

**EASTPORT SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2017
6:00 P.M.
Shead High School**

Members Present: William Bradbury, Elizabeth Hastings-Renner, Jon Calame, Meg McGarvey, and Richard Clark (late)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Superintendent Kenneth Johnson, Catherine Lee, Damon Weston, Rachel McNally, and Erin Mahar

Others Present: Kristin McKinley, Alberta Matthews, Christina Vizcarrondo, Sonya Sullivan, Shelly Thompson, and Edward French, *Quoddy Tides*

A. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Adjustments to the Agenda:

The following will be added: executive session, presentation by Leadership Team, and early release and the Perry bus.

C. To Approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2017 School Committee Meeting, as Written or with Corrections, as Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

The minutes were not approved.

D. Administrative Reports:

1. Principal – Eastport Elementary School and Shead High School - A copy of Principal Theriault's report is attached.

2. School Committee – Board member Jon Calame stated his request for cumulative enrollment data had gone unanswered and noted that neither the principal nor the assistant principal were present at the meeting. Mr. Calame further commented on the condition of the elementary yearbook. Mr. Calame highlighted typographical errors (one of which was on the cover) and questioned whether the students had guidance in compiling the document or whether they acted independently. Mr. Calame further commented that the year

book itself reflected poorly on EES. EES teacher and elementary yearbook advisor, Erin Mahar, responded that she had worked with the students on the project and also described some of the challenges in the compilation of the yearbook.

Mr. Calame also maintained that fellow board members (Richard Clark – absent at this time – arrived later) should give a reason for his abstention from voting on the assistant principal's contract. Superintendent Johnson responded that a reason for abstention was not needed in this case and distributed a copy of the Conflict of Interest policy to all board members present. Mr. Calame indicated that he was already familiar with that policy and maintained that in his opinion board member Clark did have to give a reason. (Note: policy identifies spousal relationship as a conflict of interest – Mr. Clark is not married.)

Mr. Calame also requested further information on the status of the boiler project. Superintendent Johnson responded that he would provide additional information on the project, but that it would have to be in executive session since discussion would necessarily reference the performance of a former employee.

Mr. Calame also expressed his desire to provide letters of recognition to deserving faculty members.

3. Superintendent – Superintendent Johnson appointed the following coaches: Dana Bowen, Softball (current); Corey Sullivan, Girls Varsity Basketball; Connie Knight, Cross Country; Dana Bowen, Girls Soccer, Dana Bowen, Girls JV Basketball; John Barnes, Boys Varsity Basketball; Nick Bradbury, Boys JV Basketball; and Joshua McGuire, Boys Soccer. Mr. Johnson reported on the resignations of Heidi Parsloe, SHS English teacher, and Gary Ramsdell, bus driver. Mr. Johnson also reported that he attended the Small Schools Coalition on May 26 and will attend the Commissioner's Conference on June 26 and School Law for Board Members on June 29.

E. Public Participation

Shelly Thompson made the statement that the schools' technology coordinator had engaged in illegal behavior by assisting students in designing a website. Ms. Thompson did not identify the students nor offer proof of this accusation. Ms. Thompson also requested a description of the duties performed by the tech coordinator and suggested that other strategies employed by other potential employees may be more cost efficient. Chair Will Bradbury countered that the committee had considered other options and had already made a commitment to meeting the technology needs through the existing position which had been expanded to full time. As the dialogue between Ms. Thompson and Chair Bradbury continued, board member Joh Calame expressed dissatisfaction with the tone of the discussion and suggested that a member of the public could express themselves as they so desired and it was the duty of the school board to acknowledge their views.

Ms. Thompson also requested that more substantial information be included within the principal's report. Ms. Thompson further requested a cost comparison between the previous administrative structure of two principals in comparison to the current one principal structure. Ms. Thompson maintained that communication between administration and the parents is still unsatisfactory in her opinion and lamented the removal of the Children's Stage Adventures from the budget.

Ms. Thompson further commented that test scores at both the elementary and high schools were low and asked if the scores were analyzed. Chair Will Bradbury asked teacher in attendance Rachel McNally whether the test scores were analyzed. Ms. McNally and another teacher (Erin Mahar) both responded in the affirmative. Board member Jon Calame further questioned those present, including teachers, as to why the test scores were low. As his questioning continued, teacher (and union building representative Damon Weston) interrupted and responded that he felt Mr. Calame's remarks were an "attack" on the students and staff. Mr. Calame denied that his remarks were intended as an "attack" and maintained that he was attempting to foster a discussion designed to address any deficiencies that may exist. Both Mr. Calame and Ms. Thompson reminded those present that the school-wide test scores were public domain.

Ms. Thompson inquired about the possibility of hiring a grant writer and whether Title IA funds could be used. Mr. Johnson responded that Title IA funds have a specific purpose, but that other funding sources might be able to support grant writing activities.

Ms. Chris Vizcarrondo distributed a flyer for the Eastport Food Pantry.

Ms. Kristen McKinley requested that awards night at EES be expanded to include students from grades K - 8 in comparison to the current grades 5 – 8.

The Board was questioned when there would be another information session to discuss the possibility of moving grades 7 and 8 into the high school. Board member Elizabeth Hastings-Renner responded that another session was tentatively scheduled for next week.

F. Old Business

There was no old business.

G. New Business

1. To Consider Entering an Executive Session Pursuant to Statutory Citation [1 M.R.S.A. ss 405 (6) (D)] to Discuss Negotiations

It was moved by Elizabeth Hastings-Renner, seconded by Jon Calame, and voted unanimously to enter executive session at 7:25 p.m.

Time Out – 7:43 p.m.

Post Executive Session Action:

See below.

a. To Consider the Ratification of the Comprehensive Agreement Between the Eastport School Committee and the Education Technician Unit, Eastport Education Association, September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020

It was moved by Jon Calame, seconded by Elizabeth Hastings-Renner, and voted unanimously to ratify the Comprehensive Agreement between the Eastport School Committee and the Education Technician Unit, Eastport Education Association, September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020.

b. To Consider the Ratification of the Agreement Between the Eastport School Committee and Eastport Support Staff, 2017 – 2018, 2018 – 2019, and 2019 – 2020

It was moved by Elizabeth Hastings-Renner, seconded by Jon Calame, and voted unanimously to ratify the Agreement between the Eastport School Committee and Eastport Support Staff, 2017 – 2018, 2018 – 2019, and 2019 – 2020.

2. Leadership Presentation

A question was raised on continuing with the early release days for 2017 – 2018. This was tabled.

3. To Consider Awarding of the Bid to Repair Water Damage at Shead High School

It was moved by Elizabeth Hastings-Renner, seconded by Jon Calame, and voted unanimously to award to Dale Bowen in the amount of \$30,625 and to have the work completed before school resumes in the fall.

4. To Consider Entering an Executive Session Pursuant to Statutory Citation [1 M.R.S.A. ss 405 (6) (A)] to Discuss a Personnel Issue

It was moved by Elizabeth Hastings-Renner, seconded by Will Bradbury, and voted unanimously to enter executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Time Out – 8:35 p.m.

Post Executive Session Action:

There was no post executive session action.

H. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kenneth Johnson, Superintendent
Secretary, ex-officio**