

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA**

Minutes of School Committee meeting, June 11, 2009, Moreau Hall Library, convened at 6:08 p.m. Present: Caroline O'Neill, Dawn Boynton, Jane Martin, Rebecca Turley, Dr. Michael Green and Dr. William Simmons. Colleen Less is scheduled to arrive later.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Deborah Hart, Special Education teacher, who died suddenly Tuesday evening.

Chair O'Neill stated the Deborah was a dedicated teacher and will be missed.

Dr. Simmons added that her students were devastated by this unexpected tragedy.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

MINUTES:

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:
Schedule of Payments:**

Circulated for signatures.

Municipal Building Committee Update:

Dr. Green mentioned once again that the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the high school was received. In addition, all areas have been re-inspected and monetized. There still remains a small number of items on the high school punch list which are being addressed.

Update on the Stadium and Fields Project:

Dr. Green reported the great amount of work that has been done:

- Field infill process has been completed, which completes the field installation.
- Goal posts have been installed.
- Pole Vault box has been set.
- The area has been loamed and seeded.

Update on the Stadium and Fields Project(continued):

- Next week the finish paving of the track and walkways will take place.
- The track company is scheduled^h to install the rubberized track surface on July 6th.
- The elevator lift is scheduled for installation early in July. Once installed, this will complete the overall bleachers, press box and lift.

Dr. Green remarked on the great progress and that the project is moving along very well.

Town Meeting Update:

Dr. Simmons said that the school system budget was approved at Town Meeting. He attended the EEA Annual reception which is a tribute to those retiring and had the opportunity to thank the union leader and leadership for setting the example to the townspeople and recognizing the climate. Dr. Simmons mentioned that the School Committee has since ratified the teachers' contract after the EEA voted. He pointed out that there will be no further cuts. It is hoped to have the next four union contracts negotiated by the end of the summer.

Chair O'Neill added that David Colton recognized the EEA union and their vote at the Town Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Retirements:

None.

Resignations:

Grade 4 Teacher - FLO:

Dr. Simmons advised the Committee that he had accepted the resignation of Sarah Estabrook at the end of the school year as Grade 4 Teacher at FLO. Sarah is going to pursue a fulltime Master's of Education Program at Boston College.

Social Studies Teacher – OAHS:

Dr. Simmons accepted another letter of resignation from Christopher "Topher" Kerr at the end of the school year as Social Studies Teacher at OAHS.

Appointments:

None.

Professional Status Recommendations:

Dr. Simmons announced that there are thirty staff members being recommended for Professional Status this year. The booklet provided includes the biography profiles submitted by the principals. At a reception held each October, the recipients of Professional Status will be given a copy of this booklet. Dr. Simmons commented on the wonderful background information provided in the principals' recommendations to the Superintendent. To receive this status the staff member must report to work on the first day of school in September. To follow tradition, Dr. Simmons asked for the Committee to support the Superintendent's recommendation for Professional Status by reading each person's name and school.

Chair O'Neill asked the Committee for support of the Professional Status recommendations as follows:

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

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Vice Chair Boynton, and with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted the recommendations of the above staff members for Professional Status.

Kiessling Transportation Extension:

Dr. Simmons stated that this is the end of the third year of the transportation contract with Kiessling Transit, Inc. We would like to extend this contract for the period of time September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011. Dr. Simmons pointed out that the rate is less than that of last year and will remain in effect until August 31, 2011. The Superintendent is requesting approval of extending the contract with Kiessling Transportation, Inc. at a rate of 2.5 percent, less than the current agreement.

On a motion by Vice Chair Boynton, seconded by Mrs. Turley, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee approved the extension of the contract with Kiessling Transportation, Inc. from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011, at a rate of 2.5 percent, less than the current contract.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:
SCHOOL COUNCIL PLANS:**

The School Council Plans being presented this evening are: **Oliver Ames High School, Easton Middle School, H. H. Richardson and Center School**. Each principal provided a powerpoint presentation on their accomplishments this past year and the goals that have been set for 2009-2010.

A dialogue took place by the Committee with each of the building principals, whereby members asked various questions of each principal. The Committee wants to be assured that the goals are in line with district goals.

Wes Paul focused his presentation on his trip to China, as he was aware that the Committee was interested to hear how it went. He said the trip was an educational component. He was happy to have had the opportunity to visit China and learn their culture and food, visit schools, speak with and to students, and do some sightseeing.

The second evening of presentations of School Council Plans was again delightful for the Committee. It is quite obvious that the principals are devoted to their staff and students and take pride in the building that they manage.

On a motion by Vice Chair Boynton, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee accepted and approved the OAHS School Council Plan for 2009-2010.

SCHOOL COUNCIL PLANS(continued):

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Vice Chair Boynton, and with a 4-0 vote, the Committee accepted and approved the Easton Middle School School Council Plan for 2009-2010.

Mrs. Less arrived at the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Vice Chair Boynton, and with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted and approved the H. H. Richardson School Council Plan for 2009-2010.

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Vice Chair Boynton, and with a 5-0 vote, the Committee accepted and approved the Center School School Council Plan for 2009-2010.

Unanticipated Expenses:

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES:

None.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ISSUES:

Chair O'Neill announced that, although Bill Simmons retirement date is August 7th, this is his last meeting as Superintendent. Bill spent 16 years in this position and attended over 250 School Committee meetings and workshops!!! Chair O'Neill stated Bill has the utmost integrity, is genuine, and very fair. She added that he will be missed a great deal, as his contributions have been phenomenal.

Vice Chair Boynton expressed that it has been one of life's pleasures to work with Bill. He has been an intelligent, compassionate leader. On a personal note, Vice Chair Boynton will miss Bill's intellect and humor.

Mrs. Turley added that it has been a pleasure to work with Bill. He created a positive leadership for the school system.

Mrs. Martin "dittoed" all that has been said this evening about Bill.

Mrs. Less appreciated the opportunity to have worked with Bill.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Vice Chair Boynton, and with a 5-0 vote, the Committee entered into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the Minutes of 5/21/09 and to discuss contract negotiations through collective bargaining.

OPEN SESSION:

The Committee returned to Open Session at 9:40 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Vice Chair Boynton, and with a 5-0 vote, the Executive Session Minutes of 5/21/09 were approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Chair O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with all members in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Simmons, Ed.D., J.D.
Recording Secretary