

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, November 9, 2017

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting, November 9, 2017,** Simmons Lecture Hall, Oliver Ames High School, convened at 6:30 p.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, Michelle Durrance, Dr. Cabral and Christine Pruitt.

**Minutes: Regular 10/20/2017; Executive Session 10/17/2017:**

On a motion by Ms. Durrance, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Regular minutes of 10/20/2017 with noted corrections.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 10/17/2017 but not to be released.

**Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to move item number 7 "Discussion and Possible Vote on Naming of Oliver Ames High School Auditorium" to the next order of business.

**Discussion and Possible Vote on Naming of Oliver Ames High School Auditorium:**

Chair Weisman said that there has been some confusion about the relationship between the School Committee's Naming Policy and the Oliver Ames High School Naming Campaign. Chair Weisman said that she believes that the Naming Policy and the Naming Campaign were intended to work together, not contradict each other. She said that any naming of a space at the Oliver Ames High School needs to go through the Oliver Ames High School Naming Campaign. Chair Weisman said that because Ms. Colleen Less and her group have said that fundraising is different today than what it was ten years ago, Chair Weisman said she spoke with the current President of the FEEE organization as well as the past President of the FEEE organization to get their impressions on fundraising today. She said they both confirmed that it is very difficult nowadays to raise a substantial amount of money. Chair Weisman said at a previous meeting that the potential of having a seat naming fundraiser was discussed. She contacted five districts that had done seat naming fundraisers and provided the information she received.

- Braintree Public Schools, in 2009, had 310 seats sponsored that generated \$64,000
- Norwood Public Schools, three years ago, had 120 seats sponsored out of 800 seats, raised \$14,000
- Danvers Public Schools had 610 seats, and sold approximately 232 seats over a seven year period that raised \$26,000
- Both Norwood Public Schools and Danvers Public Schools are still ongoing fundraisers
- Framingham in 2005-2006 had a very successful seat sponsored fundraiser but could not provide additional information.

Ms. Martin said that after a great deal of thought, she would like to consider moving forward with the dollar amount of \$75,000 but not outside the Oliver Ames High School Naming Campaign. She said the only way she would consider this proposal is if the group agrees to go through the Naming Campaign and not under the School Committee's Naming Policy.

Ms. De Luca said that it would be great for the Schools to receive \$75,000 and that she is willing to accept \$75,000 for the naming of the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium in honor of Charlene Dalrymple. She said she hopes the fundraising goes well. She will donate, and added that she likes the idea of the seat naming proposal.

Ms. O'Neill said that although it would be nice to have a unanimous vote, she feels that the contribution offered for the premier space in the district is not sufficient. She said it is an equity issue and doesn't feel that it would be fair to treat one group more favorably than others. Ms. O'Neill said that although she will contribute to the fundraising she cannot vote in favor of the amount of \$75,000 which is 70% less than the amount identified in the Naming Campaign as the value of the space.

Chair Weisman motioned to accept the group's proposal to name the OA Auditorium after Charlene Dalrymple through the Naming Campaign for Oliver Ames High School in the amount of \$75,000 with the understanding that the sign can go up after \$50,000 has been donated to the District and pending the signed pledge agreement, Ms. De Luca seconded, Ms. O'Neill opposed, the vote passed 4-1.

Chair Weisman said she will reach out to Colleen Less and Ken Fernandes about drafting the pledge agreement.

Ms. Martin said that throughout this process the Committee contacted a number of people who were on the original Oliver Ames Steering Committee and she suggested at a future workshop or in a separate meeting, Chair Weisman get a group from the Naming Campaign together to re-evaluate the work of the Campaign, and she suggested that the School Committee revisit the Naming Policy.

**Out of State Trip - OA Wrestling:**

Dr. Cabral said that the Oliver Ames Varsity Wrestling Team is seeking approval from the School Committee to attend a tournament in Cumberland, Rhode Island on January 13, 2018. She said that approximately 50 students along with Coach Kahn Chace and Assistant Coach Ryan Mulcahy will be attending.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Oliver Ames Varsity Wrestling Team attending the tournament in Cumberland, Rhode Island on January 13, 2018.

**Personnel Changes - Retirements:**

- **Science Teacher at Easton Middle School**
- **Grade 5 Learning Specialist at Richardson Olmsted School**

Dr. Cabral said that Jim Fisher has been with the Easton Public Schools for 19 years and effective January 31st he will retire to take care of his grandson. Mr. Fisher has been the Science Curriculum Leader for the District for 4 years and this is a loss to the district.

Chair Weisman read Mr. Fisher's letter of intent to retire.

Ms. De Luca said that she had worked with Mr. Fisher and that he was also head of the Earth Squad at Easton Middle School. She said he is a great guy.

Ms. Martin said based on conversations she had with parents whose kids had Mr. Fisher, they commented that Mr. Fisher really makes a connection with the kids and that his presence will be missed.

Ms. O'Neill said that she attended a presentation some months ago and Mr. Fisher was there and it was so clear by all his contributions that he really "gets kids" and his retirement is a loss to the District.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the retirement letter from Jim Fisher, with regret.

Dr. Cabral said that Joy Adams is a 5th grade Learning Specialist at Richardson Olmsted School, she has been with Easton Public Schools for 11 years and has submitted her letter of intent to retire on January 16, 2018. She continued that she had a lovely conversation with Ms. Adams about how bittersweet this decision was for her and it is a great loss to the District.

Chair Weisman read Ms. Adams' letter of intent to retire.

Ms. Martin said that Ms. Adams always works with her colleagues as a team and that as part of the team Ms. Adams does whatever she can to advocate on behalf of her students, and she will be missed.

On a motion by Ms. Durrance, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the retirement letter from Joy Adams, with regret.

### **Review of the Fundraiser Policy File JJE:**

Dr. Cabral said that MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) had been working with the Policy Subcommittee to review the School Committee's Policies. Dr. Cabral said that she recommends that they are also reviewed by the School Department's legal counsel to make sure they are aligned with the current laws. She continued that the Fundraising Policy JJE is one that counsel reviewed. A couple of questions had come up, such as under number 4, letter F "*Established fundraising activities such as book fairs, Box Tops, movie nights, coupon books, raffles, dinner dances, car washes and gift wrap sales, do not require approval beyond that of the Principal*". She reported that Counsel pointed out that any time a raffle is held a raffle permit needs to be secured and that neither the Principal nor School Committee has the permission to authorize a raffle without a permit. Dr. Cabral said that counsel will provide suggested language to replace it and it will be brought before the School Committee for final approval. Dr. Cabral also noted on the Fundraiser Policy JJE number 6 letter b "*Large private or corporate donations over [\$\$\$?] require approval of the School Committee*" counsel told Dr. Cabral that there is no Massachusetts statute for an amount that a School Committee must approve, so it is at the discretion of the School Committee. Currently, donations are brought before the School Committee for approval.

### **Update and Discussion of Fundraising Offer from Center School Parent:**

Dr. Cabral said there was an offer from a parent from Center School to work on a fundraiser; however, Dr. Cabral is awaiting further information. Due to advice from legal counsel, the fundraiser could be run under the PTA or PAC, which are separate organizations, and that the parent had spoken to members of the PAC from the Center School, and they are willing to work with the parent regarding the fundraiser offer.

### **Vote to Accept Donation from Wings of Hope for the Purpose of Developing, Interpreting and Reporting on the Youth Survey for Easton Middle School and Oliver Ames High School Students:**

Dr. Cabral said 2 years ago Easton completed a Youth Behavior Survey that created a valuable benchmark for the District in terms of indicators that may indicate "at risk" behaviors for the middle and high school students. Wings of Hope, in conjunction with the Easton Public Schools' nurses, worked on tailoring the questions and they have been revisiting the questions again. She said the survey has to be done by the end of the school year to compare it to the Massachusetts data; however, there is a cost. The Wings of Hope organization has donated \$2,250.00 in order to help Easton Public Schools distribute and analyze the data from the survey. Eileen Gardner, School Nurse at the Easton Middle School is here as a representative from the Wings of Hope to present the donation.

Ms. Gardner said that Wings of Hope is a prevention based organization. She continued that she had a meeting with Lynne LeBlanc, the School Nurse at Oliver Ames High School and Theresa Skinner, Director of Special Services, and they worked with the high

school and middle school guidance and adjustment counselors to compile questions that will be aligned with the state, and some questions will remain Easton specific. The survey will be online which will save significantly as the cost of printing last time was \$8,000.00. John Sousa, Director of Technology, and Suzana Somers, Director of Technology Instruction and Curriculum, will generate the online survey via Google Docs. Ms. Gardner said that Wings of Hope has secured a grant in the amount of \$125,000.00 for the next five years and those funds will go directly into the Town of Easton. She said they will hire a Prevention Specialist who will work with the Easton Public Schools, the Easton Police Department and Wings of Hope. She thanked Dr. Cabral, the Principals, Guidance Counselors and the Adjustment Counselors for their support.

Colleen Less said this is a community coalition and the goal is to reduce substance abuse. The coalition was formed after the death of Kristin and Chris Harrison's niece. Members also include Dottie Fulginiti, John Morley, Serah Selmon, Lauren Bartell, Stephanie Patton, Eileen Gardner, and Lynne LeBlanc. She said the grant of \$125,000.00 provides them the opportunity to help out the Schools and the community. Chair Weisman thanked Wings of Hope for the generous donation.

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the donation of \$2,250.00 from Wings of Hope for the purpose of developing, interpreting, and reporting on the Youth Survey for Easton Middle School and Oliver Ames High School students.

**Vote to Accept the Donation from Shaw's in Easton:**

Dr. Cabral said that she, Jackie Weisman, and Lynn Souza attended the grand re-opening of the Shaw's Supermarket in Easton. At the grand re-opening, Shaw's General Manager, David Cabral, presented Easton Public Schools with a \$1,000.00 donation. She said that Mr. Cabral was unable to attend the meeting tonight and thanked him and Shaw's for the donation.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the donation of \$1,000.00 from Shaw's.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Cabral announced that the tuition reimbursement funds have been depleted. She said it is a great disappointment to the entire staff that the District will not be able to provide tuition reimbursement for the remainder of the school year. Dr. Cabral said that one of the reasons is due to the loss of over \$100,000.00 funding in federal grants. DESE also recently notified the district that it will no longer be eligible for a \$30,000 entitlement grant for professional development.

Ms. O'Neill commented that it is early in the year for the tuition reimbursement funds to be depleted.

Dr. Cabral said that as the staff coming into Easton Public Schools is of a younger generation, they are required to get their Master's Degree within 5 years and have taken advantage of the tuition reimbursement for courses to obtain their Master's Degree.

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

Ms. Pruitt announced that the MCAS Next Generation 2.0 reports went home via the postal service and parents should contact the school if they have not received them. A presentation of the MCAS results will be presented to the School Committee and the community at the December 7th School Committee meeting. This Spring, in addition to the regular MCAS at the high school level, 25% of all grade level students will participate in a field test in an ELA or Math computer-based assessment. DESE will notify the District which test we will be taking.

Ms. Pruitt said that the first full Professional Development day had been scheduled for Monday, November 13th. There is no school for students, and the entire staff will be participating in the Dive Into Technology Professional Development. Suzana Somers, the Director of Instructional Technology and Curriculum will present the one hour keynote to the entire staff. Fifteen electives have been designed and 99% of those are teacher led. She thanked Suzana Somers, John Sousa, Jessica Garbowski, and the staff at Oliver Ames High School for their assistance.

Dr. Cabral invited the School Committee to attend the November 13th 8:30am keynote by Ms. Somers. She said it will be held in the Oliver Ames Auditorium.

Ms. Pruitt said that the Cabinet and Curriculum Leaders will attend a Professional Development on visioning and unit writing with consultant Ronit Carter from Jay McTighe Consultants. She continued that the Coordinated Program Review Corrective Action Plan was received today from DESE regarding the CPR findings and a few mandates that will be reviewed include facilities and staffing.

The new Social Studies Frameworks' first revision is being presented to the Board of Education in November at the state level. The Social Studies standards have not been revised in many years.

Ms. Pruitt and Dr. Cabral attended the MASC / MASS Joint Conference last week and it was fantastic. They attended many sessions focused on social emotional learning, legislation review, and DESE initiatives. The most wonderful event was Friday evening when MASC honored Caroline O'Neill with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ms. Martin said before the dinner at the MASC / MASS Joint Conference, Dr. Cabral spoke about the seminar she and Ms. Pruitt attended during the conference on potential cost savings that districts sometimes use, and as they went through the list of savings Dr. Cabral noted that Easton already follows the cost saving suggestions. Ms. Martin said it reaffirmed what Easton is already doing.

**School Committee Notes:**

Ms. Martin reminded everyone that the Town Meeting will be held on Monday, November 13th and the School Department has an important article on the warrant. She said it is Article #6, regarding the School Feasibility Study. She continued that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) had invited Easton Public Schools into the first phase of a building project for the Center School, and at the Town Meeting, the community will have the option to vote to appropriate the money for the Feasibility Study. Ms. Martin said it is important that the community is aware that this opportunity would solve the enrollment needs of the Center School and potentially resolve the structural and programming issues for the PK-2 schools. Ms. Martin said if the warrant article does not pass, the window of opportunity will close with the MSBA. She noted that Easton submits a Statement of Interest every year and the last time Easton was invited into a project with the MSBA was in the year 2011. Ms. Martin said that the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen unanimously support this warrant.

Chair Weisman mentioned that babysitting will be available for members of the community to attend the Town Meeting free of charge.

Ms. Martin said that the boys' OA Soccer team won in double overtime, and the Bay State Show Choir Festival is this weekend at the Oliver Ames High School.

Ms. O'Neill said that on October 23rd she and Dr. Cabral attended the Senior Project Presentation at Oliver Ames High School and that she was so impressed with the students' proposed projects. The students will be working on their proposed projects over the course of the school year. Craig Goldberg runs the program and Dr. Cabral said she is looking forward to seeing the presentations in the Spring.

Ms. De Luca reminded everyone that the FEEE Volleyball Tournament is Friday, November 17th and that there is still time to put a team together.

Ms. Durrance gave a shout-out to the twelve Oliver Ames students who were inducted into the Tri M Music Society. She said that the OA Marching Band had a phenomenal end of year season including two events; MICCA finals for which they received 5 stars in each Division and the New England US Bands in Connecticut where Easton came in second in New England and first in Massachusetts for the State Championship.

Ms. Martin said the Cross Country Team will sponsor the Turkey Chase through the Town.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Ms.Durrance, seconded by Ms.Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.  
Secretary