

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA**

**EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, October 8, 2015**

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting, October 8, 2015**, Simmons Lecture Hall convened at 6:30 p.m. Present: Fred Isleib, Laurie Han, Caroline O'Neill, Jackie Weisman, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

**Public Participation:**

None.

**Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

**Approval of Minutes: Regular 9/10/15, Workshop 9/25/15, Executive Session 8/20/15, 9/25/15**

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Meeting on 9/10/15 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 9/25/15 were approved.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 4-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session on 8/20/15 were approved but not to be released.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Chair Isleib, with a 4-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Workshop on 9/25/15 were approved but not to be released.

**Personnel Change – Retirement: SPED Driver:**

Dr. Keough read a letter from June Kendall, bus driver for the Special Education Department, has announced her retirement after 30 years of employment. Ms. Kendall's last day will be November 30, 2015.

Chair Isleib thanks Ms. Kendall for her services and wishes her the best of luck.

Ms. O'Neill commented that Ms. Kendall took tremendous interest in the kids and that this is a loss when you lose someone who has invested so many years.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with regret, with a 4-0 vote, the committee accepted the letter of retirement from Ms. Kendall.

**Approval of Out-Of-State Trip Requests for 2015-2015:**

Chair Isleib read all out of state trips presented to the committee for review.

On a motion by Dr. Han, seconded by Chair Isleib, with a 4-0 vote, the committee approved the out of state trips, as amended by taking out the first trip, OA Show Choir & Pit Band, Windsor Locks Connecticut as well as the Jasell's Farm trip to Smithfield Rhode Island, which had already occurred.

**Religious Holiday Attendance Pattern:**

The attendance pattern of students and staff on the religious holidays, Rosh Hashanah, September 14, 2015 and Yom Kippur, September 23, 2015 was reviewed by the committee. Absence on Rosh Hashanah was at 5.90% and absence on Yom Kippur was at 6.90%. The average daily absence for students is 4.1%.

**Report on MCAS:**

Wes Paul, principal of Oliver Ames High School, Luke Carroll, principal of Easton Middle School and Deborah Hammett, principal of Richardson Olmsted School presented their spring 2014 MCAS results. Committee members had the opportunity to ask questions.

**Start-Time Sub-Committee Formation:**

Dr. Keough proposed the formation of a Start Time Sub Committee to investigate and review the start times of our schools. Dr. Keough suggested the committee be represented by Administration, (all levels), the Director of Operations, the Athletic Director, community representatives, such as Maplewood and the YMCA, as well as a school committee member.

Ms. O'Neill offered to be on the Start Time Sub Committee; Dr. Han offered to be the alternate.

**Strategic Plan Approval:**

Dr. Keough discussed the Easton Public Schools Strategic Plan for 2016-2018. Dr. Keough read the Core Values of the Strategic Plan; Academic Excellence and Equity for All, Cooperative and Caring Relationships, Respecting and Valuing Diversity and Commitment to Community. He mentioned that the Strategic Plan is available on the Easton Public Schools website. Dr. Keough stated the four

Strategic Objectives represent the four big goals of the district, and the strategic priorities beneath them, the sub goals.

Dr. Keough said he will update the committee on what has been accomplished in July or August of next year.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the committee approved to the Strategic Plan as presented.

**October 1 Enrollment:**

Discussion took place about the October 1, 2015 Enrollment numbers and classroom sizes.

**Adolescent Wellness Survey Approval for Grades 7 & 8:**

Dr. Keough requested the Adolescent Wellness Survey that was previously approved by the School Committee for the 9-12 grades be administered to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders as well. The request came from a subcommittee of guidance personnel, nurses and school administrators from OAHS.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 4-0 vote, the committee approved to extend the Adolescent Wellness Survey to the students in Grades 7 and 8.

**Ratification of Unit B Contract:**

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the committee approved the Ratification of Unit B Contract.

**Project Contemporary Competitiveness Discussion:**

Dr. Keough said he and Dr. Cabral visited Stonehill College. Dr. Keough explained the Project Contemporary Competitiveness is an enrichment program camp for students that runs over the course of six weeks during the summer at Stonehill College. Dr. Keough stated that it is a great opportunity for students to experience college life. Dr. Cabral explained to the committee that Stonehill will award Easton with two scholarships in the amounts of \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00 each. Dr. Cabral explained that there is a fee for district participation however; Easton will not have to pay the fee this year. Dr. Cabral said the participation fee is \$1.00 per enrolled student in the district; it will cost approximately \$3,700.00 total. Dr. Cabral stated students will have to apply to the program. Dr. Cabral added the students can now earn three college credits from the program. Dr. Cabral stated it is a very rigorous academic program. Chair Isleib asked how the scholarships are determined. Dr. Cabral responded that Stonehill College will let

Easton determine how to award the scholarships. Dr. Cabral announced that there will be an organizational meeting in November that Easton's Guidance Department will attend.

**Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Keough reminded the committee that Dorothy Presser has been invited to attend the October 16 School Committee Workshop to present on operations protocol. Dr. Keough said they have been getting great feedback from the 50 Oliver Street Newsletter and he commended Dr. Cabral for her contributions to the Newsletter. Dr. Keough stated that John Sousa, our Information Systems Administrator, has informed him that we are getting a lot of activity on our new website. Dr. Keough said that people are using the icons on the side and told folks at home to check the "Trending Now" as this will be our most important tool for communication.

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Cabral said we had our first of two security trainings with Synergy on October 6<sup>th</sup> and thanked the committee members whom attended. Dr. Cabral said the second training will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> and invited school committee members who wish to attend. Dr. Cabral stated that she invited the press, Police and Fire Departments. Dr. Cabral stated that she received valuable feedback; people who participated said they felt empowered from the training. Dr. Cabral told the committee that the Curriculum Leaders worked on the Understanding by Design units on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Cabral announced that the Curriculum Leaders would like to share what they have been doing with the School Committee. Dr. Cabral would like to have the Curriculum Leaders present their work to the School Committee during some televised meetings. Dr. Cabral announced that FEEE, whom has been very generous to us over the years, has guaranteed us a minimum of \$10,000.00 towards the Science from Scientists program and possibly \$15,000.00 depending upon their response to the volleyball tournament. Dr. Cabral extended her gratitude to FEEE and Ameresco.

**School Committee Notes:**

Chair Isleib commended Dr. Keough and Dr. Han for a great job presenting at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday. Chair Isleib encouraged people at home to go to ECAT and watch the meeting. Dr. Keough stated the presentation is available on the Easton Public Schools website under Trending Now.

Dr. Han said it was an interesting town meeting that had a lot of information really worth watching. Dr. Han stated that the Policy Sub Committee met and is

working to bringing the policies up to date. Dr. Han stated that they will bring one section at a time to the committee and that the policy updates will be posted on the website. Dr. Han and Ms. O'Neill have been attending the PTA meetings to discuss our financial challenges. Dr. Keough said he has been meeting with PTAs and PACs about establishing a central council. Dr. Han expressed the need to attend the November 16<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. held at the high school.

Ms. O'Neill reminded everyone that the volleyball tournament is November 20<sup>th</sup>, and that this is an important fund raiser. Ms. O'Neill said that people can donate to FEEE anytime, and it is tax deductible. Ms. O'Neill said the Synergy Training was well done and mentioned that she learned when calling 911, that the call goes to the Framingham State Police and not directly to the local police department. Ms. O'Neill said Synergy encouraged people to program their local police department's phone number into their cell phone.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-0 vote, the committee approved to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session, not to return to open meeting, at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, ch-wkkkkkkkk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew W. Keough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "K".

Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.  
Secretary