

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Public Interview Sessions
February 25, 2009 and February 26, 2009**

The School Committee held public interview sessions on February 25, 2009 and February 26, 2009, both commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Easton Middle School auditorium, with all members present. These meetings were established for the sole purpose of interviewing the four finalists for the Superintendency, as the result of the upcoming retirement of Dr. William Simmons in August.

Chair O'Neill stated that the Superintendent Search has been widely publicized as well as in the *Easton Journal* and *The Enterprise*. A consultant was hired from NESDEC who worked with focus groups, which the Committee felt was important to Easton. Dr. Walsh, NESDEC consultant, and the School Committee reviewed the applications of 23 qualified candidates and identified 8 semi-finalists. The Committee conducted these 8 interviews in Executive Session and has selected four finalists. Following the completion of these interviews, the Committee will make a decision to move to the next step, which will include site visits to the school districts of the remaining finalists.

The following four finalists were interviewed:

February 25: Dr. James Kelleher, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum,
Instruction and Staff Development, Scituate Public Schools

Dr. Richard Hoffman, Superintendent of Schools,
Ashland Public Schools

February 26: Dr. Thomas Gwin, Principal, Winchester High School,
Winchester Public Schools

Dr. Michael Green, Assistant Superintendent,
Easton Public Schools

Each candidate was given the opportunity to provide his educational background, work experience up to the present, and any publications that he wrote. In addition, each was asked to elaborate on the three most significant accomplishments experienced during his career and what strengths and skills did he bring to the process.

Chair O'Neill stated that the questions being presented both evenings were input received from the meetings held with the focus groups.

Some of the questions posed by individual Committee members to each of the candidates were:

- 1) What would be the biggest challenge in Easton and how would you address those challenges?
- 2) In time of economic challenges, describe funding resources you might create.
- 3) What do you see as the most promising trends in education today and how would these affect a district like Easton?
- 4) Communication and relationships have been formed with a variety of stakeholders. How would you maintain them affectively?
- 5) What is your model for handling "inclusion" and working with teachers to understand? What educational model fosters this environment?
- 6) How involved would you become with the Principals of the 7 schools?

Each of the candidates was impressed with Easton as a high performing district.

In each instance, Chair O'Neill expressed pleasure in having an opportunity to meet with the candidates once again and thanked them for coming.

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Dr. Braun, and with a 5-0 vote, the February 25 public interview session adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Dr. Braun, and with a 5-0 vote, the February 26 public interview session adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline O'Neill, Chair