

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, March 30, 2023

**Minutes of the Virtual School Committee Meeting, March 30, 2023** Virtual Meeting via Zoom convened at 4:01 p.m. Present: Michelle Durrance, Jennifer Starr, Caroline O'Neill, Nancy De Luca, and Jacqueline Weisman.

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:**

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. The meeting was open to the public and the Committee will take questions by the chat feature; full name and address is needed. The Committee will not read questions that have already been answered.

**Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Out of State Trip to Florida:**

On a motion by Chair Durrance, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a roll call vote of 5-0, *O'Neill-yes, Durrance-yes, De Luca-yes, Weisman-yes, Starr-yes*, the Committee tabled the out of state trip to Florida to the next School Committee meeting on April 6th.

**Discussion and Approval of Additional Athletic Sponsors to List:**

Dr. Cabral presented 3 more sponsors, Kempner Electric, Stoneforge, and The Field House Arena to the athletic sponsor list on behalf of Ryan Gordy, Athletic Director. She noted that The Field House Arena was already on the list of sponsors.

Chair Durrance requested an update regarding the equity of sign placement.

Dr. Cabral said that she will have Lynn reach out to Mr. Gordy.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. O'Neill, with a roll call vote of 5-0, *O'Neill-yes, Durrance-yes, De Luca-yes, Weisman-yes, Starr-yes*, the Committee approved the additional athletic sponsors to be added to the list.

**Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Pep Rallies for the Wise Contract:**

Dr. Cabral expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to follow up and provide more information about the Pep Rallies for the Wise contract and apologized for her absence at the last meeting. She said she watched the video of the last meeting and wrote down the concerns the Committee had.

Dr. Cabral addressed the 3 areas of concern; the sense of urgency, the presentation, and the funding.

Dr. Cabral discussed the impressive presentation from the CADCA (Community Anti Drug Coalitions of America) and the significant concern about drug use, particularly vaping at the middle school and high school. She spoke about the results of a parent survey and how some parents found it acceptable for their children to drink alcohol and smoke marijuana as long as they felt they were being responsible. In terms of the presentation, she said it is a 2 day program that she helped create that consists of not just vaping but also about making good decisions. She said Mr. Green will be speaking with the entire student body of the high school and middle school, spending time with both schools at all 3 lunches, sharing stories, making

connections with the students, showing his superbowl rings, he will spend after school with the high school athletes on the field, weather permitting, and have banners for the students to sign to pledge not to vape. She added that t-shirts will be given as a reminder of the program. In terms of the budget, she agreed that it is costly; however, the grant that will be funding the program will come from the ESSER III (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) grant which expires in September 2024 and is used for COVID remediation. She added that it will not come from the budget which is very tight. Dr. Cabral said that they have met with the principals about their budget needs and noted that the ESSER grant cannot be used for personnel. She added that she elected to get the t-shirts and the banners which will stay at each school as a reminder of the program.

A discussion took place and some areas of concern from the Committee was that there wasn't any data to show that the program had been successful in other districts. Dr. Cabral noted that she had viewed non publicly released publications that go back as far as 2017 and she noted that a survey can be taken following the program for feedback. Some members spoke about not knowing who Mr. Green was and that the kids may not know who he is. The Committee had concerns over the lack of information online when researching about the program, its effectiveness as they could not find any data, and the \$36,000 cost.

Chair Durrance asked for a motion to approve the Pep Rallies for the Wise contract; no one made the motion; therefore, the contract was not approved.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Superintendent Notes:**

None.

**Assistant Superintendent Notes:**

None.

**School Committee Notes:**

None.

Chair Durrance said the next meeting will be on April 6th at 6:00 via Zoom.

Dr. Cabral said that at the April 6th meeting a Public Hearing will take place on the FY24 budget.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. Starr, with a roll call vote of 5-0, *O'Neill-yes, Durrance-yes, De Luca-yes, Weisman-yes, Starr-yes*, the School Committee adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Souza  
Secretary

**Documents:**

- List of banner sponsors
- Pep Rallies for the Wise contract