

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The School Committee meeting for September was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at the Hanaford School. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were: Merrill Friedemann, Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, William Day, and Sue Cienki, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara and Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford.

2. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Announcement on the vote of the Superintendent of Schools

At the Executive Session on August 30, 2005, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve Charles Meyers as Superintendent.

4. Reports

Leadership Restructuring report was given by Superintendent Meyers. He stated that there is a need to manage a quality education for all students. He noted that Mrs. O'Hara's responsibilities would include Special Education, State Assessment (NECAP), No Child Left Behind Legislation, State and Federal Grants, Supervision of Nurses,

Reading Specialists, and High School Reform Initiatives. Mr. Meyers also stated that Mrs. Sousa's role will be expanded and she will be supervising principal and coordinator of elementary education. He noted that skilled curriculum and assessment coordinators will be brought in.

Mrs. McCormack, NEA Union President, asked if there will be enough money for teachers' professional development if that money is used to hire consultants. Mr. Meyers stated that additional money will be received from the state this year and there will be enough.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. June 21, 2005 Executive Session-Mr. Gregson made a motion to table these minutes until the next meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Day and was unanimous.

b. August 2, 2005 Regular & Executive Session. These minutes were approved with Dr. Ross voting no.

c. August 16, 2005 Executive Session. Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve these minutes. The motion passed unanimously

d. August 16, 2005 School Committee Meeting. These minutes were tabled until the October 4 meeting.

e. August 30, 2005 School Committee Meeting. Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve these minutes. The motion passed

with Mr. Martin abstaining.

7. New Business

7.2 Resignation

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the following resignations: The motion passed unanimously.

7.2.2 Michael Wood, Intramural Football Coach at Cole Middle School effective 8-28-05.

7.2.3 Lisa Kane, Paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective August 29, 2005

7.3 Appointments

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve items 7.3.3, 7.3.4, 7.3.5. The motion passed unanimously.

110

7.3.3 Vote to divide the budgeted 0.2 Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements

coordinator position into 2 positions- the 0.1 senior project faculty coordinator and the 0.1 sophomore exhibition coordinator.

7.3.4 Ryan Lynch, 0.1 Sophomore Exhibition Coordinator at East Greenwich High

School. His total position will be 1.1 for one year only.

7.3.5 Ellise Wolff, 0.1 Senior Project Faculty Coordinator at East Greenwich High

School. Her total position will be 0.7 for one year only.

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

the following

appointments with the exception of 7.3.7. The motion passed unanimously.

7.3.6 Frank Lenox, 0.2 Principles of Engineering position at East Greenwich High

School, for one year only. This would bring his position to 1.2 for the 2005-2006 school year.

7.3.7 Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the appointment of Robert Wilmarth as Facilities Director. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Meyers thanked Mr. Gregson, Mrs. Crawford and Mr. DeSaia for their work in the search.

7.3.8 Jaycee Winiarski, Paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective

September 6, 2005

7.3.9 Derek Mong, Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms School, for one year

only, effective August 31, 2005

7.3.10 Joanne Capaldi, Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms School, for one year

only, effective August 31, 2005

7.3.11 Michael Florio, additional 0.4 Health/Physical Education Teacher at East

Greenwich High School, bringing his total position to 1.0.

7.3.12 Sarah Sewatsky, Freshman Class Advisor for the class of 2009

7.3.13 Erin Rath, School Based Coordinator at EGHS.

7.3.14 Patricia Winters, Elementary School Mentor Coordinator

7.3.15 Linda Alix, Middle School Mentor Coordinator

7.3.16 JoAnn Mallozzi, High School Mentor Coordinator

7.3.17 Andrea Nectow, Paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective 9-14-05

7.3.18 Leslie Green, additional 0.5 School Nurse Teacher at Eldredge School, one year only.

8. Home School Plans

Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the following

School Plans. The motion passed unanimously.

a. Connors, Grade 4; Colucci, grade 8th grade Neaves, grade 5

9. Approval SORICO Cooperative Agreement

The Chair of the Jamestown School Committee, Cathy Kaiser, was present at the meeting to

talk about the resolution to support the feasibility study. She noted that it gives all districts flexibility in business operations. Mr. Meyers attended a meeting on this issue and is excited about the possibility of cost savings, curriculum work and professional development. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the cooperative agreement with SORICO. The motion passed unanimously.

10. School Committee Concerns

a. Recordings of School Committee Meetings

Mr. Bradley stated that he would like to meet at the high school in the future, use the Eldredge equipment, and then put out a bid for a sound system. Dr. Ross stated that the central office maintains the minutes. He feels that the cost to record the minutes is not necessary. He noted that the school district has to keep the recordings forever. Mr. Bradley wanted to get a written summary from the Town of East Greenwich on how they store their tapes. Mrs. Friedemann stated that she is going to meet with the Town to discuss how they store their minutes. Mr. Gregson stated that it is difficult to get the

111

quality of recordings and the best possible technology is needed. He does not want to go out to bid until all School Committee concerns are addressed.

11. Consideration of Public Comment Elimination and Public Comment if to be continued.

Mrs. Cienki feels the public comment section should be kept. Mrs. Friedemann read a letter from the ACLU which was sent to Coventry School Committee asking them to change their policy on public comments. She feels that out attorney should call Mr. Tobin, the Coventry School Committee Attorney.

Aliza Stopa and Megan Nugent, student council representatives from the high school, stated that the

open forum should be kept. They also spoke about a fundraiser being held at the high school, Caring for Katrina. They noted that they have had positive feedback on Mr. Levine, and two students from each grade will be a liaison to him.

Dr. Ross has problems with people speaking about personnel issues during the open meeting,

but he feels it is undemocratic to eliminate it. Mrs. Friedemann stated that it requires more research. Mr. Martin stated that it does get personal when a School Committee member gets up and criticizes another member. He noted that he is a great believer in freedom of speech and School Committee members should know they may get criticized. Mrs. Friedemann stated that there are Rhode Island General Laws that protect certain individuals from public criticism and they get to choose the forum in which they are criticized. Mr. Bradley stated that the School Committee previously had some relationship issues with the community and it would be counter productive to shut communications down. The School Committee lawyer, Matthew Oliverio, was asked for a legal opinion on whether School Committee members could respond to public comments. He noted that there is nothing in the Open Meetings Act or statutes which prohibit interactions with the public during the public comment period. He also stated that the School Committee is prohibited from discussing performance but cannot stop the public from speaking. If speaking about an employee you have to provide them with notice. They have a right to open it up and you cannot shut down the right of the public to be heard. Mr. Oliverio stated that the School Committee

is duty bound to accept and encourage a variety of opinions. He discouraged the School Committee from abolishing the public comments. Dr. Ross asked if the Superintendent could respond. Mr. Oliverio stated that the Superintendent can respond to general comments because he is not an elected official.

MaryJane Jansen, co-president of the high school PTG, stated that the year is going along nicely and Mr. Levine is great. She noted that there were a lot of bus issues, but Mr. Meyers and Mrs. Crawford worked very hard on them.

12. On a motion made by Dr. Ross 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) at 8:35 p.m. for Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations-(Custodians), Administrative Contracts, Retro request by Carol Brown, and Unfair Labor Practice #5763.