

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES
Friday, September 15, 2017

Minutes of School Committee Workshop Meeting, September 15, 2017, 50 Oliver Street, Upstairs Conference room, convened at 3:09pm Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy DeLuca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, Michelle Durrance, Dr. Cabral and Christine Pruitt.

Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Weisman called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

Proposal to Change Facility Rental Fees and Policies:

Dr. Cabral said that Bill Matthews and Charlene Dalrymple are here to propose changing the facility rental fees and policies.

Mr. Matthews distributed the proposed changes and said he and Ms. Dalrymple have some minor verbiage changes that are recommended to clarify some language in the rental policy and rate form. He continued that the key issue is overall proposals is that he and Ms. Dalrymple both feel that the for profit groups have been unreasonably benefitting from the facilities that our taxpayers provide, that some groups come in and tear up the facilities and the money coming in doesn't compensate for the cost of the maintenance and repairs. He said that one of the proposed changes was to alter the language for non profits. He said some organizations come in and are certified as non-profits, yet the people who operate them are actually making a profit. Mr. Matthews proposed a separate classification for Nonprofit and Philanthropic groups. He also proposed changing the daily rental fee for the gyms to an hourly rental fee.

Ms. Dalrymple said that along with the dance recital groups, they now have for profit dance competition groups renting the facilities for one time use. She said people stream in and out all day long. She noted that one group was not allowed back because there was a problem. She said many people from these groups didn't seem to care about the facility. She proposed charging \$3,500.00 for one day for the auditorium for dance competitions and \$2,500.00 for the dance recitals.

The Committee suggested having a \$500.00 security deposit.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Facility Rental Rates Fees with the recommended edits.

Budget Closeout:

Ms. Gordon provided the Committee with a shorter list of the accounts where money was left over. She said she turned back \$160,658.55 which is less than .4%.

Dr. Cabral commended Ms. Gordon, and said that in a forty million dollar budget, that was fantastic.

Ms. Gordon discussed each account line by line and a discussion took place.

Free and Reduced Price Food Services Policy File EFC (second reading):

Dr. Cabral said that the policy is titled Free and Reduced Food Services but it includes the alternative lunch proposal that was discussed in the past. She continued that a superintendent in her listserv sent around a spreadsheet showing that most other districts provide alternative lunches after two to three charges.

Ms. Gordon said she made the changes that were suggested by the Committee.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-1 vote, Ms. Durrance opposed, the Free and Reduced Price Food Services was approved with the clerical edit noted.

Security Expenditures to Date:

Dr. Cabral said we received \$210,000.00 from the town for security measures and referred to the list she provided to the Committee. She said she met with the Police and Fire personnel and they discussed bringing Synergy back for Tabletop exercises. She said the exercises will include the Cabinet members, Fire and Police personnel, and will include security scenarios. The public safety group discussed asking Synergy to come up with a maintenance plan in terms of professional development. She said Synergy offered three types of services Table Top exercises, live trainings and classroom professional development. She would like to set up a plan with Synergy which will include a "train the trainer" as our police and fire departments are very supportive. She said that the Police could hold the drills in the individual schools similar to the drills that took place at RO and OA with all the staff.

Absentee and Tardies:

Dr. Cabral said that in terms of data from this year to last year due to the time change, it is difficult to count one year of data. She said last year was a tough year with illnesses and the Patriot's Superbowl Parade where absences were very high. She said RO saw an increase of absences and tardies and the high school gave data about health visits. She said OA had 1200 more visits than the year before. In terms of attendance, the high school improved by 1.1% but in 2015-16 they had long term absences. Dr. Cabral said she is waiting for some other schools' feedback. She said Ms. Hammett gave out a

survey for feedback about the start time change at a staff meeting and the responses were mostly about "hitting traffic going home", earlier time "works better for my schedule", she said some said that "K-2 is getting home in the dark". Ms. Pruitt sent out a survey to all of the schools two days ago. Dr. Cabral said depending upon what kind of configuration we end up with as an elementary project, we could have a big difference of where the buses go and how many buses go there. Dr. Cabral said there is current legislation pending moving forward about having start times for middle schools and high schools 8:30 and after.

Superintendent Notes:

None.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Ms. Pruitt said that as far as an update for MCAS, last time she told the Committee that she wasn't sure about the grades three to eight parent reports. She said she has since learned that the reports are coming out the same time as the high school reports. She continued that they will just look a little different than the past. Ms. Pruitt said she met with the Curriculum Leaders for a first time as a large group. It was great, a wonderful time together. They set goals and broke off into small groups. She said she and Julie are in the process of taking the goals and consolidating them to find the big themes. She continued that some of the themes were unit writing, job descriptions, communication with staff, and vertical cross content work. Easton University will offer some training to support the Google crossover, with instruction by Jessica Garbowski. Ms. Pruitt said she's putting together a PLC, Professional Learning Community, for the elementary grades so teachers can come together, review student work and share some challenges and successes that they are having with the program. She added they are working on the November professional development day.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. De Luca said she had a meeting with FEEE on Tuesday, and they voted to give the donation money of \$20,000.00 to the schools to buy three Chromebook carts each containing thirty devices. She added the FEEE Volleyball Tournament is Friday, November 17th and they are looking for teams and sponsors.

Ms. O'Neill said that the Human Rights Committee would like Dr. Cabral to attend a meeting to discuss a partnership with the schools.

Ms. Martin said the next School Planning Committee is Wednesday, September 20th. She said the focus is the presentation to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. She continued that they need to prepare for Town Meeting and to determine what groups they need to reach out to ensure they have people to Town Meeting. She

said that Ian Hobkirk's school alliance group may be the best form of communicating to get bodies at the Town Meeting.

Chair Weisman brought up the topic of the naming of the Oliver Ames High School auditorium, noting that she has been in contact with a number of people in the community who worked on the original campaign. She talked to the consultant who came up with the original amounts used for naming rights. She added that the School Committee needs to get together and share input they've received from citizens and talk about how to proceed. She suggested adding a workshop meeting for Friday, September 22nd at 8:30 am to discuss this topic.

~~Ms. O'Neill said the attorney suggested Chair Weisman embark on a fact finding process.~~

Chair Weisman said she received a request for naming a space through the Naming Campaign for Norman Anderson, a former School Committee member. She suggested discussing this proposal at the October workshop.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Durrance, seconded by Chair Weisman, with a 5-0 roll call vote, the School Committee adjourned at 4:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.

Secretary