

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES
Friday, September 22, 2017

Minutes of School Committee Workshop Meeting, September 22, 2017, 50 Oliver Street, Upstairs Conference room, convened at 10:05 a.m. Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy DeLuca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, Michelle Durrance, Dr. Cabral and Christine Pruitt.

Call the Meeting to Order:

Chair Weisman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Review of Sports Scheduling Procedures:

Chair Weisman said that the Review of Sports Scheduling Procedures was added to the agenda to ensure that all coaches received the Human Rights religious holiday observance document.

Dr. Cabral said that she had sent the document to Luke Carroll, Principal of Easton Middle School and to Bill Matthews, Athletic Director, and asked that they distribute it to all coaches in the district. She added that if anyone did not receive it, we can certainly provide them with a copy.

Ms. Durrance questioned the Marching Band's competition dates.

Ms. O'Neill recommended that the Music Department Chair speak to the Marching Band regarding the competition dates falling on religious observances.

Dr. Cabral said Easton does not have authority of setting the schedule for MIAA and some outside organizations schedule those events at their discretion. Dr. Cabral said she would encourage parents reach out to those organizations as they may have more influence over the scheduling.

Reiteration Of Protocols For Reporting Parent Concerns:

Chair Weisman said with the beginning of the new school year it may be helpful to remind parents the protocols for reporting concerns in the classroom.

Dr. Cabral said that Easton has an open door policy and encourages people to take the most effective route to find a solution. She continued that the administration tries to stay on top of everything but the best source is the most immediate source. She continued that for an issue with homework, parents should contact the teacher and the Department Chair is also appropriate or, a leader in that content area, the Assistant Principal, then finally the Principal. If it is a Special Education concern, we have Special Education

Coordinators or the Guidance Director for grades six through twelve. She continued that all of these positions are on the website and going to the source is most effective. Dr. Cabral said that parents can always call the Central Administration assistants for direction or to make appointments with Dr. Cabral or Ms. Pruitt. Dr. Cabral said the least reliable source of information is through social media and if you are looking for a resolution, she would caution people not to rely on a source that could be exaggerated or inaccurate.

Ms. Martin said that it is the School Committee's commitment that they do not weigh in on social media as they support this protocol. She continued that she is always open to a phone call or email; however, responses will come from the Chair of the School Committee.

Dr. Cabral said we always presume good intent and that they are certainly not intending to make mistakes or dissatisfy anyone, they are looking to make resolutions as quickly as possible as well.

Student Activity Policy:

Marilyn Gordon said that the district had an audit on the student activities funds, which consists of all the clubs at the middle and high schools. The audit stated we needed to add some items to the policies. She said she had hoped to address these items with MASC as they were reviewing the School Committee Policy Manual but, when the policies came out, they were not added. Ms. Gordon said this is one of those items that includes both Policies and Guidelines. She continued that she needs to go over the Guidelines, and the biggest change is that the School Committee needs to review and authorize every club, every year. She said this may come up when Ms. De Luca attends the Audit Committee Meeting.

Ms. Martin asked if there were fees collected with any of the clubs.

Ms. Gordon said there are no fees collected, they fundraise. She continued that she needs to collect more information for a discussion at a future workshop.

Ms. Durrance asked if there was an activity or club fee for the boosters.

Ms. Gordon said that the boosters are their own 501 c 3 organization.

Ms. Martin said the boosters are charging their own fee.

Ms. Gordon said that boosters are their own separate entity from us but she will check into that.

Ms. Martin asked for a list of what boosters exist in Easton.

Ms. Gordon said she will provide the list at a future meeting.

MASS/MASC Joint Conference November 2017:

Dr. Cabral said that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' next meeting is scheduled for November and that she provided a list of offerings if anyone from the Committee would like to attend. She said the district has a School Committee line that allows for the Committee to attend conferences such as these. She said Ms. Pruitt and

herself will be attending and commuting. She encourages the Committee to review the offerings as they have a variety of targeted offerings. Dr. Cabral said at the November 3rd evening dinner, MASC will be giving out several special recognitions, one being the Life Time Achievement to Caroline O'Neill. She said if the Committee would like to attend, please call the office and they can sign them up.

Update on Information Gathered on Naming Campaign and Update on Two Recent Proposals:

Each member spoke to how Charlene Dalrymple is worthy and deserving of having the OA Auditorium in her name but each had concerns about the amount of the proposal being less than the value of the space. Members received feedback from community members and people who had been on the naming campaign. The Committee agreed upon a price of \$125,000.00 for naming the OA Auditorium in honor of Charlene Dalrymple with the ability for naming after the initial \$50,000.00 is received and with a signed pledge agreement. The Committee agreed that the signed pledge agreement will also allow the School Committee to review and approve the fundraising efforts where appropriate.

Ms. Martin motioned an offer to name the Oliver Ames Auditorium after Charlene Dalrymple for a contribution of \$125,000.00 with a pledge agreement signed, to include a time frame for raising the funds and with the ability to formally name the auditorium after the initial \$50,000.00 is received by the School District. Pledge agreement would allow for the School Committee to review and approve fundraising efforts where appropriate, Ms. O'Neill, seconded, passed with a vote of 5-0.

Chair Weisman said she would invite representatives from the group to a meeting in October.

Chair Weisman said the next proposal is from Steve Anderson and she would like to invite him to come in to discuss with the School Committee at the October 20th workshop at 3:00.

Entitlement Grant Update:

Dr. Cabral apologized that Ms. Pruitt had an important meeting that she had to leave to attend. Dr. Cabral said that they had some minor changes on the entitlement grants that the Committee may have heard about. She continued that there have been minor changes in definitions and also a new entitlement grant Title IVA. She continued that the district had been receiving grants Title I and II, Title I was cut significantly. She said in FY16 the district had a huge cut based on the Town's poverty rate which is identified by the state's 2010 consensus. She said the district lost \$22,000.00 in FY18 for Title I. Dr. Cabral said it is a continued challenge for the district. She said Title IIA is widely known

as a "Professional Development" Grant and she noted the four indicators on the document provided to the Committee. She said over the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 it was decreased by \$2,000.00 and this year it increased by \$13,000.00. She said Title IVA is new, but is not enough to cover the amounts that have been lost in Title I and Title IIA. In FY16 the district received over \$303,000.00 in combined Title I and II, in FY17 it was over \$190,000.00 and FY18 including Title IIA, Title IVA, the district has a total of slightly over \$186,000.00. She said that the district is trying to mitigate the damage to direct services for students and professional development due to the loss of the funds in the grants. She said the next census will be in the year of 2020 and she predicts the next change based on a new census, will be in 2023.

Avalon Enrollment Update:

Dr. Cabral said she met with the folks from Avalon and they gave her a tour of the project, enrollment is 52% of the completed project. She said the district has forty eight students who live in the development. She said that they embrace Avalon and they are trying to project how many children will be enrolling from the development to properly prepare for them, particularly at the PK-2 school which is Center School.

Superintendent Notes:

None.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

None.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. Martin said the Committee was invited to attend a two day seminar for Easton Wings of Hope and that she plans to attend.

Dr. Cabral said it was also distributed to the Cabinet members to distribute to the staff.

Ms. O'Neill said that the Boy's Soccer Coach, John Barata, was named the First Recipient High School Coach of Significance Award for Massachusetts and she offered her congratulations.

Ms. Martin gave a shout out to the 100 second film Festival by ECAT, she said it was a great event, light hearted and some on an international level were very touching.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Durrance, seconded by Ms.O'Neill, with a 5-0 roll call vote, the School Committee adjourned at 11:44am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisha Cabral". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.

Secretary