

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, May 25, 2017

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, May 25, 2017, Simmons Lecture Hall, Oliver Ames High School, convened at 6:30 p.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, Michelle Durrance, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

Minutes: Workshop 4/20/2017; Regular 4/27/2017; Executive 4/14/2017:

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Workshop minutes of 4/20/2017 with revisions as discussed.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Regular minutes of 4/27/2017 with revisions as discussed.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 4/14/2017, revised as discussed, but not to be released.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

PUBLIC HEARING: School Choice for 2017-2018:

Dr. Keough said that at the last School Committee Meeting it was stated that a Public Hearing would be held offering the public an opportunity to weigh in regarding School Choice. Dr. Keough said he does not believe Easton has ever participated in School Choice.

Ms. De Luca stated that Easton does not have enough room right now to participate in School Choice.

Ms. Durrance asked if student services needed to be provided, who would assume the cost.

Dr. Keough said that Easton would assume the cost however; Easton would get the money from the state through Circuit Breaker.

Ms. Durrance asked if the student is admitted back to Easton each year.

Dr. Keough answered yes.

Ms. O'Neill said that she never supported School Choice and the School Committee has never supported School Choice during her time on the School Committee, which began two years after this law went into effect. She continued that you have very little control with School Choice.

Ms. Durrance asked if transportation would be paid by Easton.

Ms. Martin said the sending district would pay for transportation. Ms. Martin continued that she also has never supported School Choice.

Chair Weisman asked the public if anyone had any comments or questions pertaining to School Choice.

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee voted to not participate in School Choice.

School Council Presentations:

Center / Moreau Hall / Parkview and Richardson Olmsted:

Ann Weintrob, Principal of Center School, Tom Higgins, Principal of Moreau Hall and Chris Getchell, Principal of Parkview School presented the PK-2 School Improvement Plan.

A discussion took place.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the Center, Moreau Hall and Parkview School Improvement Plan.

Deborah Hammett, Principal of Richardson Olmsted School presented the School Improvement Plan for RO.

A discussion took place.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Chair Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the Richardson Olmsted School Improvement Plan.

Update on School Planning Committee:

Dr. Keough said that he was asked to give the School Committee an update on the School Planning Committee. Dr. Keough said that Easton is right on schedule with the MSBA process, they have completed and submitted the components that were due for June 3rd. He continued that one of those components included having a Planning Committee identified, with the names, roles and voting responsibilities and to make sure it aligns with local policy. Dr. Keough said that they were able to do that and Dr. Cabral and Mr. Twombly worked with the Town Moderator for the appointment of the names of the people on the Town side. He continued that the list is in their packets. Dr. Keough said the next step will be the meeting over the summer with Elena Seiti from the MSBA,

and they will meet with Dr. Cabral and Mr. Twombly to discuss the work of the Planning Committee along with the process of getting the request on the Special Town Meeting warrant. He said the Town has designated the Avalon funds towards any possible expenses towards the feasibility work.

Dr. Cabral stated that they are ahead of the deadlines so far and that they are in good shape.

Ms. O'Neill asked if the meetings with this group will be open to the public.

Dr. Keough confirmed that it would be an open recorded public meeting.

Ms. O'Neill asked if there would be a designated Chairperson.

Dr. Keough confirmed they will designate a Chair and possibly a Co-Chair.

Ms. Martin said that the Town Meeting in November will be here in the blink of an eye, and the Committee needs to make sure that we are being proactive in preparation for that meeting. She asked when the planning group can begin working together towards the first hurdle towards the Town Meeting in November.

Chair Weisman asked for suggestions on getting the process going.

Dr. Keough said that the MSBA is training Easton along the way and that the expectations of MSBA is that we work along the MSBA's timeline. He said that the Administration can call and ask the MSBA if the Planning Committee can start their meetings.

Ms. Martin suggested sending a letter to the members of the Planning Committee letting them know that they can find more information on MSBA on the MSBA's website and the Town's website.

Proposed Amendment to the Bi-County Collaborative Agreement:

Dr. Keough said that BICO has proposed and received support from the Executive Board to expand the Collaboration by two towns. He said after a lot of discussion the recommendation was to go forward adding these two members to the district. Dr. Keough said that BICO Collaborative is a body of twelve towns, the Committee voted his first year in Easton for him to serve in the School Committee's capacity on the Board of Directors. He said the benefits are not just in Special Education, they also include Professional Development opportunities, programs for aspiring school leaders collaborating with Worcester State, SEI Endorsement professional development training; endless amounts of professional development. He said it is an excellent organization.

Public Comment:

None.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough said that in the School Improvement Plans MCAS was mentioned and he wanted to publically thank the teachers and the administration for managing the arduous

task of administering MCAS exams. He said it is not easy and the technology team, John Sousa, Jessica Garbowski, Donna Davey, Bruce Tanzer and Ethan Cioffi, an intern, were helping teachers who were panicking. He wanted to send a special thanks to all the folks who helped make MCAS happen. He congratulated the seniors who are now out of school and gearing up for graduation; class day activities will take place Wednesday, May 31st, it is a great community event. He wished them well and asked that they please be safe. He thanked Theresa Skinner and all the staff who interviewed and helped prepare for the Coordinated Program Review. Dr. Keough said that David Twombly handled the Civil Rights and Tom Higgins the ELL. He said that they know that Easton will be cited in the fall. Dr. Keough said that he wanted to mention the wonderful feedback that he received from the Chair in his closing meeting and how impressed they were with the community ELL Program that Dr. Cabral, Janice Narsasian and Lou Ann Falls have offered through Easton University.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral said that Dr. Keough's reception was very nice and thanked everyone for coming and that Dr. Keough appreciated it. She continued that Dr. Keough's assistant, Lynn Souza, had asked Kristyn Shea if her students could make a picture that would remind Dr. Keough of Easton, and the students came up with a beautiful drawing. Dr. Cabral said that STEAM Family Night was a great success, Julie Shine, her assistant, did an amazing job with it, she worked hard and really pulled it off and wanted to make sure she was acknowledged for her hard work.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. O'Neill said that she was quite impressed that six students received recognition at the Congressional Arts Competition: first place for painting, Sydney Hedrick; second place, Sam Fundinger; first place in drawing, Ibbby Hausman; third place, Jenna Magaldi; best in show, Shivani Merchia; first runner up was Ruksha Senthilkumar and second runner up was Jessica Rice. She said previously Ruksha Senthilkumar also won a national silver medal and Jessica Rice previously won the national gold medal and will be going to New York City on June 8th for a ceremony at Carnegie Hall; Shivani's work will be on display at the capitol building in DC for a year and she and her family will go to DC with Congressman Kennedy for an official reception. She said this is quite an impressive accomplishment for the Art Department and Kristyn Shea. Ms. O'Neill said that the ability day was very nice and they had six stations that the students could visit.

Ms. Martin said that ability day was coordinated by Rachel Alterman.

Ms. O'Neill said that she went to monogram awards and that Bill Matthews put together a well coordinated event. She congratulated Mr. Matthews and said that Mr. Paul made some nice remarks. Ms. O'Neill encouraged the School Committee to attend an ELL class with Janice Narsasian, as it is very impressive. She continued that Center School had an

art show, and although she was unable to attend during the event, she had a personal tour of the art work; it was so enjoyable and a lot of fun.

Ms. De Luca said she went to the Industrial Arts and Family Consumer Science presentation and it was unbelievable.

Chair Weisman agreed with Ms. De Luca and said it was great and she brought her son with her to the Industrial Arts and Family Consumer Science presentation and the OA Art Show. She said it was a lot of fun and she was very impressed.

Ms. Martin said that Tempo had their awards night as did Monogram, and they do an awesome job making sure all the kids were recognized. She thanked the parents in Easton who opened their homes to a Chinese exchange student who was here for two weeks, the end of April through May 6th. She said some families opened their homes to multiple students and she is thankful that the parents were able to do that. Ms. Martin said thank you to our school community and our teachers and administrators who allowed our schools to participate in AFS, which was a year long exchange program, and the first year we hosted students.

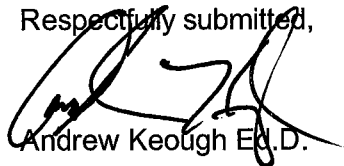
Ms. Durrance said they recognized over 300 students that participated in various music programs; grade eight students who participated in marching band and grades nine through twelve who participate in choir and chorus, various bands, the dance programs and special recognition to the seniors; she said it was touching when the directors recognize the students and those students in turn recognize the directors. Ms. Durrance invited the community to the Memorial Day Parade on Monday where the OA Marching Band will be performing; the parade is at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Keough said the public can find this information on the Easton Public School's website.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, second by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Keough Ed.D.

Secretary