

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 5, 2015

Minutes of School Committee Meeting, November 5, 2015, Simmons Lecture Hall, Oliver Ames High School, convened at 6:40 p.m. Present: Fred Isleib, Laurie Han, Caroline O'Neill, Sean Mullen, Jackie Weisman, Dr. Keough and Dr. Cabral.

Public Participation:

None.

Approval of Minutes: Regular 10/8/15; Workshop 10/16/15, 10/26/15, 10/27/15; Executive Session 2/19/15, 2/23/15, 3/6/15, 3/11/15, 3/24/15, 8/28/15, 9/10/15, 10/8/15, 10/16/15:

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Meeting on 10/8/15 were approved as amended.

On a motion by Dr. Han, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Workshop Meeting on 10/16/15 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Workshop Meeting on 10/26/15 were approved.

On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Policy Sub-Committee Meeting on 10/27/15 were approved.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Meeting on 2/19/15 were approved.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Meeting on 2/23/15 were approved.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Meeting on 3/6/15 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Meeting on 3/11/15 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Meeting on 3/24/15 were approved.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Meeting on 8/28/15 were approved.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Meeting on 9/10/15 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Meeting on 10/8/15 were approved.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 4-0 vote, the minutes of the School Committee Executive Session Workshop Meeting on 10/16/15 were approved. Chair Isleib abstained from voting, as he was not present at that meeting.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures

Personnel Change

a. Retirement: Exec. Admin. Assistant to the Superintendent:

Dr. Keough read a letter from Dotti O'Donnell, the Executive Administrative Assistant to Dr. Keough, announcing her retirement. Dr. Keough said it was a great letter; it captures her professionalism, her integrity and her decency. Dr. Keough stated transferring from a high school principal to a superintendent is no small feat; you are only as good as the people around you. Dr. Keough stated that Dotti O'Donnell was the key to his transition right from the very start. Dr. Keough said Dotti will truly be missed.

Chair Isleib said she was instrumental in providing the School Committee information when needed. Chair Isleib said Dotti will be missed by this committee.

Ms. O'Neill said she worked with Dotti for 22 years, and it is a personal loss and that it will be really strange to go in the office and not see her lovely smile and upbeat manner. She stated that it is a loss to the district and that she is happy for her.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, with regret, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved to accept the letter of resignation from Dotti O'Donnell.

Audit/Override Discussion:

None.

Approval of Equipment Donation:

John Sousa from Oliver Ames High School Technology Department brought some models that were made by a 3D printer that was donated to Easton Public Schools. Mr. Sousa brought a gear, a GE jet engine and a replica of an infant's heart.

Dr. Cabral mentioned that the young ladies that participated in the Envision Summer Program for STEAM, which the School Committee and town supported their attendance at Bridgewater State University, they were actually participating in the replication effort at the NRT fair. Dr. Cabral stated the girls were describing these Makey Makey kits where they programmed a computer using potatoes and other items. Dr. Cabral said they were approached by a new resident in town, Kevin Eustace of Easton. Mr. Eustace works for an organization that had used the 3D printer but found that he needed other kinds of equipment and was looking for a place that would appreciate the printer and have a use for it. Dr. Cabral said the equipment will help students understand applications, use concepts of critical thinking and problem solving and said that Easton Public Schools is extremely grateful and appreciative of this very generous gift.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved to accept this very generous gift from Mr. Eustace.

Approval of Policy Updates – Section A:

Mr. Mullen stated that they have been going through the policy manual page by page as to how the entire district functions, section by section. Mr. Mullen stated they receive feedback from Jim Hardy of the MASC.

Dr. Han said that we are in better shape than other districts.

Dr. Cabral stated that this will ultimately be available on our website.

Chair Isleib questioned why there are two policies related to the CORI Policy; File #ADDA, page 1 of 6 and ADDA-R, page 1 of 2.

Dr. Keough stated File #ADDA is more about our policies around the CORIs, and File #ADDA-R is more about how we conduct it, which personnel has access to obtaining the CORIs, and the training that goes into processing the CORI. Dr. Keough suggested that perhaps the two policies can be combined into one.

On a motion by Chair Isleib, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the committee approved to accept the Policy Updates in Section A as amended.

Curriculum Leaders Presentation: History and Social Studies:

A presentation by Gary Erickson, a teacher from Easton Middle School and Matt Auger, a teacher from Oliver Ames High School, took place about the curriculum work in Social Studies and History, grade levels 6-12.

Dr. Cabral said they are the Social Studies and History grades 6-12 Curriculum Leaders.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Keough reminded the committee that Dorothy Presser from MASC, will be present at the School Committee Workshop Meeting on November 20. Dr. Keough stated Ms. Presser will begin at 9:30am and that they can begin the meeting one hour prior to her arrival. Dr. Keough continued that even though the budget override question has not been voted on by the Board of Selectman, they still have to work on building a regular budget. Dr. Keough reminded the committee about the second day of the Synergy Training on December 9. Dr. Keough stated that we had our first training day with Synergy on October 6. Dr. Keough said he was very excited about the STEAM work that he is seeing. Dr. Keough had an opportunity to go to Parkview's elective offerings and met with the scientists that are teaching the kids through an after school offering.

Dr. Keough mentioned that the STEM Summit is Tuesday, November 10 in Worcester, which Kerri Murphy, a teacher at Oliver Ames High School, is being recognized as the STEM Teacher of the Year in the state of Massachusetts. Dr.

Keough mentioned that the Governor of Massachusetts is scheduled to attend the STEM Summit.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral reminded people of the FEEE volleyball tournament that is coming up on November 20. Dr. Cabral said that FEEE has been very generous with their contributions to the Science from Scientists program and hope to continue their generous contribution to this program with proceeds from their volleyball tournament.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. O'Neill mentioned that she was going to mention the volleyball tournament as well, and even though she is not participating in the volleyball tournament, she made a donation to FEEE.

Mr. Mullen stated anyone can make a direct donation to FEEE.

Chair Isleib congratulated the fall athletic teams that just completed their season. Dr. Keough added congratulations to the coaches as well, and thanked them for their contributions.

Ms. O'Neill added that the music students also had some amazing accomplishments and congratulated the marching band on winning the gold medal.

Possible Executive Session RE: Contract Negotiations:

It was agreed that the Executive Session was not necessary.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Dr. Han, with a 5-0 vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew W. Keough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Andrew W. Keough, Ed.D.
Secretary