

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The first School Committee meeting for May was held on Tuesday, May 3, 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 Administration, Maryanne Crawford. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Recognitions**

3.1 The following Hanaford students were recognized for placing 2nd in their division at the Destination Imagination Tournament: Alex Cleary, Lauren Duvall, Scott Kulm, Sara Neaves, Rebecca Nunez, and Benjamin Sack.

**4. Public Comments (15 minutes) for items not on the agenda**

Mr. Gary Neaves spoke about an article in the Providence Journal from the Education Partnership about teacher contracts. He noted that it is a reasonable starting point. He sent them an East Greenwich teacher contract and it is now on their website.

**Mr. Greg DeCubellis, English Department Head, had a concern regarding the quality of applications for the new English position. He noted a difference in quality from last year and feels it is because of the bad press in this district. He stated that East Greenwich should work to recruit a high quality of people by making the contract as attractive as possible.**

**Christopher Boie, math teacher at the high school, stated that the blinds are still not installed in his classroom and he cannot use his computer first and second periods of the day. He noted that he was told that the blinds would be put in and they have not been put in. Mr. Boie gave a list of all the rooms and offices where blinds were not yet installed.**

**Connie McCormack, Librarian at the High School, asked about 6 computers that were ordered and not come in yet.**

#### **10.4 School Finance Reorganization - Consolidation**

**Dr. Jolin stated that he is not opposed to the consolidation but he wants to be assured that is it done right. He is encouraged that the town's consultant will be available. Michael Isaacs stated that he supports consolidation to make the finance department more efficient, but he feels that it has to be accomplished in a manner where the School Committee receives all the support it needs. He noted that it is beneficial to have the management consultant assist with the consolidation. Mr. Isaacs will check to see if re-bidding is necessary in order for the school department to work with the consultant. He**

added that not all functions need to be moved by July 1; there should be an objective of September 1.

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to have an independent consultant assist with creating a road map for merging the two finance departments. Mr. Sequino stated that the town will only be doing the accounting function and grants administration but no expenditures. Mr. Mattos stated that there needs to be a dialogue for the town to provide the school department the information they need. Dr. Jolin stated that the Munis system is not compatible with In\$ite, and is very complex. Mr. Mattos stated that the Auditor General is looking at a standardized chart of accounts. He also feels it can be adapted. Mrs. Friedemann stated that the consultant will create policies that are not currently in place.

Mr. Isaacs stated that the town has a finance department that is competent and their finances are in superior condition, adding that deficiencies were identified so they will not occur again. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes-None

6. Advisory or Subcommittee Reports-None

7. Communications to the School Committee-None

8. Attendance Reports -None

9. Financial Reports - None

10. New Business

10.1a Resignation

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to

**accept the resignation of Paula Dillon as yearbook advisor at East Greenwich High School at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. The motion passed unanimously and the Committee thanked Mrs. Dillon for all her hard work.**

#### **10.1b Appointment**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the appointment of Brian Hesford as boys' volunteer volleyball coach at East Greenwich High School. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **10.2 Bid Awards-NONE**

#### **10.3 Change Hours of Speech/Language Pathologist- NO RECOMMENDATION**

#### **11. Old Business**

#### **12. Reports to the School Committee**

#### **13. School Committee Concerns to be addressed to the Superintendent**

**It was noted that the outside of the high school looks terrible.**

**Mr. Bradley has concerns that the blinds are not in and computers are not there.**

#### **14. School Committee Procedural Business**

**15. School Committee Reminder List- Mr. Bradley stated that this needs to be on the agenda.**

#### **16. Visits to Schools**

**It was noted that there is a lot to be proud of in what the teachers are**

doing in the schools. Character Day at Hanaford, and Learning Week at Meadowbrook, were two examples.

Dr. Ross wants school visits in order to get feedback, and feels the meetings should be held at different schools.

#### **17. Public Comments (15 minutes)**

Donna Hayes, Librarian at Frenchtown School, has a concern that work on the windows this summer will include asbestos removal and wants to make sure teachers are aware of when to remove items from their spaces. She also stated that School Committee members do not think a mediator is necessary, but she feels one is necessary and there is a need to continue the talks.

#### **18. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations-(Administrators Compensation/Teacher Contract/ Paraprofessional Contract, Superintendent Contract Extension**

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Friedemann, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn and to go into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (1) and (2) for personnel issues, contract negotiations, administrator's compensation, teacher contract, paraprofessional contract, and Superintendent contract extension.

Respectfully submitted,

**Virginia Giuliani**