

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, June 8, 2017

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, June 8, 2017, Simmons Lecture Hall, Oliver Ames High School, convened at 6:00 p.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, Michelle Durrance, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

Minutes: Workshop 4/13/2017, 5/12/2017; Executive Session 5/19/2017, 5/25/2017:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Workshop minutes of 4/13/2017.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Workshop minutes of 5/12/2017.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 5/19/2017 but not to be released.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 5/25/2017 but not to be released.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to move the Summary of the Trip to Quebec after the OA School Council Presentation.

School Council Presentation:

Oliver Ames High School:

Wes Paul, Principal of Oliver Ames High School thanked Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

Mr. Paul credited the council members and thanked the students, the parents and community representatives who have been with him for 19 years. He thanked Cathy Queally and Elizabeth Starr; staff members on the council.

Mr. Paul presented the 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan for the Oliver Ames High School.

A discussion followed the presentation.

Dr. Keough said he appreciated the presentation and the involvement of the council members. He commended Mr. Paul on how the School Improvement Plan is linked to the District Goals.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan for Oliver Ames High School.

Summary of the Trip to Quebec:

Rebecca Michael, World Language teacher at Easton Middle School thanked the School Committee for approving the past trip to Quebec. Ms. Michael presented a short video of the students in Quebec.

School Council Presentation:

Easton Middle School:

Luke Carroll, Principal of Easton Middle School presented the 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan for Easton Middle School. Mr. Carroll thanked Dr. Keough and wished him luck on his new adventure as Superintendent of Dover-Sherborn and thanked Dr. Cabral and the secretaries who assisted with the School Improvement Plan.

A discussion followed the presentation.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan for Easton Middle School.

Ms. Martin left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Review of School Lunch Prices:

Dr. Keough said that Marilyn Gordon is here this evening to talk about the possibility of increasing school lunch prices, as it was noted on the Operational Audit.

Marilyn Gordon said Easton is about to sign another contract with the Food Service vendor, Whitsons. She continued that the document she distributed to the Committee is Whitsons' projections for next year. Ms. Gordon said at the current prices, Whitsons has projected a loss of \$12,316.00. She continued that estimated repairs typically are

\$15,000.00, however, the repairs have exceeded \$15,000.00 in the past. Ms. Gordon said that by increasing the cost of lunch by ten cents it would eliminate the \$12,000.00 deficit but it wouldn't prevent Easton Public Schools from the extra repairs.

Ms. O'Neill commented that the lunch prices at Oliver Ames High School are higher than the districts compared and that it is difficult to justify a price increase.

Ms. Durrance expressed concern that raising the price of lunch would cause a hardship for people on the cusp of the lunch assistance program level.

Ms. Gordon said the current count of students on Free and Reduced lunch is approximately 400 and the price increase would not affect those families. She continued that participation in school lunch is on the low side therefore, Whitsons said they will distribute more surveys to the students for feedback on meals.

Ms. O'Neill said that it doesn't seem like a lot of money, even for a child that buys every day, therefore, it is unlikely that would cause a hardship.

Chair Weisman stated she was surprised that Easton was on the high end of lunch prices compared to other districts.

Dr. Keough said the lunch program participation has had a decrease since the federal law changed around the nutrition requirements as to what can and cannot be sold at schools. He continued that selling cookies and such was keeping the school lunch program out of debt, but are not healthy choices.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee agreed to raise the price of school lunches by ten cents in the contract with Whitsons.

Professional Status Recommendations:

Dr. Keough said that the School Committee packets include the program for the Professional Status ceremony that is held every fall. He continued that the program lists all the teachers that have been recommended by their principals for Professional Teaching Status. He stated that the ceremony will be held on October 5, 2017.

Dr. Keough read the names of the teachers recommended for Professional Teaching Status:

- Colleen Clark
- Gretchen Eldridge
- Daniel Fitzgerald
- Rebecca Gove
- Kareena Griffin
- Bryan Hafferty
- Stefania Hynes
- Stacey Kelleher
- Andrea Kolev

- Christopher Koutros
- Heather Lewis
- Susan Mancuso
- Michelle Marro
- Amanda Martens
- Kimberly Masinda
- Alexa Murray
- Jennifer Pratt
- Deborah Prisco
- Maura Richards
- Karen Rodgers
- Richard Smith
- Alexandra Van Buren
- Helen van Riel
- Andrew White

Dr. Keough congratulated all the recipients and reminded everyone that the recipients have to work through the end of the school year and set foot in the school building next school year to be eligible.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the recommendations for Professional Teaching Status.

Personnel Changes - Retirements

- A. Teacher at OA - June 2017**
- B. Paraprofessional at RO - June 2017**
- C. Paraprofessional at CTR - June 2017**
- D. Clerical Aide at CTR - June 2017**
- E. Secretary to the Principal - October 2017**

Dr. Keough said that we have not been reading the retirement letters at the School Committee meetings however, we were asked to start the process of reading all retirement letters at meetings again.

Chair Weisman read the retirement letters received from the following:

- Charlene Dalrymple
- Linda Rabinowitz
- Linda Flaherty
- Mary Davenport
- Karyn Smith

Dr. Keough said this is an amazing group of people who have done so much for the students and our community and thanked them all.

Although a vote is not required it is a tradition.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded Chair Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee accepted the letters of the five retirees.

Update from the Town's Audit Committee Regarding the Operational Audit:

Ms. De Luca said that she has met with the Audit Committee and they are going through all the comparisons from the other towns. She stated they have finished with the school side of the audit with the exception of the benefits sections, and after the next meeting they will be working on the town side. Ms. De Luca said the next Audit Committee meeting is June 20th, 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Ms. De Luca thanked her School Committee cohorts for attending the Audit Meetings and for supporting her.

Update on School Building Planning Committee:

Dr. Cabral said she spoke with the MSBA liaison, Elena Seitti and was told that it was not necessary for the School Planning Committee to meet; however, they could meet to introduce themselves and review the upcoming timelines. Dr. Cabral said the Initial Compliance certificate was submitted and accepted. She continued that Easton is working on the education profile questionnaire as well as online enrollment projections which they received from MSBA which is due July 3rd.

Chair Weisman asked who will initiate the first meeting.

Dr. Cabral said she has been in contact with Connor Read and they are ready on their side to meet.

Dr. Keough said that David Twombly would be the person to initiate the meeting.

Chair Weisman said it would be best to have a meeting sooner than later.

Public Comment:

None

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough announced that tonight's meeting would be his last. He thanked each of the School Committee members as well as the past School Committee members who have served during his three years in Easton. He thanked Colleen Less, Donna Abelli, Laurie Han, Fred Isleib and Sean Mullen. Dr. Keough said a lot of people showed faith in him and he thanked all the faculty and staff; he said it is an amazing group of people in Easton. He continued that Easton has wonderful parents and such a good community with great people. He wished Dr. Cabral luck moving forward, he said the schools are in great shape.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral said that the Assistant Superintendent search is ongoing and Ms. De Luca, the School Committee representative on the Search Committee, has an update on the search.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. De Luca read the following:

"I am pleased to announce that the Screening Committee has forwarded 4 finalists for consideration as Easton's next Assistant Superintendent.

In alphabetical order, they are:

Dr. Elizabeth Homan - Current administrator of Educational Technology Integration in the Waltham Public School District and resident of Newton. She holds a Doctorate of English and Education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Ms. Christine Pruitt - Current Assistant Superintendent of Silver Lake Regional School District in Kingston and resident of Whitman. She holds a Masters of Education from Boston College.

Dr. Leslie Scollins - Current principal of Martinson Elementary School in the Marshfield Public School District and resident of Marshfield. She holds a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from Northeastern University.

Ms. Ann Weintrob - Current principal of Center School in the Easton Public School District and resident of Easton. She holds a Masters of Education from Salem State University.

The School Committee will conduct final interviews next week. In addition, there will be a series of meet-and-greets for all staff and parents in the Easton Middle School Library. If you would like to attend one or all of them, they will be held at the following times:

Monday, June 12: Ms. Weintrob, 4:30-5:30pm

Tuesday, June 13: Dr. Scollins, 4:30-5:30pm

Wednesday, June 14: Ms. Pruitt, 4:30-5:30pm

Thursday, June 15: Dr. Homan, 4:00-5:00pm

Please join us if you would like to meet with the finalists, chat, ask questions, etc. There will be "feedback forms" available at each session if you would like to provide comments/ask questions.

I would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank the Screening Committee for their time and effort in this process. Their thoughtful consideration and effective discussions have provided the district with four highly qualified candidates for consideration.

The Screening Committee consisted of:

Marilyn Gordon - Chair

Wes Paul

Luke Carroll

*Chris Getchell
Karen Rodgers
Dan Smith
John Sousa
Christen Foote
Elizabeth Starr
Nancy De Luca*

We will keep you posted on any further developments.”

Ms. De Luca thanked the screening committee for their process and said they had a really good group.

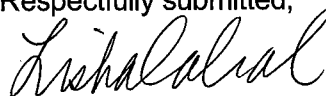
Ms. O'Neill said she attended Class Night and it was a lovely affair with lots of scholarships given out by the community and organizations. She said the English teachers helped some students with their speeches and they were wonderful.

Chair Weisman said when she was considering running for a position on the School Committee she had called Dr. Keough and asked for a meeting. She continued, he met with her and spent time talking with her, answered all her questions and she left the meeting feeling really good. Chair Weisman said one of Dr. Keough's talents is communication with the School Committee and how he makes them feel like part of the community. She thanked him for all he has done in Easton.

Executive Session: RE: Personnel Issue, Update on Negotiations with EEA Regarding EMS Schedule, Update on Meeting Regarding TLC Paras, Update on Assistant Superintendent Search:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 4-0 roll call vote, the Committee entered into Executive Session for purpose of a Personnel Issue, Update on Negotiations with EEA Regarding the EMS Schedule, Update on Meeting Regarding TLC Paras, and Update on Assistant Superintendent Search at 8:15 pm not to return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.

Secretary