

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The third School Committee meeting for April was held on Tuesday, April 26, 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, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comments

Joanne Leach, 50 Graham Way, stated that her car was hit at Frenchtown School because the parking spaces are too tight. She wants all the schools to be looked at for better markings in the parking lots.

Ellise Wolff, parent and teacher, started that she attended the recent Town Council meeting where a charter schools discussion was held concerning a \$25,000 payment. She wants clarification on who initiated and who approved the payment and what part of the budget the money came from. She asked for the status of the study today

and what costs the school department has incurred up to this point.

Mr. Gary Neaves thanked the School Committee for putting the latest offer to the teachers on the website. He noted that he would like to see the increases tied to a better educational environment.

Dr. Michael Battey invited the School Committee to Opening Day of Little League. He also noted that he supports the School Committee in negotiations. He suggested that the Educational Partnership be invited to East Greenwich for the School Committee, Town, and teachers to have a healthy debate.

3. Recognitions

3.1 Domenic Giusti, Grade 6 teacher at Hanaford, was recognized for being the recipient of the Presidential Award in Math and Science Teaching for Rhode Island. He received the award from President Bush on Thursday, April 14, in Washington, D.C. Mr. Giusti stated that it was an honor to represent the teachers and students of East Greenwich.

3.2 Rachel Wang was recognized for achieving 1st place at East Greenwich High School, in Congressman Langevin's "Artistic Discovery" high school art competition

3.3 Winter Sports Recognitions

Mr. Martin and Mr. Day gave out the award certificates for winter sports. Coaches and students recognized are as follows:

Girls Basketball-Division I State Championship Finalists: Head Coach, Mike Francois, Assistant Coach, Charlie Graham, Volunteer Meg Almon, and captains-Eliza Bryant, Sarah Gouveia and Hillary

Noble. All Tournament Team in Championship-Tori Ahrens and Hillary Noble.

Ice Hockey- Southern Division Champions-Division 2 State Finalists-Head Coach-Len Kiernan, Assistant Coach-Sean Fahey, Volunteers Chad Wingren and Chris DellaGrotta. Captains-Mat Wodecki, Steve Donlon, Mike Peduto, Jon Pannone, Colin Knight, and Jordan

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Brady. Cheerleading Coach-Michelle Menaugh, Captains-Christina Day and Angela Morabito.

Matt Wodecki and Michael Peduto – 1st team all division

Boys Indoor Track-Chris Denice-1st team all class high hurdles, and Tom Ahrens-1st team all division high jump.

Girls Indoor Track-Susan O’Connell-1st team all class 45 dash

Boys Basketball-Mike Florence-1st team all division 2-south, 2nd team all division 2

Wrestling-Joe Marciano, 1st team all division

Swimming-Megan Falkenberry-1st team all-division 200 IM

4 Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes for March 22, and April 5, 2005.

5 Advisory or Subcommittee Reports-None

6 Communications to the School Committee-None

7 Attendance Reports accepted for file

8 Financial Reports

9 New Business

9.2 Personnel Considerations

10.1.1 Appointments

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the appointment of

Timothy Corrigan as Athletic Coordinator for Cole Middle School.

The motion passed unanimously.

10.1.2 Resignation

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

Joanne Tarbell, paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective April 15, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

10.1.3 Parental Leaves

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the parental leave

of Aneta Kostrzewa, grade 6 at Eldredge, for the 2005-2006 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the parental leave

of Christine Marcotte, grade 4 teacher at Eldredge School, for the 2005-2006 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the parental leave for Onna Holland, guidance

counselor at Cole Middle School, for the 2005-2006 school year.

There was no second. Dr. Ross asked to have a discussion in

Executive session and invite Ms. Holland.

Mr. Martin made a motion which as seconded by Mr. Day to approve the parental leave

for Michelle Kelley, math at East Greenwich High School, for the 2005-2006 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the parental leave

for Anthony Burnett-Testa, science at Cole Middle School, for the 2005-2006 school year. Dr. Ross stated that since this is his second year of leave, the matter should go into executive session and Mr. Burnett-Testa should be invited.

10.1.4 Leave of Absence

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the leave of

absence for MaryAnn Liberati, English teacher at East Greenwich High School, for the 2005-2006 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the leave of absence for Noelle Minardi, Grade

five teacher at Hanaford School, for the 2005-2006 school year. There was no second. This matter will go to Executive Session and Mrs. Minardi will be invited.

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the leave of

absence of Donna Cancel, Science teacher at Cole, for the 2005-2006 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

10.1.5 Sabbatical Leave

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the sabbatical leave of Domenic Giusti, grade 6 at Hanaford School, for the 2005-2006 school year. Dr. Ross felt that an exception is being made since sabbaticals need to be applied for earlier, but he supports this to foster leadership. Mr. Martin feels that promotion should be from within and a sabbatical is the highest recognition a school system can grant for the faculty. It was noted that no money will be coming from the Education Partnership. The motion to approve the sabbatical passed with Mrs. Cienki abstaining.

10.1.6 Increase hours for preschool paraprofessional

Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to increase the hours for the preschool paraprofessional retroactive to March 21, 2005. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that this is paid from Medicare.

10.1.7 Termination of contract with Education Partnership

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to terminate the contract with the Education Partnership for Donna Vigneau-Carlson. It was noted that once the contract is terminated, Ms. Vigneau-Carlson will no longer be an employee of the East Greenwich Public Schools. The motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Bid Awards

10.2a Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the contract for Advantage Glass Company for \$47,952 for a change order. The motion passed unanimously.

10.3 Request for Forensic Audit on payroll and benefits

Mrs. Friedemann stated that this needs to go out to bid because integrity is needed with the numbers. Mr. Day made a motion to table this audit. This was seconded by Mr. Gregson. The motion to table passed unanimously. It was noted that Mrs. Friedemann will come up with a proposal.

10.4 School Finance Reorganization-Consolidation

Mrs. Crawford stated that she needs additional time to review this proposal. Mr. Mattos spoke about the potential savings of combining the finance offices and the increased effectiveness for the whole town, not just the school department. Mr. Gregson spoke about the findings in the draft copy of the town's performance audit. He feels the town finances should be in order before combining. Mr. Mattos stated that additional staff is needed on the town side. Mr. Gregson asked what it will cost the school department to get our financial department in order. Dr. Jolin stated that the school department needs an accountant and the town needs additional staff. Mrs. Friedemann stated that a performance audit is needed because there have been six years of problems that have not been corrected. Mr. Mattos stated that internal control problems will be fixed with combining departments. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to table this until the May 3 meeting. The motion

passed unanimously.

10.5 Establishment Personnel Board-There was no discussion on this matter.

10.6 Change School Committee Meeting to Thursday and move location to Town Hall

Dr. Ross wants meetings held at different schools, but not on Thursdays. Both he and

Mr. Martin are against holding meetings at town hall. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to hold meetings at town hall on Tuesdays. Mr. Gregson, Dr. Ross, Mr. Martin and Mr. Day voted no and Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Friedemann, Mrs. Cienki voted yes. The motion did not pass.

11. Old Business

11.1 Facilities Committee Warrant Charge

Mr. Bradley stated that he met with Ernie DeSaia about the facilities committee charge. He will have the attorney look at the charge. Mr. Gregson feels that there should be a general charge for each subcommittee. Mr. Bradley stated that there has been criticism by the public because the school

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department is not moving the warrants along. He noted that this document is what works in other school systems. It was decided that Mr. Gregson would make a proposal at the next meeting.

11.2 East Greenwich High School Principal Search Process

Mr. Martin stated that he disagrees with the composition of the search committee and is opposed to having three School Committee

members on a 9 member committee. He added that he wants one School Committee member, one administrator from Central Office, parents and no police officer. He feels that a coach or the athletic director, taxpayer or a citizen of the town should be on the committee. A motion was made by Mrs. Friedemann and seconded by Mr. Gregson to have the search committee consist of 3 School Committee members, 2 faculty members, 1 principal, and 3 parents, with Mrs. O'Hara as the administrative liaison coordinating the efforts. The motion passed with Mr. Martin voting no.

11.3 Protocol for reviewing the Electronic Policy Manual

Dr. Ross wants to put a policy put on each agenda but he needs to see it a week ahead.

12. Reports to the School Committee

There were no reports.

13. School Committee Concerns to be addressed to the Superintendent

Mr. Martin had concerns about student attendance at the high school the Friday before school vacation week in April.

Mrs. Cienki asked about the identity cards for the lunch program at the high school. Dr. Jolin stated that these identity cards are a part of the contract with Sodexo, and it helps them with inventory. Mrs. Cienki asked to have a notice sent home explaining why the cards are used.

Mrs. Cienki also asked about the number of special education students who are outsourced. Mrs. Brown responded that there are

27 students.

14. School Committee Procedural Business

15. School Committee Reminder List

16. Visits to Schools

Mr. Martin stated that he visited the high school to conduct an exit interview with the principal, and

he will make the School Committee members aware of his comments.

17. Public Comments (15 minutes)

Connie McCormack asked for the principal search timetable.

18. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations-

Administrators Compensation/Teachers/ Paraprofessionals, Switchboard Operator Retirement Agreement, and student kindergarten waiver hearing

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Ms. Friedemann, 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 for the purposes stated above.

19. Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session

20. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary

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Secretary