

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA**

Minutes of School Committee meeting, August 27, 2009, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 7:04 p.m. Present: Caroline O'Neill, Dawn Boynton, Colleen Less, Jane Martin, Allen Duarte, and Dr. Michael Green. Rebecca Turley was absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Mrs. Less, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with a 4-0 vote, the Workshop Minutes of 7/9/09 were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:
Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

Update on Stadium and Fields Project:

Dr. Green reported that the facility was turned over to the school department earlier this week for our use. The only major outstanding item to be completed is the inspection of the elevator which is scheduled for tomorrow. Heimlich Landscaping is working to complete the punchlist items that remain. Dr. Green remarked on what an outstanding state-of-the-art facility this is and that it will provide our students and the community opportunities for years to come.

Mrs. Martin stated that she had met with Dr. Green and Wes Paul yesterday to discuss the Opening Ceremony for the new stadium. It was agreed to hold the ribbon-cutting event on September 8th at 3:30 p.m. at the boys' soccer game. She said that it would be low-keyed and short. The captains of the boys and girls teams will also be in attendance. Mrs. Martin did say in the event the boys' game isn't held that it would be held at the girls' game on September 10th.

Chair O'Neill suggested that the Marching Band be invited, inasmuch as they will be using this facility also.

Update on Stadium and Fields Project(continued):

Dr. Green replied that he would get in touch with Wes Paul and see if the Marching Band might be interested in playing at the ribbon-cutting.

Mrs. Less suggested that we leave this decision up to Wes.

Facilities Rental Policy (2nd Reading):

The Superintendent said that a sub-committee was formed to develop a Facilities Rental Policy and appropriate rental forms. Dr. Green remarked that the revisions recommended at the last meeting have been made. This is now before the Committee tonight for a vote.

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Less, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the Facilities Rental Policy.

Mrs. Less commented that the rental use of the auditorium and stadium is to only occur if the schools are not using these facilities.

Stadium Use Policy (2nd Reading):

Dr. Green stated that the Stadium Use Policy is before the Committee again this evening for the second reading and a vote. He asked the Committee to look at page 2 of the packet "Under Night-time Use". Dr. Green pointed out that there will be an additional charge per hour for the use of the lights.

Chair O'Neill commented that the rate of \$50 per hour was high for the organized Easton sports programs and also the lighting. She suggested a rate of \$40 per hour for the Easton sports program.

Mrs. Martin said that she was okay with the lower fee for a six-month period to see how we are set financially at that point.

Mrs. Less spoke about the non-Easton based program rate being \$115 per hour and suggested that it be reduced to \$60 per hour and leave the night-time lighting charge at the \$80 per hour.

Stadium Use Policy (2nd Reading)(continued):

On a motion by Mrs. Less, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the Stadium Use Policy with amendments on page 2 under section C and D as stated above.

The Committee will review this in six months and see how our costs are at that time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments:

2009-2010 Staffing Update:

Dr. Green provided the Committee with the appointments made to date for the 2009-2010 school year. Also included are resumes' of those appointed. He pointed out that the principals followed a very detailed procedure for interviewing candidates. Applicants are screened by a team and the final step in the process is the interview by the Superintendent. Dr. Green commented that we began the interviewing process early and were able to bring in some very good people.

Resignations:

Dr. Green stated that he had accepted the resignation of Julia Martin as .6FTE Occupational Therapist at Parkview School who spent one year in our system.

Second resignation received and accepted was Tara Lucchetti-Arauzo as Spanish Teacher at Easton Middle School. She worked with students in Grade 8 and did a nice job.

Lastly, the Superintendent accepted the resignation of Kristine Botelho as .8FTE Title One Teacher at Easton Middle School. Dr. Green stated that Kristine has taken a full-time job in another district. She did a great job working with our students.

Retirement:

Chair O'Neill read the letter of retirement from Judith Leonard, Special Education Teacher at H. H. Richardson.

On a motion by Mrs. Less, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee accepted with regret the retirement of Judith Leonard.

Dr. Green added that Judith worked in the district for many years. She worked in several of our buildings and did an outstanding job with the students.

MASC Participation for 2009-2010:

Dr. Green stated that the MA Association of School Committees (MASC) membership is up for renewal and asked if the Committee was interested in rejoining.

Chair O'Neill solicited comments from the members on the MASC participation for the 2009-2010 school year.

Mrs. Martin stated that she would like to see the membership renewed. She added that we, as members, need to take better advantage of the opportunities that are provided us.

Mrs. Less concurred. She mentioned the input of the MASC in developing the Superintendent's contract.

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Less, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved renewal of the membership with the MASC for 2009-2010.

Sub-Committee Assignments for 2009-2010:

Dr. Green stated that the Sub-Committee assignments are an annual item. He provided the Committee with a draft that delineates who had served prior.

Sub-Committee Assignments for 2009-2010(continued):

The Sub-Committee assignments for 2009-2010 were agreed upon as follows:

Budget:	Caroline O'Neill and Colleen Less
Municipal Building:	Jane Martin
School Planning:	Dawn Boynton and Jane Martin
Negotiations:	Caroline O'Neill and Jane Martin
Strategic Plan Initiative:	Jane Martin and Rebecca Turley
Life Threatening Allergy Task Force:	Dawn Boynton
Food Advisory:	Rebecca Turley
3-Year Tech Plan Devel.	Jane Martin
Communications:	Rebecca Turley and Colleen Less
Curriculating Coordin.:	Rebecca Turley/Jane Martin (Alternate)
Frothingham Board:	Caroline O'Neill
Audit:	_____
F.E.E.E.	Jane Martin/Dawn Boynton (Alternate)
Naming Campaign:	Dawn Boynton
Human Rights:	Jane Martin
Green Communities:	Dawn Boynton
Activate Easton:	Rebecca Turley

Three new sub-committees added were Human Rights, Green Communities and Activate Easton.

Mrs. Martin asked if the Committee could be provided a spreadsheet on which committees are school and which are Town committees, which ones need to be sworn in, members serving on each committee, and the purpose of the committee.

Dr. Green replied that he would get that information.

Mrs. Martin said that she had served on the Audit Committee but feels someone with a financial background would be more appropriate. She wondered if there is a representative that the School Committee might want to serve on this committee.

Sub-Committee Assignments for 2009-2010(continued):

On a motion by Mrs. Less, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the Sub-Committee Assignments as agreed upon for 2009-2010.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Curriculum and Instruction Update:

Dr. Green reported that again this year Mr. Duarte has been asked to develop a Curriculum and Instruction Update. This has been shared with the administrative team at our recent Management Conference. He stated that Principals will be sharing pertinent information from the update with their faculties in the days ahead. The update provides a review of our major curriculum related initiatives from this past year as well as an overview of our plans for the new school year.

Mr. Duarte mentioned that there are 35 curriculum binders in the Curriculum Office. The update provided the Committee showed those curriculum documents approved this past year and those that will be brought before the Committee during this school year for approval. Mr. Duarte further explained that the purpose of this update provides a “snapshot” of the major curriculum and instruction related tasks that were completed in 2008-09 and the goals for the 2009-2010 school year. He added that this document is intended to serve as a communication tool that allows the committee to “look back” on our accomplishments from 2008-09 and “look ahead” to our planned initiatives for the 2009-10 school year. Mr. Duarte interjected that this update also allows us to sustain an essential focus and related follow through regarding the planning and implementation of our major curriculum related initiatives. He extended appreciation to the principals, specialists, as well as STELAR and Math Committee co-chairs who provided input for this update.

Mrs. Martin asked about Study Island and the MCAS Academy.

Mr. Duarte remarked that both are related to mathematics. MCAS Academy is an after-school program that supports our math curriculum.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Curriculum and Instruction Update(continued)

Mr. Duarte said there is still a lot of work ahead of us with a great deal of support.

The Committee thanked Mr. Duarte for the curriculum update.

New Staff Orientation Program:

Dr. Green noted that on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, a two-day Orientation for our new faculty members was held. These two days are designed to provide our new staff with an important foundation as they begin their work in our schools.

Mr. Duarte reported that the Orientation Program is designed so the new staff will feel comfortable in our system, meeting 2nd year teachers, meeting their mentors, taking a tour of Easton, viewing a video "Classroom of the Heart". He asked the new teachers to complete an evaluation of the Orientation Program and the response was very supportive. Mr. Duarte shared some of the comments which were all very positive. In closing, he applauded the work of his secretary, Joan Tanzer, for attending to detail in the organization of this 2-day event.

Opening of 2009-2010 School Year Update:

Dr. Green commented that the letter sent from the Superintendent to the parents went out on Monday of this week. The staff letter was mailed on Tuesday. The staff realizes that "the summer is over" when they receive the Superintendent's letter.

Dr. Green pointed out that school starts on Wednesday, September 2nd, for students in Grades 1-12. Kindergarteners start on Friday, September 4th.

As has been a tradition, the school year 2009-2010 will begin with a a breakfast at the OAHS Cafeteria for the entire staff on Tuesday morning, September 1st, followed by a more formal program in the auditorium. Dr. Green will address the staff, the Chair of the School Committee will speak and also Nancy DeLuca, EEA President. Dr. Green expressed that he is looking forward to the start of the school year.

Unanticipated Expenses:

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES:

None.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ISSUES:

Mrs. Less stated that the bus routes have been posted at the schools and asked if they would be posted on the individual school websites.

Dr. Green said that they would be posted on the school websites.

Chair O'Neill spoke about the interview regarding the H1N1.

Dr. Green said the Department of Public Health and Superintendent's Association are keeping us up-to-date with guidance and direction as we move forward. He said that the custodians are very diligent with the cleaning of the buildings and cafeterias. Dr. Green mentioned that as we receive information, it will be reported home. He added that the school nurses are playing a very active part in this.

Chair O'Neill interjected that the number one message is that parents really need to keep their child home when they have a fever.

Mrs. Less said that the college she works at has a strict attendance policy but is making allowances for the flu.

Dr. Green stated that the town departments are working collaboratively on this.

Chair O'Neill thanked Mr. Duarte for the Orientation Program and the curriculum update.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Mrs. Less, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the Minutes of 7/16/08 and to discuss contract negotiations through collective bargaining.

OPEN SESSION:

The Committee returned to Open Session at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Less, and with 3 votes in favor and one abstention, the Executive Session Minutes of 7/16/09 were approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Less, and with all members in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Green, Ed.D.
Secretary