

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA**

**EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, September 10, 2015**

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting, September 10, 2015**, Simmons Lecture Hall convened at 6:35 p.m. Present: Laurie Han, Caroline O'Neill, Jackie Weisman, Sean Mullen, Dr. Cabral and Dr. Keough.

**Public Participation:**

Laura Fogel of Easton stated that some of the individual schools are listing religious holidays on their calendars. She asked the committee to consider not listing holidays unless those of all religions can be posted. The committee briefly discussed keeping the schools consistent by either listing all the religious holidays or omitting them, but did not make a commitment.

**Minutes Workshop: 7/29/15, 8/17/15, 8/20/15; Regular 8/20/15:**

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Workshop on 7/29/15 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with a 4-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Workshop on 8/17/15 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Workshop on 8/20/15 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with a 4-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Meeting on 8/20/15 were approved.

**Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

**Request of X-Country Team to Participate in Two Meets in RI:**

Kyle Sousa, Easton's Cross Country Coach, discussed the Cross Country team participating in two meets in Rhode Island.

On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the committee approved the Cross Country Team to participate in the two meets in Rhode Island.

**Request for Exception to Home Schooling Policy:**

Rob and Kirstie Wheeler of Easton requested the waiver for their son, Naaman, a home schooled child, be extended one more year.

Dr. Han asked Dr. Cabral to explain the guidelines of the home school policy, under the letter "F, a student may participate in lunch and recess if their approved home school plan includes more than one class in the Easton Public Schools AND the classes the child has been scheduled to attend fall both immediately before and after the lunch/recess period".

Dr. Han referred to the letter from last year addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler regarding approval of a waiver for a "one time exception" to the policy.

No motion was made to approve the request for the exception to the home schooling policy.

**Ratification of EEA Unit B Contract:**

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with a 4-0 vote, the Ratification of the EEA Unit B contract was tabled.

**Preliminary Enrollment Update:**

Dr. Keough discussed the preliminary enrollment data numbers presented comparing last year's numbers to this year. Dr. Keough stated that some numbers are down from last year, but noted that this is a very preliminary report; numbers that are submitted to the state will be gathered on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Notice of Professional Status Staff Reception:**

Dr. Keough reminded the committee that the Professional Status Staff Reception has been changed from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup>; this event will precede the School Committee Meeting. Dr. Keough stated that this event is a nice way to recognize the staff and to thank them.

**Opening of School Year Update:**

Dr. Keough discussed the opening of the schools in the district.

Dr. Keough described the extra efforts that were made to accommodate the students and staff due to the rise in temperature.

Dr. Keough discussed the New Teacher Mentoring days, explaining that they were very successful. He thanked Chris Getchell and Theresa Skinner for their contributions and Ms. O'Neill for attending the first day for staff event. Dr. Keough commended Dr. Cabral and her leadership of professional development with the staff. Dr. Keough discussed the hiring of 20 new staff members and the implementation of the new SPED coordinator model. Dr. Keough thanked the entire staff and expressed his appreciation for all their hard work.

**Superintendent’s Global Student Leadership Summit Presentation:**

Dr. Keough presented a slide show on his trip to Switzerland in June.  
Dr. Keough thanked the committee for the opportunity to attend the Summit.

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Cabral commended the staff for the phenomenal work that resulted in the summer curriculum writing. Dr. Cabral thanked the committee for approving the Synergy Training for the staff and said they are all welcome to attend the trainings on October 6 for the middle and high school staff and the December 9 training scheduled for elementary and intermediate school staff. A home schooling information meeting has been scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00a.m. at the Queset House. Contact Lynn Souza at central administration if you would like to attend.

**Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Keough explained the new website is very close to being rolled out, but that he was still not fully satisfied with the product. He is hopeful some of the final adjustments will be completed soon. Dr. Keough is scheduling his coffee hours with the parents starting in October. Dr. Keough has been visiting the schools and has met with all the principals and will once again be conducting quarterly visits as well as informal visits throughout the year. Keough’s Corner will be coming soon. The administration will be generating a Central Office News Letter.

**School Committee Notes:**

Ms. O’Neill discussed her and Mr. Mullen’s involvement with FEEE and the enthusiasm of the board members and parents.  
Mr. Mullen attended Moreau Hall’s first grade Back to School night and thanked the community and their commitment to FEEE and the schools.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion from Ms. O’Neill, and seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved to adjourn the meeting and not to return to open session. The School Committee adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.  
Secretary