

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES
Friday, October 20, 2017

Minutes of School Committee Workshop Meeting, October 20, 2017, 50 Oliver Street, Upstairs Conference Room, convened at 3:02pm Present: Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy DeLuca, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill, Michelle Durrance, Dr. Cabral and Christine Pruitt.

Michelle Durrance arrived at 3:29pm

Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Weisman called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and welcomed the attending guests.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

Review of Minutes: Workshop 9/15/2017; Regular 10/5/2017:

On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Workshop minutes of 9/15/2017.

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

Introduction of Dr. Cabral's Coach, Matt King:

Dr. Cabral said that as new educators in the State of Massachusetts receive mentors, new Superintendents are assigned "Coaches". Dr. Cabral introduced her coach, Matt King.

Mr. King introduced himself and provided the Committee with background information on his professional career and provided a summary of the New Superintendent Induction Program.

A brief discussion took place.

Presentation of Proposal for Possible Naming in Memory of Norman Anderson:

Chair Weisman introduced Steve Anderson who attended the meeting with a proposal for a possible naming in memory of his father, Norman Anderson. Chair Weisman explained the Naming Campaign of Oliver Ames High School.

Mr. Anderson provided background information on his father and explained that he and his sister are collaborating in the possible naming.

The Committee suggested that Mr. Anderson tour the Richardson Olmsted School, Easton Middle School and Oliver Ames High School with the principals for some various options on potential spaces for naming consideration. Dr. Cabral mentioned to Mr. Anderson that due to the potential of a new K-2 building project, he may want to wait to consider naming any spaces at the current K-2 Elementary Schools.

Chair Weisman asked Mr. Anderson to email her and she will provide the principals' contact information.

Proposal and Discussion of Proposal to Create an Oliver Ames High School Wall of Fame to Honor Individuals Who Have Distinguished Themselves Outside the Athletic Arena:

Chair Weisman introduced Ed Lemish and explained that he is here with a proposal to create an Oliver Ames High School Wall of Fame to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves outside the athletic arena.

Mr. Lemish, Chairman of the Oliver Ames High School Athletic Hall of Fame, explained that this was a promise that he made in 2004 to the School Committee and provided information on the Wall of Fame proposal.

Chair Weisman suggested the Committee invite Wes Paul, the Principal of Oliver Ames High School, to a future meeting of the School Committee to discuss the proposal of a Wall of Fame and determine what steps are needed to move the proposal forward.

Budget Update:

Dr. Cabral said that she is concerned about the budget for next year and noted that it is also a contract year for staff. She continued that due to budget restraints, the school department is not looking to add anything new to the budget, the administration is looking at ways to maintain the needs of the district within the allowed budget. Dr. Cabral explained that some of the issues that the School Department was cited for in the Coordinated Program Review pertained to personnel and space. Dr. Cabral said that the district has not been able to adequately finance the following services due to budget restraints: English Language Learners, Nurses, Special Education Programs, Health and Physical Education, and she said that these areas were brought to their attention through the Coordinated Program Review findings.

Ms. De Luca asked if class sizes at the schools were over loaded.

Dr. Cabral said that the elementary class sizes are reasonable, but close to being unreasonable due to the increase of students at Center School from the new Avalon Development. Dr. Cabral noted that the district had additional savings with the solar project which is now completed, but the debt of that project needs to be paid through the savings and it is not expected to see savings until the debt is fully paid. She continued that the Audit supported the fact that the district has minimized any spending that was not absolutely necessary. Dr. Cabral said that there is talk at the state level having computer programming and coding, as a graduation requirement and that the district

added computer programming as a course two years ago. She said that the district is not getting ahead, the district is just trying to get out of citations for not meeting the needs of our students at the basic level.

Chair Weisman asked when the School Committee will meet with the principals about the schools' budgets.

Dr. Cabral said that the Administration has just started having conversations with the principals and once they get those generated she will let the Committee know.

District Action Plan Update:

Dr. Cabral referred to the District Action Plan document in the packet. She said the District Action Plan has been updated and the plan ends in June of 2018. She said that the District Action Plan is part of what she is working on with the New Superintendent Induction Program and the Cabinet is working on the plan as well.

Ms. Martin asked what type of forum could the district have in terms of conversations with the community around the Strategic Objective *"Resource Efficiency and Attainment Funding Excellence: Educate the community of Easton on the high costs of educational excellence and seek to increase average per pupil spending to be more consistent with at the minimum similar communities demographically and ideally the highest achieving school systems in Massachusetts"*.

Dr. Cabral responded that they are communicating information about the budget process and the process as an administrative team. She continued that principals meet with their staff and then come back to meet as a team with the Administration. She said the district has offered presentations on the budget for the community in various forms such as coffee hours and had opportunities listed in Easton University.

Review and Vote on BICO's Amendment to the Collaborative Agreement:

Dr. Cabral said that Bi-County Collaborative has prepared an Amendment to the Agreement that is in need of the School Committee's vote. BICO is hoping to add Hopedale Public Schools and Uxbridge Public Schools to the Collaborative. Dr. Cabral said having more communities involved means more shared liability and that she recommends the vote and that it does involve the successful majority vote of the member district.

Ms. O'Neill noted several typos throughout the Amendment to the Collaborative Agreement.

On a motion by Chair Weisman, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee voted to accept the Amendment to the Bi-County Collaborative Agreement to include Hopedale Public Schools and Uxbridge Public Schools taking into account the typo corrections.

Discussion of the Allocation of Security Funds:

Dr. Cabral said the district has updated the walkie talkies and added evacuation chairs at each of the schools. She said she looked into Synergy Tabletop Training and this has

been scheduled for Monday, October 23. The training will include the personnel from the Police and Fire Departments.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Cabral said that she has finalized the personnel shifts in the District. She said starting Monday, Chris Getchell will be serving as the Interim Principal at Richardson Olmsted School for the remainder of the year and John Giuggio, a retired Administrator from Easton Public Schools will be the Interim Principal at Parkview School for the remainder of the school year. Dr. Cabral said she is very excited to have Mr. Giuggio back in the district. She continued that Mr. Getchell visited Richardson Olmsted School and introduced himself to the children during their lunch period. She said Mr. Getchell visited every classroom at Parkview to say goodbye.

Ms. Martin commended Dr. Cabral and the Administration on the smooth transition.

Dr. Cabral thanked the Committee for their support.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

Ms. Pruitt said that she, Theresa Skinner and David Twombly met with representatives from DESE to review the Coordinated Program Review findings and they are in the process of creating an action plan. She said they were cited for 7 findings in Special Education, 7 findings in Civil Rights and 5 in ELE (English Language Education). She said the MCAS results were released this week and the Administration is reviewing the data and she encourages families to visit the DESE website page for parents. She said that the state recommends that parents do not compare scores this year from last year as they are two different assessments. She said that there is no accountability for schools unless participation rates were below 90% and Easton did not qualify for that. She said the Principals will be presenting the data at a future School Committee meeting. The state overall has 50% of students meeting or exceeding expectations and Easton is well above that.

Dr. Cabral said that Ms. Pruitt will provide an overview of the data prior to the Principals providing their presentations.

Ms. Pruitt said the state has announced that they will be sending the reports out in late October to early November.

Ms. O'Neill noted that on Social Media a discussion has been taking place about parents having the option to opt their child out of the MCAS assessment.

Dr. Cabral said a notification from the Commissioner of Education in Massachusetts stated that there is not an option to opt out. She said that the accountability this year states that if the district has less than 90% participation in any school or category, the district will be Level 3.

Ms. Martin suggested that when the meeting is recorded by ECAT perhaps ECAT can edit the portion of the MCAS Presentation as a separate video so that it can be put on the schools' websites.

Ms. Pruitt said that for grade 10 students, MCAS is a mandatory graduation requirement.

Dr. Cabral said that the mantra in Easton when it comes to MCAS is that it is "just another day" and in Easton we do not create high pressure, the MCAS is one indicator among many. Dr. Cabral encourages parents to reach out to teachers and principals for any concerns. She continued that as the test is new and that as we learn about it, then we will share it out to the community.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. De Luca said the FEEE Volleyball Tournament is scheduled for Friday, November 17th and the deadline to get teams together is October 27th.

Ms. Martin said the School Planning Committee met and reviewed their presentation for the Town Meeting and she encourages people to attend the town meeting.

Dr. Cabral said that the last piece to move the Center School MSBA Project forward is the vote at the Town Meeting on November 13th. She said if the vote does not pass, the project will not continue.

Ms. O'Neill commended Ms. Martin for her work as Chair on the School Planning Committee. Ms. O'Neill said that she is the School Committee representative on the Human Rights Committee and Dr. Cabral attended a meeting and talked about partnering with the Human Rights Committee to raise awareness in town.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Martin, with a 5-0 vote, the School Committee adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisha Cabral, Ed.D.

Secretary