

**EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA**

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**EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Thursday, January 24, 2008**

Minutes of the School Committee workshop meeting of January 24, 2008, convened at 5:05 p.m. in the library of the H.H. Richardson School.

Present were Dawn Boynton, Caroline O'Neill, Bill Braun, Jane Martin, Rebecca Turley, Mike Green, Bill Simmons, Allen Duarte, Vanessa Beauchaine, Gary Mazzola, Patrick Lucier, Debbie DiCenso, and Bob Smith.

The superintendent reviewed the plan for Nancy DeLuca and him to hold individual meetings in January with the staffs of the five elementary schools. The meetings have focused on transition activities in preparation for the September, 2008 school changes. They have also served as an opportunity to answer staff questions, handle any rumors that have been generated, and identify any problem areas that will need further attention. Four of the five meetings have now been held, and the fifth meeting with the Richardson staff will take place next week.

One of the recommendations from the staff meetings had to do with the many transition activities that have to take place at the end of the school year. The Cabinet has therefore requested that the last day for students in grades 1 through 11 be a half day for students, allowing staff to use the other half of the day for some of the transition-related activities. On a motion, by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Turley, the Committee voted unanimously to make the last day of school a half day for students, while remaining a full day for staff.

A lengthy discussion ensued between the School Committee and the administrators in attendance regarding the future placement of grade 3 through 5 students at FLO and HHR. Among the areas reviewed were the current geographic boundary lines versus the random assignment of students to these two schools; the impact of random assignment on equalizing class sizes; the impact on SPED and reading populations; how to involve parents and teachers in the dialogue and process; and, a timeline for considering any changes to the current assignment process.

Committee members indicated that they would like to continue this dialogue, and explore a possible change in the process used in anticipation of the September, 2009 school year. Although no decisions were reached, there was consensus that, given the timing of the discussion, and the need to fully explore all options with staff and to receive parent input, that no changes would be forthcoming for September, 2008; rather, September, 2009 could be a target date for any agreed upon changes to the current placement process.

The Committee again reviewed the Capital Plan, and also discussed the Fields Project as it related to this process. Dr. Green was asked to investigate setting up a meeting in March between School Committee members and the Capital Planning Committee.

Dr. Simmons reviewed the EQA findings, and it was agreed that this would be placed on the February 7, 2007 School Committee Agenda so that the community could be made aware of how well Easton had performed.

On a motion by Mrs. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Boynton, the Committee voted unanimously to extend the superintendent's agreement a year.

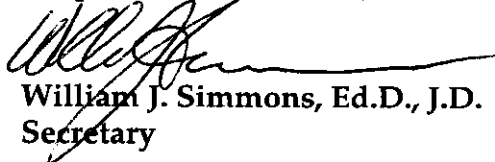
On a motion by Mrs. Turley, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the agreement that had been drawn up by counsel relative to the dedication of the high school gymnasium.

Under School Committee Notes, the Committee once again identified the following topic areas for future Workshop and/or Regular Meeting Agendas:

1. School Committee Goals
2. Naming Campaign Issues and Updates
3. The Gifted and Talented Teacher Work/Program Development
4. College Transition and Student College Selection Topics
5. Secondary Dress Code Policies
6. HHR/FLO Placement Process

On a motion by Mrs. Turley, seconded by Dr. Braun, Committee members voted 5 to 0 not to enter into Executive Session, and to adjourn the School Committee Workshop Meeting at 7:20 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,


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

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A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

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BY D. O'Donnell