

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA**

**Minutes of School Committee meeting, October 8, 2009**, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 7:00 p.m. Present: Caroline O’Neill, Dawn Boynton, Colleen Less, Jane Martin, Rebecca Turley, Allen Duarte, and Dr. Michael Green.

A reception was held in the High School Cafeteria earlier this evening to honor 30 staff members who attained Professional Status in June and returned in September to begin their fourth year in the district. Dr. Green welcomed everyone and said a few remarks about Professional Status. Chair O’Neill had the pleasure of announcing each recipient and presenting each with a Professional Status booklet containing comments made by their respective Principals. Administrators, other staff, and family members joined in celebrating this special occasion. Light refreshments were served. The following staff were recognized:

Joy Adams	Patricia Feeney	Kathryn Noonan
Bryan Aries	Christen Foote	Gordon O’Connell
James Artz	Beverly Guaraldi	Wendy Puljanowski
Lynne Athanasiou	Katelyn Hart	Teresa Robinson
Matthew Auger	Erin Hurley	Kristyn Shea
Rebecca Brooder	Jennifer Iamele	Elizabeth Starr
Corinne Burns	John Johannessen	Judith Walker
Kara Burrage	Benjamin Karol	Margaret Wentworth
Julie Cristoforo	Marie McInnis	Robert Wheeler
Melissa Cordeira	Nicole Needleman	Stacey Wiese

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Martin and seconded by Vice Chair Boynton to open up for discussion the Minutes of 8/27/09.

Mrs. Martin pointed out a correction to be made in the wording of a statement that she made.

**MINUTES(continued):**

On a motion by Mrs. Less, seconded by Vice Chair Boynton, and with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the Minutes of 8/27/09 with a minor correction.

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Less, and with 4 votes in favor and 1 abstention, the Workshop Minutes of 8/6/09 were approved.

On a motion by Mrs. Less, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with 4 votes in favor and 1 abstention, the Workshop Minutes of 9/24/09 were approved.

**2009-2010 Sub-Committee Assignments:**

Dr. Green referred to the Sub-Committee Assignment breakdown that was included in the packet. He pointed out that an at-large member on the Audit Committee cannot be a member of another board or committee, or an officer, official or paid employee of the Town. He mentioned that a School Committee member needs to be assigned to the Audit Committee.

At a request of a Committee member, Dr. Green included a database delineating the committees, membership on each committee, if it is a Town or School Sub-Committee, if members need to be sworn in, term of office and the charge of the committee. He stated that there are a few sub-committees that have no formal or specific charge and were self-explanatory.

Chair O'Neill asked for a volunteer for the Audit Committee.

Mrs. Martin replied that she would remain on that board.

Mrs. Less volunteered to be on the Life Threatening Allergy Policy Task Force to replace Vice Chair Boynton.

**OLD BUSINESS:  
Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

**NEW BUSINESS:  
Retirements:**

None.

**Resignations:**

None.

**Appointments:**

None.

**Special Town Meeting:**

Dr. Green stated that a Special Town Meeting was held this past Monday night which contained 11 articles. He provided a brief update on the first two articles:

- Article 1 pertained to the local option meals tax
- Article 2 was to amend the fiscal year 2010 budget

He explained how these two articles impact the school department's operating budget. The School Department operating budget, which included the reduction of 8 teaching positions, was approved at the June 2009 Town Meeting in the amount of \$31,179,846. However, Dr. Green said it was anticipated at that time that the final State budget, which would be approved in July, would necessitate a further reduction in our operating budget.

The school department share in the Article 2 Budget Reduction was \$314,673, bringing our revised budget to \$30,865,173.

Dr. Green mentioned that Article 1 passed, which will result in \$121,696 in additional revenue to the Town this year. The schools' share is \$73,018. Thus, our final budget reduction is \$241,655.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**October 1, 2009 Enrollment Update:**

Dr. Green reviewed the October 1, 2009 enrollment data with the Committee. He stated that we are servicing over 4,000 students each day. He pointed out that grade 4 is the largest grade. In looking at the grade counts, Dr. Green said the class size are somewhat higher in grades 4 and 8. Overall, we are up 31 students over last year's October 1 enrollment figures.

**2009 MCAS Overview:**

Dr. Green provided the Committee with an overview of the MCAS. He said that he is proud of the students, which is also a credit to the staff. He spoke of the district's scores being consistent with last year and, again, are well above the State averages.

**2009 MCAS Overview(continued):**

Dr. Green reported that at the elementary and middle school levels, approximately 70% of students in grades 3 – 8 scored at either the proficient or advanced levels in math compared to approximately 53% of students Statewide.

Dr. Green also indicated that:

- The High School passing rates for all subjects ELA, Math, and Science are strong (High 90's)
- 91% of Grade 10 students scored at either the advanced or proficient levels in ELA
- 86% of Grade 10 students scored at either the advanced or proficient levels in math

He mentioned that all are strong overall results. Additionally he mentioned that as a K-Grade 10 test, the scores reflect not only the good work of the high school staff, but all teachers throughout the district.

Mr. Duarte spoke briefly about some of the district's support programs that are in place to support students with the yearly MCAS. He referenced the use of the Study Island Program at the Richardson School and Easton Middle School as well as MCAS Academy which is held at Richardson, Olmsted, and the middle school. Mr. Duarte also spoke briefly about the High School MCAS Support Program and its high rate of effectiveness supporting students with the ELA, math, and science re-tests. He also mentioned that Mr. Flanagan, the High School MCAS Support Coordinator, will be making a presentation to the School Committee about the program at an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Green concluded by saying that the principals and department heads will be analyzing the MCAS results to determine areas in need of improvement. As is the case with most schools, we need to improve our special education subgroup scores. Over the past few years at the elementary level, we have focused our attention in the area of reading comprehension. This year, more attention will be given to improving our students' writing skills in the elementary grades.

**Student Transportation Update:**

Dr. Green remarked how timely this is to take a few moments to talk about our bus service. He stated that we have a new student bus transportation provider, Lucini Bus Lines, who are doing an outstanding job for us. Dr. Green said they have provided great support and excellent communication.

At the elementary level, Dr. Green mentioned that all students who have requested to participate in the "Pay and Ride" Program are riding busses.

At the 6-12 grade level, Dr. Green reported that ridership counts were taken last week and this week. As the actual ridership counts are determined, we will determine the number of possible vacant seats on busses and, if we have seats available, we will accommodate the requests.

**Unanticipated Expenses:**

None.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES:**

Dr. Green stated that the school system continues efforts in the buildings by providing hand sanitizers, disinfecting common areas and stressing the proper cough ethic to students. He also said that we have been working with the Board of Health, Visiting Nurse Association, and other Town officials to plan for a flu clinic to provide vaccine.

At the next regular School Committee meeting, November 5<sup>th</sup>, our Administrative Team will be making a formal presentation of our work to date regarding the implementation of the grade 2 to grade 3 student placement process.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ISSUES:**

Vice Chair Boynton, after much consideration and thought, announced her resignation as a School Committee member effective November 1. With pursuing her Masters Degree and taking on more responsibilities in her professional career at Stonehill College, Vice Chair Boynton said that she can no longer commit to the time needed to be on School Committee.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ISSUES(continued):**

Chair O'Neill said this will be a great loss as Dawn has been on the Committee for nine years. She personally will miss her enthusiasm and sense of humor. Chair O'Neill mentioned the active role that Dawn assumed with the override initiative and that the Committee owes her a great debt of gratitude.

Vice Chair Boynton said its been an honor and pleasure to serve on this Committee.

Dr. Green thanked Dawn for all her contributions, the many boards she served on for many years, i.e. School Planning, Municipal Building, and the work she did behind the scenes to get things done.

Mrs. Less said that is saddened with Dawn stepping down from the Committee and thanked her for all her years of serving.

Mrs. Turley told Dawn that she has enjoyed working with her and that she will be a huge loss to the Committee.

Chair O'Neill said that, because Dawn is unable to complete her term of service, an advertisement will be placed in the newspaper for a replacement. She added that the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee will jointly vote on someone to fill the term until April.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On a motion by Mrs. Less, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with the members polled, the Committee unanimously entered into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the Minutes of 9/14/09 and to discuss contract negotiations through collective bargaining.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Less, and with all members in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Green, Ed.D.  
Secretary