

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The third School Committee meeting for August was held on Tuesday, August 30, 2005 in the Town Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:10 p.m. Other members present were: Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, William Day, Sue Cienki, and Merrill Friedemann as well as Superintendent Michael Jolin, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara and Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford.

5. New Business.

5.1 Leave of Absence

Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the leave of absence of Christine Uhrin from her grade 6 position at Eldredge School for the 2005-2006 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Mrs. Friedemann thanked Mrs. Sousa, Mr. Meyers and Mrs. O'Hara for getting together to work on the contract. She also thanked the Principal Search Committee for their interaction between administrators, teachers, and School Committee. She also thanked Mr. Meyers and Mrs. Sousa for their work in recruiting Marie Kojian as

the Interim Principal at Frenchtown, and recruiting Christine Uhrin as the Interim Principal at Eldredge. Mrs. Friedemann also noted that the School Committee respects Mr. Meyers and Mrs. Sousa for their administrative support during the contract talks, and Mr. Gregson and Mr. Day for negotiating the contract this summer. She noted that Mrs. Cienki kept the School Committee together and spent countless hours making sure parents' concerns were addressed. She welcomed the new people to the meeting and hopes they enjoy their time in East Greenwich.

Joanne Leach welcomed everyone back and spoke about the 15 teachers who retired and their many years of service. She stated that the school system has experienced a loss.

Mrs. Kathy Higgins asked about a petition from Shady Hill residents in the Chestnut Hill development. She spoke about the safety of the children on a narrow street. Mrs. Crawford will check into this matter.

Mrs. MaryEllen Winters thanked the School Committee, especially, Mrs. Cienki, for their work on the music program. She stated that the parents have high hopes for this school year.

Mrs. Maryanne Crudale, Frenchtown teacher, stated that she does not have sufficient supplies to start school. She noted that the purchase orders were not approved or processed, and this is a detriment to the students.

5.2 Appointments

Mrs. Friedemann asked to be recused from item 5.2.2. Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was

seconded by Mr. Day to approve the following appointments: There

was no appointment for Facilities Director. The motion passed unanimously.

TEACHERS

5.2.2 Raquel Casanova, 0.3 Resource Teacher/Transition Coordinator for grades 9-12 at East Greenwich High School, effective 8-30-05

5.2.3 Joseph Payne, Grade 3 Teacher at Meadowbrook Farms School, for one year only, effective 8-30-05

5.2.4 Joanne Behrends, 0.2 Resource at East Greenwich High School, effective 8-30-05 (She is currently a 1.0 Resource Teacher at East Greenwich High School and now will be 1.2)

**5.2.5 Vincent Varrechione, full time Athletic Director for grades 7-12
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5.2.6 Appoint Facilities Director

5.2.6 Cynthia Kendall, Grade 1 at Frenchtown School, for one year only, effective 8-30-05

5.2.7 Keith Doucette, 0.2 Technology Education Teacher for East Greenwich High School, for one year only. (He is currently a 1.0 Teacher and will now be 1.2 for the 2005-2006 school year)

5.2.8 Janice Rocchio, 1.0 Reading Teacher for Cole, effective 8-30-05

5.2.9 Christine Uhrin, Acting Principal at Eldredge School, for the 2005-2006 school year.

5.2.10 Meghan Sheehan, Grade 6 Teacher at Eldredge School for the 2005-2006 school year

5.2.11 Kristen Twardowski, Cheerleader Advisor for Football and Basketball, effective 8-30-05

5.2.12 Christina Antaya Dube, 0.4 Science Teacher at East Greenwich

High School, effective 8-30-05, for one year only

5.2.13 Brian LaFauci, Soccer Coach for Cole Middle School for the fall season

5.2.14 Kelly Grennan, Yearbook Advisor at Cole Middle School, effective 8-30-05

5.2.15 Lynn Mitchell, 1.0 Mathematics Teacher at Cole Middle School, effective 8-30-05

5.2.16 Patricia Carlson, 0.3 English Teacher at east Greenwich High School, effective 8-30-05 for the 2005-2006 school year

5.2.17 Anna Lau, 0.4 Mathematics Teacher for east Greenwich High school, for one year only, effective 8-30-05

5.2.18 Nicholas Rath, Science Department Chair for the East Greenwich Public Schools

5.3 YMCA School's Out Program for the 2005-2006 school year

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the use of Meadowbrook

Farms School for the YMCA School's Out Program. The motion passed unanimously.

5.4 Creation of a district e-mail list serve

Dr. Ross asked that this be put on the agenda to provide information to people interested in the

Schools' meeting agendas, plays, music, sporting events and press releases. The motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Amend Agenda Template – move reports to the School Committee to before the first public

Comment. This agenda item was to keep people informed as to what

is important in the district. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the change in the agenda template. The motion passed unanimously.

5.6 Confidential Secretary Function

This item was tabled until the next School Committee meeting until agreements are prepared.

5.7 Meeting Site for September

Mr. Bradley stated that he would like to meet at Town Hall because other members do not want to meet there. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to have future meetings at Hanaford School. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to remove the discussion on the organization of the vice-chair to open session. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gregson then made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to remove Mr. Martin as vice-chair. Dr. Ross stated that this item should not be discussed unless Mr. Martin is present. Mr. Gregson stated that Mr. Martin was charged with reporting on SORICO meetings he was to attend on a regular basis and has not done this. Mr. Bradley stated that Mr. Martin made some comments which were disturbing to the School Committee, and he asked him not to do that, but he does not believe he should be removed. Dr. Ross stated that the main reason it is on the agenda is what Mr. Martin said, but words carry a lot of power and Mr. Martin is allowed to say what he thinks. Mr. Gregson stated that the vice-chair position is one of leadership and he doesn't feel Mr.

Martin has exhibited the qualities of a leader. Mr. Gregson stated that Mr. Martin has used poor judgment in several instances. Mrs. Friedemann stated that spent a lot of time this summer working on the High School Principal Search, and there was some idea that the search committee prevented a member of their administration from getting hired. She stated that she agrees with the composition of the High School Search Committee. Dr. Ross made a motion to table this until Mr.

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Martin can be present. There was no second. On the motion to remove Mr. Martin as vice-chair, Mr. Day, Mr. Gregson, Mrs. Friedemann and Mrs. Cienki voted yes, and Mr. Bradley and Dr. Ross voted no. The motion passed. Mr. Gregson then made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to appoint Mrs. Friedemann vice-chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments (15 minutes)

Carol Alfano asked if the September 20 meeting could be re-scheduled because of open house at Frenchtown.

Christopher Boie, Math Teacher at the high school, asked about the blinds for the high school. He

noted that science classes that had blinds have had them removed.

Mrs. Christine Mattos stated that the school website is lacking and the last update was on June 7th. She also thanked Mrs. Cienki and Mrs. Friedemann. She noted that personal attacks at School

Committee meetings need to be stopped.

Mr. Lou Lepry stated that he has been listening to school Committee's for 50 years. He is confused about the leadership and noted that it took one year to find a high school principal. He asked the School Committee to do something right.

Dr. Ross noted that he read the papers in town and the school Committee did not start looking for a high school principal for a year. He added that the Committee did not rush into something. He mentioned that the Town Council cut the School Department's budget by \$800,000 and asked where the people of east Greenwich were when that happened.

On a motion made by Mrs. Friedemann and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) for Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations-Paraprofessional, and Custodial, Litigation and Settlement Leaks, School Committee Organization-Vice-Chair.

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary