

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Friday, June 15, 2018

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, June 15, 2018, 50 Oliver Street, Upstairs Conference Room, convened at 3:01 p.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, Caroline O'Neill, Jane Martin, and Michelle Durrance.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Dr. Cabral, Assistant Superintendent Crissy Pruitt, and Marilyn Gordon.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Contracts:

- **Lucini Bus Contract for In-District SPED Transportation (Vans)**
- **Lucini Bus Contract Extension for FY 19**
- **Whitson's Contract Extension / Renewal for FY 19**

Chair Weisman stated that Mr. Lucini from Lucini Bus Lines is in attendance. Dr. Cabral said that the contracts on the agenda are for the in-district Special Education transportation and the contract extension for the general education transportation. The general education contract is a five year contract, three years of which were settled with a two year possibility of an extension. Dr. Cabral noted that the contract had been updated as of yesterday. Dr. Cabral presented a contract to Chair Weisman for the in-district general education transportation beginning with the summer and through the 2018-2020 school years. She noted that the price is per bus and is the same for both years. Because the terms of the general education contract had been updated, Dr. Cabral asked that the Committee approve the contract and authorize Chair Weisman to sign the contract after legal counsel has reviewed the changes.

The Special Education in-district transportation cost will now differentiate between the length of the runs. Mr. Lucini said that Gail Howard, General Manager of Lucini Bus Lines will work closely with Theresa Skinner and Chris Rogers in the Special Education Department on the routes. He said that questionnaires have been sent out by the Special Education department. He continued that he will set up a meet and greet for the families and the drivers. Mr. Lucini stated that he will agree to hold the one year price of the contract for two years. He continued that he will provide cameras on all the buses and vans at no cost to the district. Mr. Lucini said he will not charge the district the cost of Veratrans, the routing system either.

Dr. Cabral noted that one of the recommendations on the Town Audit was the age of the buses and the vans. She said she had discussed with Mr. Lucini utilizing slightly older,

safe, and fully inspected buses and vans in the future. Mr. Lucini confirmed that the district's buses are from 2017 and 2018. A discussion took place.

Ms. Durrance entered the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Lucini Bus contract for in-district Special Education transportation.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the extension of the contract with Lucini Bus Line for the general education transportation buses to be signed by Chair Weisman with the updated information provided today.

Dr. Cabral said that Marilyn Gordon is here to discuss the Whitson's Contract Extension / Renewal for FY 19. Ms. Gordon said that federal law allows a one year contract with two one year extensions. She said that with each extension comes the guaranteed profit or loss depending upon the projections of the food service account and what it will look like for the following year. She said if the lunch prices do not increase it would be a \$16,439 loss to the district. If the lunch prices increase by fifteen cents it would be a surplus of \$7,071 to the district. Ms. Gordon added that labor costs have an impact on the district as the district transitions the employees completely over to Whitson's labor. Ms. Gordon provided documentation of the cost of lunch from neighboring districts. Ms. Gordon said the recommendation per the auditors was to increase the lunch price by twenty five cents one year and skip the following year(s). The district increased lunch prices by ten cents last year for this year.

Chair Weisman noted that increasing the cost of lunch is not an item on the agenda; therefore, the Committee cannot vote on it. She said that because the Committee cannot vote on lunch prices they will not vote today on the contract. Chair Weisman said both items will be on the next School Committee agenda.

Discussion and Review of the Process of Dr. Cabral's Evaluation:

Chair Weisman said that at the last School Committee meeting Dr. Cabral provided documents to the Committee regarding the process of Dr. Cabral's evaluation. She noted that the Committee cannot discuss the evaluation; however, they can ask questions about Dr. Cabral's evidence. Dr. Cabral said that she added a short narrative of "measures of success." A discussion took place and some Committee members asked Dr. Cabral questions about the evidence. Ms. Martin suggested having a conversation about disciplinary policies at a future meeting.

Discussion and Vote to Appoint New Representatives to Town Committees:

Dr. Cabral said that the Committees within the Town appoint representatives for one year terms which run July 1st through June 30th. The Town had reached out to the district regarding the representatives of the School Committee who had been appointed to the Town's Committees that needed to be reappointed. She referred to the document that the Committee received in their packet listing the Committees and how many representatives are needed.

After a discussion the School Committee appointed the following to the Town's Committees:

- Audit Committee - Nancy De Luca
- Budget Subcommittee - Jacqueline Weisman and Caroline O'Neill
- Human Rights Committee - Michelle Durrance
- Municipal Building Committee - Jane Martin

The Committee reviewed the Subcommittees of the district and made the following appointments:

- Academic Review Subcommittee - inactive
- Activate Easton Committee - inactive
- Animal Assisted Therapy Oversight Committee - inactive
- Budget Subcommittee (district) - inactive
- Children's Museum Advisory Committee - Jacqueline Weisman
- Curriculum Coordinating Council - inactive
- ECAT Subcommittee - Nancy De Luca
- FEEE Committee - Caroline O'Neill and Nancy De Luca
- Food Advisory & Wellness Subcommittee - Michelle Durrance
- Forthingham Board - Jacqueline Weisman
- Green Communities Committee - per Danielle Sicard, Town Clerk per the Selectmen's meeting, the Selectmen changed the charge of the Committee and there is no longer a School Committee representative for the Green Communities Committee
- MSBA School Planning Committee - Jane Martin and Caroline O'Neill
- Naming Campaign - to be discussed during a meeting in the summer
- Negotiations Subcommittee - Jacqueline Weisman and Caroline O'Neill
- Policy Subcommittee - Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, Caroline O'Neill, Jane Martin, Michelle Durrance
- STEAM Committee - Michelle Durrance

Chair Weisman asked Ms. Durrance to reach out to the Rec Department for information on the Committee and Chair Weisman will look at the charter.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the appointments to the Committees as discussed.

Review and Possibly Vote on Retainer Agreement with Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP:

Dr. Cabral provided a chart of the payments to Stoneman, Chandler and Miller for the last three years to the Committee. She added that the district works on a retainer basis with Stoneman, Chandler and Miller. Dr. Cabral said that the past couple of years the district had been going over the amount of hours that the attorneys feel is fair compensation for the work they are providing to the district. She said the retainer last year was \$70,000; however, the district went over that amount. The contract covers all negotiations, questions, problem solving, document creation, revision, and review. It does not cover any arbitration or special education disagreements that they may have to represent the district. She said last year the district gave Stoneman, Chandler and Miller an increase of \$20,000. Dr. Cabral said that the phone calls to the attorneys have been streamlined through Central Administration Office reducing the number of hours.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the retainer overages for \$10,000 for professional services for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 by Stoneman, Chandler and Miller, LLP.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the retainer for Fiscal Years 2019, 2020 and 2021 at the annual rate of \$80,000 for Stoneman, Chandler and Miller, LLP.

Vote to Approve Dr. Cabral to the Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. (PCC) Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 School Year:

Dr. Cabral said that Project Contemporary Competitiveness, PCC, is an advanced study program that takes place at Stonehill College in the summer. She said that Easton is a member and it provides opportunities to students at a reduced rate. Information about the program had been provided in the packets. Dr. Cabral said she would recommend the Committee appoint her to the Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 school year.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee appointed Dr. Cabral to the Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. (PCC) Board of Directors for the School Year 2018-2019.

Public Comment:

None.

Superintendent Notes:

None.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Ms. Pruitt said that all the Math Middle School teachers have been trained with the new Open-Up Resources Math Program for two full days of professional development. She continued that the Math teachers on the teams, special education teachers, interventionists were all trained. She said this was the first round of professional development for this program. Ms. Pruitt said a second round of professional development for this program will be more of the how to implement the program.

She said that Mr. Carroll sent out a survey to families grade levels five, six, seven, and eight about their interest in middle school foreign language. She said about three hundred parents responded and 50% are interested in Spanish, 25% interested in French, and 4% interested in Mandarin. She said the survey is still open. Ms. O'Neill said that School Committees, superintendents, and assistant superintendents have to lead the way and Mandarin is the most used language in the world. Dr. Cabral said that the survey is informative for us and it is not a determinant to what direction the district will go in as far as the middle school foreign language.

Ms. Pruitt said that October 22 through 26th is the Massachusetts week of STEM declared by Governor Baker and Lieutenant Polito. There will be STEM activities throughout the Commonwealth.

School Committee Notes:

None.

Executive Session RE: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A §21(a) 3 To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining for Unit A (Teacher's Union) and Custodian Unit:

Chair Weisman made a motion to enter into Executive Session not to return to Open Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Unit A (Teacher's Unit) and Custodian Unit, and stated that in her opinion having this discussion in public would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the School Committee. Ms. Durrance, seconded the motion, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the open meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by,
Lynn Souza

Respectfully submitted,



Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.
Secretary