

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 13, 2020

Minutes of the School Committee Meeting, February 13, 2020, 100 Lothrop Street, Simmons Lecture Hall, convened at 6:31 p.m. Present: Nancy De Luca, Jacqueline Weisman, Caroline O'Neill, Jennifer Starr, and Michelle Durrance.

Also in Attendance:

Dr. Lisha Cabral, Superintendent; Crissy Pruitt, Assistant Superintendent

Call Meeting to Order:

Chair De Luca called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Minutes: Regular 1/9/2020, 1/24/2020:

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of 1/9/2020 were approved

On a motion by Ms. Starr, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote, the minutes of 1/24/2020 were approved with noted edits.

Schedule of Payments:

Circulated for signatures.

Presentation and Possible Vote to Accept OA's Program of Studies for 2020-2021 with a Presentation by Matt Auger Regarding Social Studies Change:

Mr. Paul presented 16 careers highlighted in the College and Career Connections booklet:

1. Agriculture Food and Natural Resources
2. Architecture and Construction
3. Arts Audio Visual Technology and Communications
4. Business Administration and Management
5. Education and Training
6. Finance
7. Government and Public Administration
8. Health Science
9. Hospitality and Tourism
10. Human Services
11. Information Technology
12. Law Public Safety Corrections and Security
13. Manufacturing

- 14. Marketing
- 15. Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics
- 16. Transportation Distribution and Logistics

Each career had a list of courses available at Oliver Ames, clubs and organizations, related college majors, and career opportunities.

Mr. Paul reviewed changes to the 2020-2021 Program of Studies that included:

- Show Choir - dropped
- Advanced Mindful Fitness - Elective for Juniors and Seniors, 2.5 credits
- Child Development - grades 10-12, 5 credits

A discussion took place regarding the dropped course and the course additions.

On a motion by Ms. Starr, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 4-1 vote, the Committee accepted OA's Program of Studies for the 2020-2021 school year with amendments.

Matt Auger, Social Studies Department Chair at Oliver Ames High School presented new state frameworks for History and Social Studies. Mr. Auger stated that in June of 2018, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to approve new History and Social Studies Frameworks. He highlighted the proposed transition for core classes:

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
6	Ancient Civ	World Geography & Cultures 1	World Geography & Cultures 1	World Geography & Cultures 1	World Geography & Cultures 1
7	Geography	World Geography & Cultures 2	World Geography & Cultures 2	World Geography & Cultures 2	World Geography & Cultures 2
8	World History 1	Civics	Civics	Civics	Civics
9	World History 2	World History 2	US History 1	US History 1	US History 1
10	US History 1	US History 1	US History 1	US History 2	US
11	US History 2	US History 2	US History 2	US History 2	World History

Mr. Auger noted that the last time the standards were updated was in 2002. He noted the importance of Civics, students understanding their role as a citizen and learning about state and town government.

Possible Vote to Approve Outdoor Classroom Presented by OA Social Studies Teacher and Law Class:

Crissy Pruitt introduced OA Social Studies Teacher, Brian Gotsell and students Lydia Uhlar and Jackson Keller. Ms. Pruitt said she had been invited to attend a presentation by Mr. Gotsell's Law and Legal Class where the students proposed an outdoor classroom.

Ms. Uhlar and Mr. Keller presented their proposal to the Committee. They discussed the surveys they provided to students and teachers and found that the majority of students and teachers were open to their concept of an outdoor classroom. They explained the rise in mental health in schools and the increase of depression and anxiety. They said spending time outside improved students' mental health and by putting cell phones away, students would be more focused. They proposed transforming the courtyard at Oliver Ames High School into an outdoor classroom. Mr. Keller said they brought this proposal to Mr. Gotsell and Mr. Paul who were both receptive. The students invited Ms. Pruitt to their classroom and presented their idea and she suggested it go before the School Committee.

Ms. Pruitt commended the students for their recognition of the need for a technology free environment and that it is important that their peers see that this proposal is from their peers not adults.

On a motion by Ms. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the outdoor classroom as presented under Mr. Paul's oversight.

On a motion by Chair De Luca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to move item #9 Personnel Retirements to the next order of business.

Personnel - Retirements:

- **Richardson Olmsted Food Service / Moreau Hall Food Service**
- **Center School Teacher / Center School Speech and Language Pathologist**
- **Parkview School Speech and Language Pathologist**

Chair De Luca read the following retirement letters:

- Jane Demling, Food Service at Richardson Olmsted School
- Cheryl Corkum, Food Service at Moreau Hall
- Karen Lund, Grade 1 Teacher, Center School
- Joyce Greenwald, Speech and Language Pathologist, Center School
- Ruth Bluestone, Speech and Language Pathologist, Parkview School

Dr. Cabral read bios on each of the retirees.

On a motion by Chair De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a 5-0 vote the Committee accepted all retirement letters with regret.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION at 7:30 p.m. - Discussion on Naming of New Elementary School:

The following had proposals to name the new elementary school:

- Siobhan F. McKenna for Blanche A. Ames
- Don Almeida for Mary Ames Frothingham
- Hazel Varella for Mary Ames Frothingham
- Mary Twiraga and Jeanne Baxter for Sarah L. Gallahue
- Nellie Brennan Hall for Metacomic Elementary School
- Ken White for Easton's Spark Elementary
- Bill Ames for Jim Craig

Others who were not present but sent in suggestions to the Chair via email:

- Denise Pineda for Susannah Ames
- Zachary Gilson, 6th grader for Centerview Hall
- Sharyn Itao and Bill Donahue for Easton Elementary
- Robert Gill for DJ Henry Elementary
- Lorna Paone for Easton United Elementary

Discussion and Possible Vote on Name for New Elementary School:

Chair De Luca said that a lot of information had been presented and that the Committee will review all the proposals. She said that an additional meeting will be scheduled to discuss the proposals.

On a motion by Chair De Luca, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to add "Naming of New Elementary School" on the next School Committee meeting agenda.

On a motion by Chair De Luca, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to take a short recess.

Vote to Accept Anonymous Donation for OA Scholarship:

Dr. Cabral said that she had been notified that a former resident who prefers to remain anonymous is interested in making a tremendous donation in the form of a scholarship to Oliver Ames High School. The donation is for one million dollars and would provide a minimum of five scholarships in the amount of \$6,000 per year. Dr. Cabral expressed her sincere gratitude for the generous donation. The donor had requested that the scholarships are awarded as:

1 scholarship to a senior who is active in athletics

1 scholarship to a senior who is active in extracurricular endeavors other than athletics

1 scholarship to a senior who succeeds despite a significant challenge, physical or medical limitation

1 scholarship to a female senior who plans a career in secretarial/administrative work

1 scholarship to a male senior who is planning a career in a trade or vocation that doesn't require a 4 year college degree

Dr. Cabral said that under the law, the School Committee can have no role in administering such a scholarship that designates specific gender. She added that she had consulted the district's legal counsel on the matter.

Ms. O'Neill suggested asking the donor if the scholarships could be split up and have the two gender specific scholarships be presented as a private scholarship.

Dr. Cabral said that she will contact Susan Mancuso who has been in contact with the donor. She added how thankful and appreciative the district is to have such a generous donation and regretful that this has caused complications for the donor.

On a motion by Chair De Luca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee tabled voting on the agenda item.

Discussion on Updates to Adopted Policies:

- **Policy File AD - Vision, Theory of Action, and Core Values (First Reading)**
- **Policy File JIA-R - Implementation of Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (First Reading)**

Dr. Cabral noted that in the process of adding the School Committee Policy Manual to the district's website, some policies are in need of updates that do not need deliberation. Policy File AD - Vision, Theory of Action, and Core Values does not reflect the new one that the School Committee voted on. Policy File JIA-R - Implementation of Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment has a former Superintendent's name listed as a contact person. Dr. Cabral said that those changes can be made and no vote is necessary.

Vote to Approve Changes to Policy File JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children:

Dr. Cabral said that new laws are vetted through Massachusetts Association for School Committees (MASC) and the district's legal counsel reviewed the policy JFABE and has a suggestion.

The Committee reviewed the suggestion and agreed to the change.

On a motion by Ms. Starr, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee agreed to the changes of policy file JFABE Educational Opportunities for Military Children.

Vote to Approve the School Committee's Annual Report to the Town:

The Committee reviewed the School Committee's Annual Report to the Town as prepared by Chair De Luca. They agreed to have Dr. Cabral proofread.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. Durrance, with a 5-0 vote, the Committee approved the School Committee's Annual Report to the Town with edits that are not of substance.

Public Comment:

A member of the audience who was identified as a staff member at Parkview School suggested letting the staff weigh in on the naming of the new elementary school. It was noted that anyone can send their suggestions to Chair Nancy De Luca. Jane Martin had a question regarding the presentation of the Program of Studies.

Superintendent's Notes:

None.

Assistant Superintendent's Notes:

Ms. Pruitt said she attended the Massachusetts Celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day at Faneuil Hall in Boston last Friday. She said OA's Girls Basketball Coach, Laney Clement Holbrook was the keynote speaker. She added that Laney had her 700th win making her the first girls coach in Massachusetts to achieve that milestone. Ms. Pruitt said she was a judge at the Poetry Out Loud Contest that included 10 contestants. She congratulated Aeden Marcus who will be heading to the State Finals on February 29th.

Dr. Cabral thanked the English Department Teachers who volunteer their time and are present during the contest.

Ms. Pruitt noted that the 4th workshop as part of the Equity Series will be held on March 4th, 4:00-6:00 p.m. for staff and 6:30-8:30 p.m. for the community. The event will take place in the Professional Development Room at Richardson Olmsted School. Registration is not necessary; however, preferred.

School Committee's Notes:

Ms. O'Neill said she attended the TEMPO Dessert Show and that it was fantastic. Ms. O'Neill said that the School Planning Committee held a meeting with abutters to the new elementary school. She complimented Perkins Eastman and PMA Consultants for being very patient and did a wonderful job addressing every concern that was made. About twelve abutters attended. Ms. O'Neill said she attended a presentation Tuesday night by Moms Demand Action safety advocacy group. She said the group is a strong proponent of gun safety. She added that deaths in children are increasing from "unintentional shootings." Ms. O'Neill provided a document to provide parents with a list of questions about guns and how they are stored when their child is invited to another home.

A discussion took place regarding gun safety and training drills in schools.

Ms. Durrance said she also attended the TEMPO Dessert Show and thanked Dr. Cabral for stepping in and serving desserts. She said it was nice to see all the ensembles and how the kids have gotten better and more confident. She added that the Robotics had their annual comedy fundraiser and it was a huge success.

Ms. Starr said she attended both nights of the Equity Series and it was enlightening. She added that the SEPAC had a daytime meeting earlier in the week and the next two workshops will be in the evening. One of the workshops will be held at the YMCA and

childcare will be available. She congratulated the girls swim team who went undefeated, won the hockomock champs, and came in third place in the state. She wished the winter sports teams good luck.

Chair De Luca congratulated Laney and wished the students a safe trip to New Zealand.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a vote of 5-0, the Committee adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by,

Lynn Souza

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisha Cabral". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

Lisha Cabral
Secretary