

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, August 17, 2017

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, August 17, 2017, Simmons Lecture Hall, Oliver Ames High School, convened at 6:30 p.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy DeLuca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, Michelle Durrance, Dr. Cabral and Christine Pruitt.

Chair Weisman welcomed Christine Pruitt, new Assistant Superintendent.

Ms. De Luca asked for a moment of silence for Cathi Droukas Harrington, a Para at Parkview who passed away today.

Minutes: Workshop 6/16/2017; Executive Session 7/13/2017:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Workshop minutes of 6/16/2017 with amendments.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 7/13/2017 but not to be released.

Schedule of Payments:

None.

Foreign Travel Proposals - April 2018 to China:

Wes Paul, Principal of Oliver Ames High School introduced Dr. Chen from Boston Wise, Joan Holt, Librarian for Oliver Ames High School and Ana Serjack, a rising senior at OA and an intern at Boston Wise. Mr. Paul said that Ms. Holt has agreed to be the chaperone for the trip.

Dr. Chen presented a PowerPoint presentation proposing the trip to China.

Ms. Serjack spoke of her experience as being part of the host family when students from China came to Oliver Ames High Schools as exchange students.

A question and answer period took place following the presentation.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the trip to China for April 2018.

Review Free and Reduced Price Food Services Policy File EFC (first reading):

Dr. Cabral said that this is the policy that was discussed at the last meeting with additional changes.

Marilyn Gordon distributed copies of the policy to the Committee.

Chair Weisman said the second reading will be at the September 4th workshop.

Review Breakfast Prices (first reading):

Ms. Martin said because the item on the agenda, "Breakfast Prices" is not a policy, the School Committee can take a vote on this item.

Dr. Cabral said that Ms. Gordon has some price comparisons from other districts.

Ms. Gordon said if a student qualifies for a free lunch they also qualify for a free breakfast. She continued that last year they sold 7,131 breakfasts at the middle school and high school. Ms. Gordon said that they want to change the price of breakfast to \$1.75.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved raising the price of school breakfast from \$1.50 to \$1.75.

Review and Update Rates for Substitute Employees (first reading):

Ms. Gordon said the rates for substitutes were listed in the old version of the School Committee policy manual; however, when the policy was updated, the rates were eliminated. Ms. Gordon said that this is a guideline, not a change in the policy.

Dr. Cabral said sub rates would never change without the approval of the School Committee.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the rate sheet for substitute employees guideline.

Personnel - Retirement: EMS Paraprofessional:

Dr. Cabral said that Suzanne Botelho, a paraprofessional at the Easton Middle School, has submitted her intent to retire.

Chair Weisman read the letter.

Ms. De Luca said she worked with Sue and the kids loved her and she did more than her job to help out. She said she is awesome and will be missed at the Middle School.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted Suzanne Botelho's retirement letter with regret.

Staffing Update:

Dr. Cabral gave the Committee an update on the positions that have and are in the process of being filled at the schools.

Ms. De Luca asked for a list of transfers within the district.

Dr. Cabral said that list will be provided.

Ms. Martin said the New Teacher Orientation Day was a wonderful event.

Dr. Cabral said that Mal Cunha and Kristin Marani have been fabulous as the mentor coordinators. She said that as an Assistant Superintendent she worked with them last year and she thought it was important that this program is run by peers. She said they run monthly meetings throughout the year and it has been very nice to see a fresh set of eyes on it.

Ms. De Luca said that three of the new teachers she had as seventh grade students.

Update on School Planning Committee:

Ms. Martin, Chair of the School Planning Committee, said the most recent meeting was last evening; it was the second time the Committee met. She continued that in between the first meeting and second meeting, they toured the PK-2 buildings. She said last night they discussed where they are in terms of the MSBA process and what upcoming milestones they have to hit in October and meeting those milestones. Ms. Martin said they discussed what they need to do in preparation for the Town Meeting in November. She said the School Planning Committee will have a warrant article at Town Meeting and will provide a presentation.

Ms. De Luca asked about the deadlines.

Dr. Cabral said the next deadline is October 3rd and we are about 70% done with the document and expect to be done prior to October 3rd. She added that we have been meeting all the deadlines.

Public Comment:

None.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral said she wanted to make sure that everyone knows how important Cathi Droukas Harrington was at the Parkview School community. She was well known as a very giving, lovely, lively woman who was very well respected by everyone and will be dearly missed. She said that the Parkview family will need our support.

Dr. Cabral said she has been working with her coach, Matt King, for her entry plan and it is required by every employee to have a coach or mentor. Matt King is a very experienced Superintendent and he is fully aware that I did an entry plan as an Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Cabral said that the Committee will meet Mr. King.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Christine Pruitt said she sends her sympathy and condolences to Cathi's family and the Parkview family and Easton community for their loss; losing a staff member is not an easy thing. She thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to become Easton's Assistant Superintendent. The past month has surpassed her expectations and she is extremely happy. She said she has been working on the grants, interviewing for open positions, meeting with staff and educators, setting up home education plans, setting up schedules for the year, reviewing the Coordinated Program Review and working on her entry level plan. She has hit the ground running and wanted to thank everyone for their support. She said Easton is truly a great place, just like everyone said. Ms. Pruitt said they did receive the draft report for the Coordinated Program Report on July 27th and upon receipt of the draft, the district has ten days to respond to any inaccuracies in the report. She said there were seven findings for each category in Special Education, Civil Rights and English Learners Education. She said many of the areas they need to complete are minimal; she said they did submit additional documentation for two of the seven ELE findings so the findings should be reduced to five.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. De Luca said the New Teacher Orientation was great and the abbreviated tour was great and they did go to Hilliard's. Ms. De Luca asked if they have seen anything from Avalon. Dr. Cabral answered they have 3748 total students in the district, 28 of the students are from Avalon and 24 of those students are new to the district. She said some of them are moving from a different district in Easton to the Center School district which will affect enrollment at the Center School.

Ms. De Luca said a number of years ago they had an influx of PK-2 students to Easton and had to ask parents which elementary school they would like to go to.

Dr. Cabral said that we are reaching uncomfortable numbers for kindergarten and trying to come up with game plans but it is difficult to react as we are still getting enrollments. She said we are checking it obsessively.

Ms. De Luca asked if there is enough room at Center School to add another classroom for Avalon students if needed.

Dr. Cabral answered that they would have to look at some other options because room is tight, we have no extra classrooms.

Ms. Martin said that while driving by the high school there is so much activity going on with sports and it is exciting. Ms. Martin said on a personal note, apart from the School Committee, she said what happened in Charlottesville was sad for our country and we should not be tolerating white supremacy and those things are not acceptable.

Ms. O'Neill said that we want a safe environment for our children and that if anything happened we have a Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent who will ensure that it is made clear that that behavior is completely unacceptable.

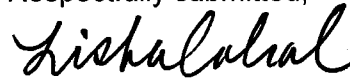
Possible Executive Session: RE: Coordinated Program Review:

Not needed.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Durrance, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisha Cabral".

Lisha Cabral Ed.D.

Secretary