

**EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009**

Present: Dawn Boynton, William Braun, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill and Rebecca Turley

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM. Chair O'Neill noted that Dr. Simmons would be joining the Committee at 11:00 AM, so the first item of the agenda, Superintendent Notes, would be postponed until then.

**Superintendent Search Update:**

Mrs. O'Neill suggested that each member of the Committee provide an overview of the information acquired during site visits and other interviews, as well as from reference checks, about each of the two remaining finalists for Superintendent: Richard Hoffmann, Superintendent of Schools in Ashland, and Michael Green, Easton's Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Boynton, Dr. Braun, Ms. Martin, and Mrs. O'Neill shared their information prior to the arrival of Dr. Simmons, Dr. Green, and Ms. Gordon. It was agreed that Mrs. Turley would give a presentation of her information after Dr. Simmons had completed his portion of the agenda.

At 11:00 AM, the School Committee was joined by Dr. William Simmons, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Michael Green, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; and Marilyn Gordon, Business Manager for the Easton Public Schools.

**Superintendent Notes:**

Dr. Simmons called to the Committee's attention the fact that minutes for Board of Selectmen and School Committee meetings are now on the town's website, noting that the Superintendent's Office had only recently become aware of this. Dr. Simmons indicated that arrangements were being made to post additional minutes that were not yet on the website.

**School Committee Meeting Date Change:**

Dr. Simmons asked that the School Committee meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2009, be moved ahead one day, to Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The request was made in response to a conflict with the Lions' Club Recognition Dinner, which is scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup>. The School Committee voted unanimously to approve the change.

**Point of Sales Program:**

Dr. Simmons, in conjunction with Ms. Gordon, discussed with the Committee a new program that would, according to the vendor, significantly improve the efficiency of the school lunch program. It was the consensus of the Committee that Ms. Gordon, on behalf of the district, should pursue implementation of the program at HHR, FLO, the Easton Middle School, and Oliver Ames High School.

**Budget Overview:**

Dr. Simmons reviewed with the School Committee his recommendations for the FY 2010 School Department budget, which he characterized as a reduced services budget. The proposed budget includes personnel reductions linked to retirements and other factors, as well as a number of reductions in expenses. The formal hearing for the School Department budget will take place at the April 1, 2009, School Committee meeting. An overview of the proposed budget will be provided to the Board of Selectmen on Monday, April 6, 2009, and to the Finance Committee on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

**Superintendent Search Update (Continued):**

Dr. Simmons, Dr. Green, and Ms. Gordon left the meeting at 1:00 PM. Mrs. Turley then presented the information and impressions she had received during the site visit to Ashland on March 11<sup>th</sup>, as well as from interviews with several Easton Public Schools staff regarding Dr. Green.

Members of the Committee each shared his or her perspective about which of the two candidates would better serve the district. There appeared to be two core positions articulated. The first was that the out-of-district candidate, Dr. Hoffmann, with significant experience in managing a school system, represented a greater possibility of change and innovation. The second was that the internal candidate, Dr. Green, with extensive knowledge of the district and established relationships with key individuals in both the schools and town government, represented continuity and stability in a challenging economic environment, in addition to providing new ideas about bringing our district forward. After reviewing the many positive attributes of both candidates, Committee members agreed to meet again the following week to continue the discussion.

**Adjournment:**

The Committee adjourned at 2:30 PM without entering into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline O'Neill, Chair

Easton School Committee