

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
Thursday, January 22, 2009

Minutes of the School Committee workshop meeting of January 22, 2009, convened at 4:05 p.m. in the library of the H.H. Richardson School.

Present were Caroline O'Neill, Dawn Boynton, Bill Braun, Jane Martin, Rebecca Turley, Mike Green and Bill Simmons. Also present were Allen Duarte, Gary Mazzola, Patrick Lucier, Vanessa Beauchaine, Debbie DiCenso, Bob Smith, three parents, and two members of the press.

The chair indicated that Superintendent Notes would be taken up later in the Meeting. Therefore, the Committee moved to the next Agenda item, Placement Update.

Dr. Green gave a lengthy overview of the work to date of the elementary administrative team on the placement issues related to moving second graders to the third grade at Olmsted and Richardson. He went through all of the areas and possibilities that had been explored by the five elementary principals, Mr. Duarte and himself. As part of that overview, he stated that the team felt that the option to place students into third grade through a non-geographic placement system was the direction in which the administrators were leaning.

Dr. Green also indicated that it was the feeling of the team that siblings should be allowed to go to the third grade in the school in which they currently had a sibling; that special education, reading and counseling service situations would be addressed as part of the initial phase of the placement process; and, that the group believed strongly that a phase in of the plan, to be implemented in September 2010 rather than 2009, was the direction needed. He outlined a number of reasons for the phase-in recommendation.

Committee members had a number of questions for Dr. Green and the other administrators in attendance.

On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Jane Martin, the School Committee unanimously voted to schedule a Public Information Meeting on the Placement Process on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria, and to reschedule the February 5, 2009 School Committee Meeting to Wednesday, February 11.

The superintendent then gave another update of work to date regarding the Superintendent Search Process. The closing date for applications has now passed, and the School Committee will review, with the consultant, the applications received in order to schedule interviews with a certain number of semi-finalists for the position.

The superintendent gave an update on building usage changes that needed to be addressed, now that the secondary projects are nearing final completion. He will set up a meeting toward the end of February with those involved in

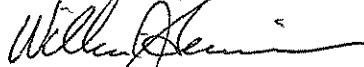
order to review current practices, examine the fee structure changes that make sense for the future, and identify staffing needs when outside groups are interested in using one of our facilities.

The superintendent presented a brief budget overview, given that the Governor the following week will publicly release his FY'2010 State budget and local aid allocations. The superintendent stated that a number of variables are on the table relative to next year's budget, including state aid, local receipts, reserves, transportation, special education and health insurance increases, and contract negotiations with the various bargaining groups.

Under School Committee Notes, Jane Martin and Becky Turley shared that they are working on their Parent Outreach Initiative, and would have more to share at a future meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Dr. Braun, Committee members voted to adjourn the School Committee Workshop Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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