

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The second February meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on

Tuesday, February 15, 2005 in the gymnasium of the Hanaford School. Chair Vincent Bradley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Other members present were: Dr. Al Ross, Steven Gregson, Merrill Friedemann, Sue Cienki and William Day as well as Dr. Michael Jolin, Superintendent, Helen O'Hara, Assistant Superintendent, Carol Brown, Director of Student Services, and Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration. Mr. Martin was absent. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Public Comments

Mr. Robert McCarthy, High School Principal, was pleased to report that the Drama Club performance of Grease was watched by over 1500 people. He mentioned advisors Tim Kenney and Rob Petrucci and stated that the community is looking for positive uplifting productions. He also urged the union and School Committee to move forward in the negotiations.

Mr. Rick Saborio, teacher at Hanaford School, spoke about the compliments and positive letters he has received from parents. He

noted that people don't read about the positive things, but read about negative progress and dirty laundry. He is sure that every teacher has positive letters such as his. He added that he wants to feel valued by the School Committee and asked the School Committee to give the teachers a contract.

3. Recognitions – There were no School Committee recognitions

5. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Gregson and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 18, 2005, January 22, 2005, and February 1, 2005 with a minor change to the February 1, 2005 minutes.

6. Advisory of Subcommittee Minutes

Mr. Gregson stated that the Property Subcommittee met with the Project Manager, Mr. DeSaia, and Mark Saccoccio to find out where they are going with the high school gym floor. He noted that the floor work is well underway.

7. Communications to the School Committee

There were no School Committee communications.

8. Attendance Reports

Attendance reports were accepted for file.

9. Financial Reports

Financial Reports will be covered under the budget.

10. New Business

10.1.1 Parental Leave

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve an additional year of parental leave for Onna Holland, Guidance Counselor at Cole Middle School, for the 2005-2006 school year. Dr. Jolin stated that it has been past practice to approve such a leave. He also stated that he defers to the principals on these leaves. On the motion to approve the parental leave, Mr. Gregson, Mr. Day and Mr. Bradley voted yes, Mrs. Cienki voted no, and Mrs. Friedemann abstained. After further discussion, Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to table this vote until the next meeting. The motion to table passed unanimously.

10.1.3 Termination/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts

Since no public comment is allowed by law, the list was accepted for the record.

10.1.4 Teacher Appointment on the Tenure Track, first year to second year to third, and

third year to tenure. There was no vote needed on the tenure track.

10.1.5 Appointments

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the following

appointments:

- 1. Lisa MacFarlane, Assistant Varsity Girls Softball Coach, for the spring season**
- 2. Eldredge School Homework Club employees: Paraprofessionals: Patty Baker, Lynne Weremay, Carrie Maksymowicz, and three alternates as substitutes: Colleen Procopio, Jennifer Flinchum, Jen Almeida, and Teacher: Kara Ratigan**
- 3. Donna Ferrante, cheerleader advisor for Cole Middle School**
- 4. Maria Collins, long term paraprofessional substitute at the Frenchtown School**

for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

10.1.6 Resignations

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Priscilla LaLiberty, hockey cheerleader advisor, effective 2-2-05, with regret.

10.2 Approve a boys' high school swim team

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve a boys' high school swim team. The motion passed unanimously.

10.3 Approve a Home School Plan

Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve a home school plan for the Neaves student at Cole Middle school, for physics, for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year.

The motion passes unanimously.

10.4 Approve Consultant: Facilities Director substitute

Dr. Jolin stated that since the current facilities director is ill, a consultant, Ernest DeSaia will be able to replace him for a period of six weeks. It was noted that Mr. DeSaia oversaw the renovation of the East Greenwich Free Library. Dr. Jolin stated that a letter of understanding is on file for Mr. DeSaia. The motion passed unanimously.

10.5 Bid Awards

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the bid for window

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treatments to Walker Specialties in the amount of \$15,300. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the bid for the high school stage curtains. Mr. Rob Petrucci, Drama Club Advisor, stated that they are limited by the new fire laws, and added that drop away curtains need to be approved by the Fire Marshall. Mr. Gregson and Dr. Ross both stated that if a different kind of drop away curtain is needed, we should go back to the architect and the Property Subcommittee for possible alteration. It was noted that Mr. DeSaia will contact Susan Hawksley, the Fire Marshall. Mrs. Crawford stated that there may be a significant change in the bid and price. Dr. Ross made a motion that was seconded by

Mr. Day, to modify the bid for the stage curtains to allow drop away curtains, not to exceed \$36,000. The motion passed unanimously.

10.6 High School Ski Trip

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the Freshman Class ski trip to Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, Mass. on March 5, 2005. Mr. Gregson stated that our legal counsel should look at all trips approved by the School Committee. Mrs. Friedemann stated that the waiver of liability needs to be looked at. Mr. Craig MacKenzie, Foreign Language teacher at the high school, stated that this ski trip is to create class unity and do fundraising for the Laurel Hill Annex in Providence. He also spoke about the other fundraising activities which will be held for this school. The School Committee thanked Mr. MacKenzie for his good work. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Old Business

12. Reports to the School Committee

12.1 Music Department Re-Organization

Dr. Jolin stated that there is a need to have the highest quality music department to service the talented students in the district. He noted that on March 1, the music department recommendation will be discussed. He noted that he is recommending a staff increase in music of 0.6

12.2 Public Hearing on Budget

Dr. Jolin stated that this budget will be reviewed over the next three months before being presented at the Financial Town Meeting. He also thanked all the teachers and administrators for being high performing. Dr. Jolin stated that this budget will be presented to the Town Manager by March 15. It was noted that the State Auditor General mandates that school and town budgets not increase by more than 5.5%, and if they want more of an increase they need to apply for an exemption to the Auditor General.

Mrs. Christine Mattos asked about a budget for contractual negotiations. Dr. Jolin responded that it included an 8% co-pay on the part of the teachers' union, with a 3.5% salary increase.

Mr. David Grandpre stated that if the school department is looking to save money, it should be saved on administrative costs, not students or programs. He suggested sharing services with the town but not putting programs on the cutting block.

13. School Committee Concerns to be addressed to the Superintendent

Mrs. Cienki spoke about a program on genocide that a resident in town has been working on. She noted that it is free to educators and students and is a very positive program.

Mr. Gregson stated that a drainage problem was identified in front of the high school gym. He stated that the Property Subcommittee will take a look at it and see what the engineers come up with. Mrs. Deb McMullen stated that this is a dangerous situation because of icing.

14. School Committee Procedural Business

There was no procedural business.

15. School Committee Reminder List

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16. Visits to Schools

Dr. Jolin stated that he recently visited the schools with layoff notices and commended the teachers for their professionalism.

17. Public Comments (15 minutes)

Mrs. Joanne Leach, special education teacher at Frenchtown School, stated that every East Greenwich teacher stands behind and with their union's negotiating team in their efforts to secure a fair and equitable contract.

18. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) Contract Negotiations

On a motion made by Mrs. Cienki and seconded by Mrs. Friedemann, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for teacher contract negotiations.

19. Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session

20. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani