/2016, 8/18/2016, 11/3/2016:

Chair Weisman motioned to enter into Executive Session not to return to Open Session to comply with the Open Meeting Law to review minutes of prior Executive Session meetings for approval and/or release, and in her option having this discussion in Open Session would be detrimental to the position of the School Committee, Ms. De Luca seconded the motion, and with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee entered into Executive Session at 10:30am.

Minutes Recorded by,
Lynn Souza

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.
Secretary