

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 15, 2022

Minutes of the Virtual School Committee Meeting, September 15, 2022, Virtual Meeting via Zoom convened at 5:01 p.m. Present by roll call: Michelle Durrance, Jennifer Starr, Jacqueline Weisman, Nancy De Luca, and Caroline O'Neill.

Also in Attendance:

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

Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Durrance 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. The meeting will be open to the public and will take questions.

Minutes: 8/25/2022, 9/1/2022; Executive Session 5/12/2022, 5/26/2022, 6/23/2022, 8/25/2022, 9/1/2022:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. O'Neil, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the Committee approved the minutes of 8/25/2022 with noted edits.

On a motion by Ms. Starr, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the Committee approved the minutes of 9/1/2022 with noted edits.

Chair Durrance requested the Executive Session minutes of 5/12/2022 be tabled pending further information from School Counsel, Ms. Weisman seconded the motion.

On a motion by Chair Durrance, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 5/26/2022 but not to be released.

Chair Durrance requested the Executive Session minutes of 6/23/2022 be tabled pending further information from School Counsel, Ms. Weisman seconded the motion.

Ms. Starr asked that the Executive Session minutes of 8/25/2022 be held.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 9/1/2022 but not to be released.

Executive Session RE: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a) 3 To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining for Unit B and Paraprofessional Unit, Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21 (a) 2 Contract Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel, and Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21 (a) 7 - To Comply with Open Meeting Law to Review Minutes of Prior Executive Session 4/25/2022, 4/28/2022, 5/12/2022, 5/17/2022, 5/26/2022, 6/9/2022, 6/23/2022, 8/25/2022:

Chair Durrance 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 B and the Paraprofessional Unit, contract

negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to comply with Open Meeting Law to review minutes of prior Executive Session and stated that, in her opinion, having this discussion in public would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the School Committee. Ms. Starr seconded the motion, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the Committee entered into the Executive Session at 5:14 p.m.

Return to Open Session:

The Committee returned to Open Session at 6:10 p.m.

Possible Vote to Release Executive Session Minutes: 4/25/2022, 4/28/2022, 5/12/2022, 5/17/2022, 5/26/2022, 6/9/2022, 6/23/2022, 8/25/2022:

On a motion by Chair Durrance, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the Committee released the Executive Session minutes of 4/25/2022 but not to release the Executive Session Meeting minutes of 4/28/2022, 5/12/2022, 5/17/2022, 5/26/2022, 6/9/2022, and 8/25/2022.

Vote to Approve Nonunion Personnel Contracts:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the Committee approved the premium pay for nonunion contracts.

Update on Resource Officer:

Dr. Cabral said she didn't have an update in terms of having a School Resource Officer on board. She said that they are reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding template provided by the state. She noted that the funding for the SRO will be shared with the Town. Dr. Cabral reiterated what the responsibilities of the SRO will be and reminded everyone that hiring the SRO is not in response to any threat made to the district. She noted that 80% of school incidents are perpetrated by a person 18 years and under and noted the importance of the district's mental health approach to the epidemic that the nation is facing.

COVID Update:

Dr. Cabral said that the district has been offered free test kits and PPE through the state. She noted that the district is giving away a lot of kits, PPE, and materials that are in stock from last year and replenishing with current kits and PPE from the state. She said if anyone is in need of hand sanitizer to contact the school nurse. Dr. Cabral noted that the District Playbook has been removed from the website and replaced with a new FAQ under the COVID Information tab. She noted that it is a brief slideshow that remains a live document.

Public Comment:

None.

Superintendent's Notes:

Dr. Cabral said the district remains understaffed in all areas, specifically paraprofessionals, bus drivers, food service workers, and substitutes in all areas. She said that the district is looking to fill specialized areas such as Reading Interventionists and anyone who may be looking for part time work, there are opportunities in food service, lunch and playground aides, and substitutes. Dr. Cabral encouraged anyone who is interested to call or stop by the Central Office at 50 Oliver Street. She added that the positions are also on the district website and on School Spring

Assistant Superintendent's Notes:

None.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. O'Neill mentioned that the Naming Subcommittee will have its first meeting on September 28th and they hope to establish a formal framework for the process of providing opportunities to individuals and groups to name spaces in any of the schools in the district. She noted that she had the opportunity to speak with a couple of people who were involved in the original Naming Campaign for the high school and she received some excellent recommendations in terms of what approaches seemed to work well and what steps were taken at the time. She said she was looking forward to working with Chair Durrance and Ms. De Luca on the Subcommittee.

Dr. Cabral added that there have been inquiries about the Blanche Ames School and she has been telling people that the Naming Subcommittee is just getting started and will get back to them.

Ms. O'Neill added that the original Naming Campaign had two committees and that from what information she received from people who were involved, having those two committees did not work out too well. She said the Naming Subcommittee currently consists of three School Committee members.

Ms. Weisman noted that the School Committee Policy Subcommittee will meet tomorrow and will start going through the policy book. The School Planning Committee is still meeting and the new school is moving along and it is very exciting. She said she hopes in the upcoming months to bring people in to see the new school once it is turned over to the district.

Ms. De Luca asked if the Professional Teaching Status reception will take place on October 6th, the date of the next School Committee meeting and if the reception will take place in person.

Dr. Cabral confirmed that the date is correct and said that it was up to the School Committee if they wanted the reception in person or virtual.

Ms. De Luca noted that the Committee wouldn't have time to get back for the 6:00 School Committee meeting.

Dr. Cabral asked the Committee if they wanted to change the time of the meeting.

Chair Durrance asked for confirmation that the Professional Teaching Status reception will take place at 5:00 p.m.

Lynn Souza confirmed that it has been scheduled for 5:00 p.m.

Chair Durrance said she would like to have the reception in person and suggested moving the time of the School Committee meeting to 6:30 p.m. which will allow members to get home for the virtual meeting.

Dr. Cabral stated that the Professional Teaching Status reception will take place in the cafeteria at Richardson Olmsted School as the OA cafeteria was already booked.

The Committee agreed to the time change of the October 6th meeting to 6:30 p.m.

Ms. De Luca said about 10 people will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on October 1st and that it will be a nice evening.

Ms. Starr asked Dr. Cabral if any progress has been made as a result of the bus staff shortage affecting athletics and how many activities have been impacted.

Dr. Cabral responded that the district has been keeping a list and said that she has spoken with Mr. Lucini from Lucini Bus and that he has people currently taking classes and has several people at different stages of getting their license to drive a bus. She noted that she was first notified that some of the students were not going to be transported home so she said that was a priority and that athletics and extracurricular activities would have to come next. She noted that some games were unfortunately impacted, deleted, or postponed. She said that Mr. Lucini is aware of the district's concern about this and he is working on it.

Ms. Starr added that she is looking forward to interviewing some candidates for key open positions in the district.

Chair Durrance said that Tigerama is similar to Baystate and that the Marching Band is hosting the competition this year. She noted that it first took place at OA in 1985, 2007 and now in 2022. She said the theme is Back to the Future and it will be an all day event with other schools coming to perform, food trucks, swag, music, and

performances. It will take place on October 8th at the football field. Chair Durrance said the Rehersathon will also take place Saturday at the OA football field as well and that the kids are accepting sponsorships and for \$20.00 people can come and watch the rehearsal and at 3:00 it will be open to the public. She added the next School Committee meeting will be October 6th at 6:30.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Chair Durrance, seconded by Ms. Starr, with a roll call vote of 5-0, the Committee adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Souza
Secretary