

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, April 26, 2018

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, April 26, 2018 Simmons Lecture Hall, Oliver Ames High School, convened at 6:30 p.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, and Michelle Durrance.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Dr. Cabral and Assistant Superintendent Christine Pruitt.

Dr. Cabral called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Reorganization of the School Committee:

Dr. Cabral stated that the Town of Easton had an election and Jackie Weisman had been re-appointed to the School Committee. She said that at this time the Committee can choose to reappoint the Chair and Vice Chair positions of the School Committee.

On a motion by Ms. Martin and seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to reappoint Jacqueline Weisman Chair of the School Committee and Nancy De Luca as Vice Chair of the School Committee.

Chair Weisman took over the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: 3/23/2018, 3/30/2018; Executive Session 3/8/2018:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the minutes of 3/23/2018 with corrections.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the minutes of 3/30/2018.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 3/8/2018 but not to be released.

Schedule of Payments:

No payments were circulated.

PUBLIC HEARING: School Choice 2018-2019:

Dr. Cabral stated that the state requires the opportunity for the public to weigh in on offering School Choice for Easton Public Schools. She continued that the School Committee can discuss and vote on School Choice at the next meeting. Ms. Martin said that due to many reasons such as space and budget it does not make sense for the district to participate in School Choice and that she supports not participating. Ms.

O'Neill agreed. Chair Weisman asked if anyone in the public had a comment. No comments were made. Chair Weisman said a vote will be taken at the next meeting.

PK Free and Reduced Tuition Options:

Dr. Cabral said that Easton has Free and Reduced lunch and tuition programs; however, it is not offered to the Preschool Program for tuition costs. She recommended extending the Free and Reduced Program to the Preschool Program for tuition costs. Ms. Martin stated that the Free and Reduced Program policy should be consistent across the district. Dr. Cabral clarified that students who qualify for special education services in Preschool are eligible to go tuition free.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, second Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to implement the Free and Reduced Tuition Program to the Preschool Program for the 2018-19 school year.

Review and Possible Vote on Design for Charlene Dalrymple Dedication Plaque to be Displayed Outside the OA Auditorium:

Chair Weisman introduced Joanne Faust and Jennifer McParland. Ms. Faust and Ms. McParland presented to the Committee information about the plaque to be displayed outside of the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium in honor of Charlene Dalrymple. A discussion took place.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the design and wording for the Charlene Dalrymple dedication plaque to be displayed outside the OA Auditorium not to exceed twenty eight by twenty eight inches and that it meets with the guidelines of the OA Principal.

Discussion and Possible Vote on School Bus Camera Criteria:

Dr. Cabral said she presented to the Committee at the last meeting the possibility of installing cameras on the buses. She noted that this came as a request by the bus company and parents. She said that the administration would find this useful as they do the cameras in the school buildings. Dr. Cabral said she met with Mr. Lucini for more information. She stated that Mr. Lucini successfully uses cameras on buses in two districts. Dr. Cabral shared the information that Mr. Lucini provided with the Committee. A discussion took place. Dr. Cabral provided a list of the criteria for installing surveillance cameras on the buses as well as the criteria for viewing purposes. She said the camera view would show the driver, the door, inside the bus as well as outside of the bus. Dr. Cabral noted that the cost would be approximately \$1,000.00 per bus. She suggested possibly using the funds from the security line or the revolving bus account to fund the cameras. Dr. Cabral noted that adding the cameras could be done in phases and that Easton has a total of seventeen buses. Chair Weisman said she is in favor of adding cameras to the buses; however, she would like to postpone voting on this topic pending appropriate funding. Ms. O'Neill stated that she is in favor.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved installing cameras on the buses pending appropriate funding.

Vote to Approve Senior Letter:

Dr. Cabral said that every year a letter is sent out to the parents and guardians of the senior class. She said the letter communicates the expected behavior of the seniors during the remainder of the school year.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Senior Letter.

FY18 Budget Update:

Dr. Cabral said she added FY18 Budget Update to the agenda in case anything needed to be discussed since the last meeting. She continued that she did not have any new information.

FY 19 Budget Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve:

Dr. Cabral provided a document summarizing the budget that the Committee had reviewed at past meetings. She noted that the district was at 3.952% increase over FY18 and that the administrators worked diligently to get the budget down to 3.5% as requested by the Town. Dr. Cabral noted that it was very difficult to bring recommendations to the Committee, and tough choices had to be made by the Committee. She said the Town had asked the School Department to make a lean and fiscally responsible budget which required considering models that were less expensive as well as ways to generate revenue. Dr. Cabral said that discussions led to the increase in athletic fees and the outsourcing of special education transportation. She noted the following savings and discussed:

- Increase in athletic fees - \$40,000 savings
- Partial Special Education Transportation savings of the cost of a van \$47,000 (other savings as a result of the outsourcing are located elsewhere in the budget)
- Eliminating the Resource Officer \$32,000
- Retirees in the district for 2017-2018 \$110,000 savings

She stated that the savings brought the budget to 3.379%. Dr. Cabral said that Connor Read, the Town Administrator, presented this to the Board of Selectmen at the meeting on Monday. She stated the budget for the Town is balanced for next year with the assumption that this budget is approved by the School Committee. Dr. Cabral said she recommends accepting this budget as it meets some of the district's needs; however, not all of the needs listed in the Reactive Budget are addressed. Ms. O'Neill congratulated Dr. Cabral. Dr. Cabral noted it was a team effort by all the administrators.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the FY19 Budget in the amount of \$41,330.049.

Ms. Martin read a statement.

Public Comment:

None.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral noted that the district celebrated "Day of KindNess" in recognition of Devin Ness who was a student in the district who had passed. She continued that the day has turned into an opportunity for students to give back and show kindness with an emphasis on community service. She said that Cindy Hall, a fourth grade teacher who taught Mr. Ness, organized the day. Dr. Cabral said that staff members and the senior class were out and about in the town servicing the community. She said it was a wonderful activity to commemorate the short but lovely life of a wonderful young man. Dr. Cabral noted that US Representative Joe Kennedy visited a class at Oliver Ames High School and spoke to a Law and Legal class. She said they discussed the legal role of the federal government and she was extremely proud of the questions that the students had asked. Dr. Cabral reminded everyone that the PMC Ride is on Saturday at Parkview School and invited everyone to attend or donate blood. She said that the Central Office celebrated Administrative Assistant's Day yesterday and she publicly thanked the administrative assistants in the Central Office and around the district. She noted that May 7 through May 11 is Teacher Appreciation Week. She said the Central Office administrators will continue the tradition of covering lunch duties in the district. Dr. Cabral read the National Teacher Appreciation Day Proclamation. She stated that the Chair of the School Committee signs the proclamation and it is sent out to the schools in the district in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Day on Tuesday, May 8th.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Ms. Pruitt said the district received the latest Coordinated Program Review progress report conducted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). She reminded everyone that this is conducted every six years with a three year mid cycle review. She said the district is in the process of correcting the changes that were noted in the CPR from last year. Ms. Pruitt said she will be sending out an online survey to staff and families to collect feedback on how accessible school programs are for all students. She continued that the Parkview Principal Search is in its final stages, site visits were conducted and three finalists were chosen to meet with Dr. Cabral. She noted that they had a wonderful pool of candidates and feel confident with the three finalists. Ms. Pruitt said the Middle School Math Program Committee was formed after adopting the Bridges K-5 Math Program. She said the Committee is made up of administrators and teachers from all levels. She noted that they are in the final stages and a program will be brought before the Committee at the next meeting. Ms. Pruitt said that this was her first year in the district celebrating "Day of KindNess" and it was a very emotional day. She said it was so wonderful to see all the students out and about wanting to do the work. Ms. Pruitt said she met Devin's father and it was wonderful

hearing stories about Devin from some of his friends. She thanked Cindy Hall, the OA staff, and all the volunteers. She noted the impressive foreign travel opportunities that had taken place over April vacation and thanked the staff who were willing to give up their April vacations to chaperon the trips. She thanked the School Committee for allowing these opportunities for the students in Easton.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. Martin congratulated DECA students Kyle Marsh and Ryan Murphy who finished in the top ten DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta. She said this is the time of the year she sees a sense of community. She said she sees it at the primary schools with the Ability Awareness Days, the Art Shows in the district and it starts in the very early years such as the Ice Cream Socials, the "Piece by Piece" Walk for Autism Awareness and it really speaks to the sense of community that is so important in the Town of Easton. She reminded folks that the Town Meeting is on May 21st and babysitters will be made available at Oliver Ames High School to support the parents who may need that service. Ms. De Luca said she participated in the "Day of KindNess" and she worked with eleven boys. She said they were washing windows, laying mulch, picking up sticks and leaves, and not one of the boys complained. She noted that Cindy Hall and Wes Paul put the day together. Ms. De Luca said Ms. Hall had Devin in third and fourth grade and that is how "Day of KindNess" began. She thanked everyone who participated.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by,
Lynn Souza

Respectfully submitted,



Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.

Secretary