

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The first School Committee meeting for April was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 in the Hanaford School gymnasium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, Sue Cienki, William Day and Merrill Friedemann, as well as Superintendent Michael Jolin, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, and Director of Student Services, Carol Brown. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comments

Carol Alfano, grade 3 teacher at Frenchtown, and an East Greenwich resident, asked the School Committee to actively negotiate the contract. She noted that personal agendas were never part of negotiations, and the children of East Greenwich deserve better.

Pat Dulac, mathematics department head and an East Greenwich resident, voiced her concerns about problems because of a lack of a contract. She is concerned about getting quality applicants for the mathematics opening because of a lack of a contract.

Christine Mattos, spoke on the access to public records complaint that was filed with the Attorney General, adding that an investigation

is underway. She also noted that she has five new requests in to the school department. Mrs. Mattos feels that there is either gross incompetence or withholding of information by the fiscal office. She noted that the salary and benefits information on special education was vague, and the numbers on staff salaries are inconsistent or inaccurate and don't add up. Mrs. Mattos stated that the Town Council is looking at several line items to cut from the school department budget. She noted that there should be a forensic audit of payroll and accounts payable.

Mark Zito, a junior at East Greenwich High School, and president of his class, asked why students are not on the high school principal interview committee.

Mr. Gary Neaves asked for teacher contracts to be readily available at the central office, and asked people to read what is in that contract.

Ellen Shanus, a Frenchtown parent, asked if contract negotiations are even taking place. Mr. Gregson responded that negotiations were held on April 3rd and will be held on April 6th.

Julie Gemma, PTG Co-President at Frenchtown, said that she is frustrated to know that negotiations are going nowhere. She asked both sides to negotiation often and as long as possible to get it done.

5. Approval of Minutes

March 8, 2005 executive session and regular session, and March 15, 2005 executive session and regular session.

On a motion made by Mr. Gregson and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the above minutes.

6. Advisory or Subcommittee Reports-none

7. Communications to the School Committee-none

8. Attendance Reports-There were no attendance reports.

74

9. Financial Reports-Ms. Crawford submitted a budget narrative.

10. New Business

10.1 Personnel Considerations

10.1.1 Appointments

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the following appointments: The motion passed unanimously.

10.1.1a Benjamin Leveillee, girls' Varsity Softball coach at Cole Middle School

10.1.1b Michael Wood, Intramural co-ed flag football coach at Cole Middle School

10.1.1c Joseph Amato, Intramural Wrestling Coach at Cole Middle

10.1.1d Paul and Charlotte Evasick, co-advisors for the class of 2008

10.1.2 Resignation

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to accept the following

resignations with regret:

10.1.2 a Robert McCarthy, Principal at East Greenwich High School,

effective June 30, 2005

10.1.2b Christine D'Acchioli, teacher mentor coordinator, at the end of the 2004-2005 school year.

Dr. Jolin stated that Mr. McCarthy has done yeoman's work in moving the high school forward, and showed that he truly cared for the students of East Greenwich High School. Dr. Jolin also mentioned that Mrs. D'Acchioli has worked tirelessly during the summer months and her resignation will be a loss to the school district. The motion passed with Dr. Ross voting no.

10.1.3 Parental Leave

10.1.3a Onna Holland, Guidance Counselor at Cole Middle School for the 2005-2006 school year. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to table this request. The motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Bid Awards

10.2.1a Boiler Replacement

Mr. DeSaia recommended that Cataudella Associates be awarded the bid for the design proposal for the boiler replacement project at Cole Middle School, in the amount of \$12,700. Mr. Gregson has many questions relating to the size of the boiler needed because there is no definite decision whether Cole will be rehabbed or a new middle school will be built. Mr. DeSaia responded that if a decision is made to expand Cole, an additional system would have to be put in anyway. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to

approve the bid award for the design proposal for the boiler at Cole. The motion passed unanimously.

10.2.1b Window Replacement

Mr. DeSaia stated that two responses were received from very capable companies, but he recommends that the contract be split between the two companies because of time constraints. Mr. Gregson has the same concerns that he had with the Cole boiler work that the Committee has not had enough discussion on what to do with the Cole building. Mr. Bradley responded that there is a need to have a viable school building for at least three more years, and there is no way out. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to award the bid for window replacements at Cole, Meadowbrook, Frenchtown and Hanaford Schools as follows: Advantage Glass in the amount of \$264,900 and Chandler in the amount of \$624,600. The motion passed with Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Friedemann voting no.

10.3 Out-of-State Field Trips

10.3.1 Costa Rica in February 2006

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the Costa Rica field trip in February 2006, subject to approval

of the attorney and the liability aspect. Mr. Gregson had previously asked for a legal opinion as to whether School Committee's should be approving any of these field trips because of the liability issue. Dr. Jolin recommended that it be approved contingent upon the legal aspect and liability. The motion passed unanimously.

10.3.2 Six Flags New England in May 20, 2005

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the physics field trip to Six Flags on May 20, 2005 contingent upon the same stipulation as the Costa Rica trip. The motion passed unanimously.

10.3.3 Boys Cross Country Trip to New Hampshire from August 15-19.

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the Cross Country Trip to New Hampshire contingent upon the same stipulation as the Costa Rica and Six Flags trips. The motion passed unanimously.

10.4 Textbook Adoption Process

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the Foreign Language Textbook Adoption in the amount of \$44,000 not including shipping and handling, Science, for 30 copies of the AP Chemistry Book, and 50 copies of the Social Studies text to replace the AP Social Studies US History Text. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Jolin thanked Mrs. O'Hara for all the work she does and the many teachers who have stepped forward to get the curriculum completed. The motion passed unanimously.

10.5 Approval Sabbatical Application Form

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the sabbatical leave form. Mr. Martin stated that a few items need to be polished on the form but it gives the School Committee some direction in relation to a sabbatical policy. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to refer this form back to Mr. Martin and Dr. Jolin for changes. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Old Business

11.1 School Calendar 2005-2006

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the calendar with changes suggested by the presidents of NEA and NAESP unions. The motion passed with Dr. Ross and Mr. Gregson voting no.

11.2 Facilities Committee Charge

Allison Carcieri Cassidy, the new chair of the joint oversight committee stated that a comprehensive plan is needed and a mission with the major projects and renovations for school buildings. She noted that the purpose should be changed and a more permanent committee created. She added that the big issue is the comprehensive plan and then they can jump into warrant articles. Mrs. Carcieri-Cassidy stated that other school committees have permanent building committees and we should look at Cranston and other school districts. Mr. Gregson

recommended going back to charge the building facilities committee to work in conjunction with the School Committee to form a comprehensive plan for School Committee. Mr. Bradley felt that this should be discussed again on April 26 to give more people time to respond to the ad. Mrs. Carcieri-Cassidy stated that there needs to be a clear mission statement and then help should be solicited. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to table the facilities committee charge. The motion passed unanimously.

76

11.3 Project Manager Responsibilities and Ernest DeSaia's future role

Mr. Bradley stated that the warrant articles are making progress with Mr. DeSaia's work. Dr.

Jolin stated that Mr. Hilton should be back to work in two to four weeks.

11.4 Little League request for Port-a-John's and Shed Locations

Mr. Day stated that the School Committee needs to vote on two port-a-johns, one at the high

school, and one at Cole, from April to November. He noted the cost would be \$139 per month for each one. Mr. Day made a motion to approve the rental of two port-a-johns for the high school and Cole.

Mr. Martin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Day stated that the Little League is coming up with drawings for the sheds.

12. Reports to the School Committee

12.1 Discussion of shared/regionalized services between south county school districts

This came about because of an email after a discussion at a monthly superintendent's

meeting at SORICO where the RI Foundation indicated it will consider funding a consultant to help assess which areas could be shared.

Dr Jolin stated that there is a discussion at SORICO about the need to look at

regionalizing various school services. Since Mr. Martin is the School Committee representative to SORICO, Mr. Gregson asked for a report on the meetings attended by Mr. Martin at the April 26, 2005 meeting.

12.2 East Greenwich High School Principal Search Committee

Mrs. Cienki noted that advertising has started and resumes have been received. She read the

committee selection and procedures. Dr. Ross stated that the Superintendent needs to be a part of the process. Dr. Jolin applauded the attempt to make the process public but stated that candidates would not be comfortable in a public interview if they were one of five finalists. Mr. Martin had comments on the number of teachers on the committee. Mr. Craig MacKenzie stated that students need a voice on the selection committee. Mrs. Cienki responded that

no one under the age of 18 can be on the committee because of confidentiality issues. Mrs. Friedemann stated that students will have the opportunity to participate by asking questions at the public interview. After further discussion, Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to table the search committee procedure until changes are made to the procedure. Mr. Martin, Mr. Bradley and Dr. Ross voted no, and Mr. Gregson, Mr. Day, Mrs. Cienki and Mrs. Friedemann voted yes. The motion to table passed.

Mrs. Teddy Davis, Department Head for Physical Education and Health, suggests reversing the process, and asked that it be consistent with the interview procedure and process.

13. School Committee Concerns to be addressed to the Superintendent

Mr. Bradley feels that Hanaford School is not a good place to meet because of the acoustics, and the high school auditorium needs a better microphone set up.

14. School Committee Procedural Business

Dr. Ross asked about the electronic policy manual, and feels that a time needs to be designated to have a workshop on it. He suggested putting one policy at a time on the agenda for review. Dr. Jolin noted that he would come up with a protocol for the next School Committee meeting.

15. School Committee Reminder List

16. Visits to Schools

Dr. Ross asked to have the visits at a time when parents and students can be there to brainstorm on what is needed. He suggested one day per month. Mr. Bradley felt that it could be done after the

77

budget hearings on a Tuesday night when there is not a School Committee meeting. He also stated that this issue can be addressed again at the April 26 School committee meeting.

17. Public Comments (15 minutes)

Joseph Cardello feels that an exit interview should take place when a key person leaves the school system. He also thanked Steve Gregson for the work he has done. He feels that if the Cole work doesn't get done now, interest rates will go up. Mr. Cardello stated that a band-aid should not be put on Cole, and the School Committee should get the numbers and go to the taxpayers of the town to see what is needed. He also asked about the re-payment plan for a former School Committee member. He works too hard to waste money and asked when the cash is coming.

Pamela Testoni asked the School Committee to invest in a few microphones since it is difficult to hear.

Mr. Robert Vespia asked the School Committee not to table so many things so more can be accomplished.

Melissa Brown stated that teaches in East Greenwich are great, and

both sides are needed to negotiate seriously, and make concessions and compromises to address the needs of the district. She noted that she is paying for tutoring for her kids now.

Elizabeth Mays, PTG co-president of Eldredge, stated that the system is not working and is alienating parents.

Mr. David Abbott, stated that Standard and Poor rated school districts and East Greenwich is over performing. He also stated that we should not go outside the state to look for a high school principal.

He added that we are also losing Joseph Militello to the national principals association, and noted that Cole Middle School is a dump. He noted that the Standard and Poor information is on www.schoolmatters.com.

Mr. Robert McCarthy thanked Steve Gregson and other School Committee members for their work on the gym. He recognized Lois Chavez for her incredible amount of work and that of her teachers. He also thanked the School Committee and teachers and students for the opportunity to serve the community.

Patti Streich, co-president of the high school PTG, was pleased that parents are going to be on the principal search committee. She also noted that she appreciates all the work that Mrs. Cienki did on the make-up of the search committee. Mrs. Cienki stated that all the input from the audience can be worked out. Mrs. Streich asked the School Committee to continue to work hard to resolve the situation. She added that these teachers have done a fantastic job educating her kids.

Mr. Gary Neaves stated the contract should be negotiated in public,

and the citizens of the town should read the contract.

18. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations-Administrators/Teachers/Paraprofessionals/Composition of Teacher Contract Negotiating Team and Amendment to Resolution on Union Contacts/Architect Project Manager Contracts

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive session at 9:20 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) and (2) for the reasons noted above.

19. Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session

20. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Giuliani