

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 21, 2022

Minutes of the Virtual School Committee Meeting, July 21, 2022, Virtual Meeting via Zoom convened at 5:00 p.m. Present by roll call: Jennifer Starr, Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, and Caroline O'Neill.

Also in Attendance:

Dr. Lisha Cabral, Superintendent; Crissy Pruitt, Assistant Superintendent; Lynn Souza, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Cabral and School Committee Secretary; and Joe Boerman, ECAT.

Call Meeting to Order:

Vice Chair Starr called the meeting to order by stating that in keeping with an act relative to extending certain Covid-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency, the meeting will be conducted remotely over Zoom. Attendance by Board members will be remote and remote attendance shall count toward quorum. The meeting will be broadcast live on FaceBook and recorded on ECAT. To use zoom you will need to download the Zoom application or use the link on the agenda.

Public Comment:

None.

Executive Session: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a) 3 To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining for Unit A (Teacher's Unit):

Vice Chair Starr made a motion to enter into the Executive Session and will return to Open Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy with respect to Bargaining with Unit A and stated that, in her opinion, having this discussion in public would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the School Committee. Ms. O'Neill seconded the motion, with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee entered into the Executive Session at 5:01 p.m.

Return to Open Session is Anticipated:

The Committee returned to open session at 5:56 p.m.

Potential Discussion and Action Relating to Hiring (Teacher's Unit):

Dr. Cabral noted that the district is in the thick of hiring staff and looks forward to introducing the new staff members to the Committee. She noted that in the Unit A collective bargaining contract any new staff member being hired over Step 7 needs the approval of the School Committee. She said she has two candidates that she would like to bring in over Step 7 and explained that the current climate is very different and difficult. She explained that the past several years the pool of candidates have been very small and that COVID has caused a lot of people to rethink pursuing a career in education. She said there has been a lot of movement around districts as well and the district's needs in certain areas have become more important than ever. She noted that the health, wellness, and psychological needs have been exacerbated due to COVID which requires a higher level of experience. Dr. Cabral requested permission to hire two professionals at a step above Step 7 and that one posting had a lot of applicants; however, the district was looking for a particular skill set because of a need at that level and traditionally it may not have been hard to fill.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee approved hiring two candidates above Step 7 per the recommendation of Dr. Cabral.

Ms. Starr noted that the next scheduled School Committee meeting will take place on August 18, 2022.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Starr, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by,
Lynn Souza

Respectfully submitted,

Vice Chair Jennifer Starr
Secretary