

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES
Thursday, June 22, 2017

Minutes of School Committee Workshop Meeting, June 22, 2017, 50 Oliver Street, Upstairs Conference Room, convened at 12:00 p.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy DeLuca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, and Dr. Cabral.

Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Weisman called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Approve the Food Service Contract:

The Committee noted that the changes were made to the contract as per the discussion at the June 8th meeting.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the Food Service Contract with Whitsons.

Vote on the Assistant Superintendent Position:

Dr. Cabral said she is disappointed ECAT was not filming the meeting. She continued that she wanted to explain her recommendation and look forward to any conversation the School Committee would like to have pertaining to her choice. Dr. Cabral said it was an extremely thorough process and she thanked the Screening Committee, members of the public who came to the public reception, staff members, administrators, School Committee and anyone who reached out and gave input. She said in addition to the many interviews and the reception, the candidates had writing prompts and many reference checks. Dr. Cabral said she went back as far as teaching positions on the candidates for references. She continued that it is unheard of to have the quality pool of candidates that they had for the Assistant Superintendent position and her colleagues were shocked when she told them she had over ninety applicants for the position. Dr. Cabral said she is confident that it is due to the reputation that Easton has with their amazing educators, parents and very involved School Committee. She continued that the Search Committee presented their four finalists which she shared with the School Committee and that the Search Committee assured her that any one of the four finalists could do the job of the Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Cabral then compared each candidate to one another and the experience that they each could bring to the position and the School Committee narrowed the four down to two candidates. She continued that she did a very thorough reference check on both candidates and she received lots of information back from her reference checks. She said she has nothing negative to say about either candidate but has to recommend one person. Dr. Cabral said she needed to recommend the person who has the most amount of experience of the job at

hand and the vision, the background knowledge and the understanding of what we are doing in Easton to carry it forward. Dr. Cabral said she would like to recommend Christine Pruitt to the School Committee for their consideration as the next Assistant Superintendent of Easton.

Ms. O'Neill said that she was confident that Dr. Cabral did a very thorough reference check and that they had to move very quickly. She continued that her personal feeling is that this was an attractive vacancy because of the quality of the new Superintendent, Dr. Cabral. She continued that Christine Pruitt has the range of experience that Easton is looking for and that one of the things that resonated with her, was that Christine had been a principal and she made a lot of changes as principal. She continued that although Ms. Pruitt served as the Assistant Superintendent in her current district, she said it was a full nine months before she thought she had a handle on the position of being an Assistant Superintendent. Ms. O'Neill said that it was a very good choice choosing Ms. Pruitt.

Ms. De Luca said she agrees with Ms. O'Neill and the candidates that they had chosen from the Screening Committee were top notch and any one of them could have been Dr. Cabral's assistant; she said she is looking forward to what Ms. Pruitt can provide for Easton.

Chair Weisman said Ms. Pruitt is personable and really understands how to work with everyone and she believes she will work well.

Ms. Martin agreed and said that people who join us have an appreciation of who we are as a district and as a community. She said she got a sense that Ms. Pruitt already had an affinity for Easton and she feels she will be really careful in getting to know the district, what our strengths are, what opportunities lie ahead, and help in moving us forward.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee appointed Christine Pruitt as the next Assistant Superintendent pending successful contract negotiations.

The Committee thanked Dr. Cabral.

Vote on the Amendment to the Employment Agreement for the Superintendent:

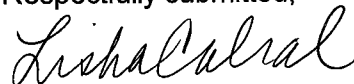
Chair Weisman said that Dr. Cabral's contract had a section of benefits left open and after they met a revision was made and the Committee needs to vote on the amendment to Dr. Cabral's employment agreement.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the amendment to Dr. Lisha Cabral's contract signed in April 2017.

Executive Session RE: Contract Negotiations for Assistant Superintendent:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 4-0 roll call vote, the Committee entered into Executive Session for purpose of contract negotiations for Assistant Superintendent not to return to open session at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.

Secretary