

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**1. Call to Order**

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Merrill Friedemann, Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, William Day, and Sue Cienki, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara

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

**3. State of District**

**a. Superintendent's Update**

Mr. Meyers gave an update on the Cole situation and thanked the crisis management team at Cole, Helen O'Hara and the East Greenwich Police for their cooperation and help in his decision to cancel school at Cole on January 6. He noted that the day was used to search the school to ensure that it was safe and secure. He added that the Cole staff handled the situation in a calm and professional manner.

Mr. Meyers also spoke about the high school principal search. He noted that 28 applications have come in and a meeting will be held on January 11 to conduct a paper screening.

**The Superintendent noted that the SALT visit is underway at the high school, and the Facilities Committee recently had their third meeting. They will have a report at the February 7 School Committee meeting.**

**Mr. Meyers stated that March 30 is a professional development day focusing on training. He also noted that a joint committee has been meeting to look at different models of evaluation.**

**b. Staff Updates**

**c. Reports - Financial**

**Mrs. Crawford reported on unanticipated expenditures and stated that the school**

**department may end up with a deficit. She noted that she is trying to avoid this and putting policies and procedures in place, but spending may be cut February 1. Mrs. Crawford will check on whether the Auditor General needs to be notified if we run a deficit.**

**4. Public Comments for items not on the Agenda**

**Mrs. Christine Mattos stated that the blinds in the high school cafeteria and the entryway at Meadowbrook look great. She also thanked the Superintendent and Mrs. Cienki for their help in providing dental care to a student. Mrs. Mattos noted that she was disturbed that a guidance counselor at the high school told her that, in response to a student who does not have family support, college is not for everyone.**

**5. Recognitions – there were no recognitions.**

**6. Approval of Minutes**

**Executive Sessions for December 6 and 20, and December 20 meeting**

**On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2006 Executive Session.**

**On a motion made by Mrs. Cienki and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 20 School Committee meeting with minor changes.**

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**On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Dr. Ross, the voted to table the minutes of the December 20 Executive Session until an addition is made. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1a Appointments**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the following appointments: A lengthy discussion was held concerning the new position of mail delivery person and where the money would be coming from. Mrs. Crawford stated that funding was in the budget for a part-time clerk at central office who was not hired. Mr. Gregson asked if someone could take a look at the daytime custodians to see if they are doing their jobs. 7.1.1 Ralph Apici, Part-time Mail Delivery Person, effective 1-3-06**

**7.1.2 Mark Scott, Head Custodian at Eldredge School, effective 1-3-06**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **7.1b Resignation**

**On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted**

**unanimously to accept the following resignation:**

**7.1.3 Jan Breidenbach, Elementary Orchestra Position at Hanaford and Eldredge**

**Schools, effective September 1, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.**

**7.1c Parental Leaves**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the following parental leaves:**

**7.1.4 Robin Corsi, preschool psychologist, from January 7, 2006 until 6-19-06**  
**7.1.5 Denise Champney, preschool, speech language pathologist, from March 8, 2006 until June 19, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.**

**8. New position - certified part-time preschool special educator to work three days a week for 2.5 hours per day.**

**9. New position -12 hours per week (3 days x 4 hours) for a paraprofessional to support the new preschool class. Mrs. O'Hara stated that the preschool at Meadowbrook is full and there s a need for an extra teacher and paraprofessional. She noted that this will be funded through Medicaid. Mrs. Friedemann asked if the law says that a paraprofessional's time can be reimbursed. Mrs. O'Hara stated that it can be when the paraprofessional works one on one with a student.**

**Several Committee members feel that the Medicaid money should be a line item and it should show the reimbursement. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the two special education positions. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **10. Second Reading and Vote - Character Education Policy**

**Mr. Meyers read the policy. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the Character Education Policy for the East Greenwich Public Schools. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **11. Bid Award-Health Care Insurance Consultant**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Friedemann to award the bid for a healthcare consultant to Cornerstone Group in the amount of \$10,000. Mrs. Friedemann stated that Mr. Cardello has looked at health care for the town and it has saved considerable money. Mr. Cardello needs the information by April 1, and Mrs. Crawford fees that that deadline can be met. Mrs. Friedemann stated that West Bay Community Health needs to be notified by April 1 that the school department no longer will contract with them. On the motion to approve the bid**

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**award, Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Friedemann, Mr. Gregson, and Mrs. Cienki voted yes, and Dr. Ross, Mr. Martin and Mr. Day voted no. Dr. Ross indicated that he voted no because he thought the price would be lower. The motion passed.**

## **12. Vote on High School Program of Studies**

**Mr. Levine stated that only one additional position would be needed for the next school year which is a 0.8 portfolio and senior project position. Mrs. Friedemann is pleased to see the Forensics Course was added. She noted that Dr. Zielinski Habershaw of Brown University will be in touch with Mr. Rath. Mrs. Cienki is concerned**

that the high school has the computer technology they need for the new courses. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the additional courses to the Program of Studies including Portfolio and Senior Project. Mr. Levine explained that the coordinator in charge of portfolio and senior project will work with students, teachers, administrators and guidance counselors. He added that the person may have an English background and may need to be full-time in order to complete the job.

### **13. International Trips for 2007: France in April; Spain in June-Insurance Requirement**

Mr. Meyers stated that he is still awaiting insurance certificates naming the East Greenwich Public Schools as additional insured. He noted that he did receive a policy statement from Vistas in Education concerning students not being allowed to consume alcoholic beverages in the host family homes. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the foreign trips on the condition that the policy the alcoholic beverage policy is instituted and insure that the school department is in receipt of the two required certificates of insurance. Mr. Gregson asked why the School Committee has to approve the trips if the group is purchasing separate insurance. Mrs. Crawford stated that our insurer wants the East Greenwich Public Schools as additional insured. Mrs. Chavez stated that students will receive a discount if they enroll by spring 2006. Mrs. Friedemann feels that a new policy is needed on trips. On the motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee voted unanimously to table the trips until the information

is presented.

#### **14. School Committee Concerns**

**Mr. Day asked about lights in the high school parking lot. Mrs. Friedemann thanked Mrs. Crawford and Mr. Mattos for getting the audit done on time. Dr. Ross asked for a budget schedule for the list serve. He noted that he is in the process of setting up a meeting for the health and wellness committee. A special education seminar is set for March 6. Mrs. Friedemann mentioned a Town Council meeting on January 30th. Mr. Gregson noted that the town has decided that capping the landfill will be put on the back burner. He stated that the process needs to be started about what to do if six fields are put in at the high school. He also noted that the police and fire departments have concerns with one way in and one way out. Mr. Martin asked for a winter sports schedule. Mrs. Cienki wants an ongoing plan for communications. She also would like to request that Jerry Nettik, Director of Technology, come to a School Committee meeting to talk about what is going to be done with new computers at Meadowbrook. Mr. Bradley stated that the chart of accounts doesn't match, and would like the correct coding by January 30th.**

#### **15. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda**

**Ellen Shanos asked if there will be a district-wide program for each school to use for the Character Counts Program. Mr. Meyers responded that the Character Counts Policy will now go to the Curriculum Council, and will be a piece of the Wellness Committee.**

**Mrs. Christine Mattos asked about the budget deficit. She feels that**

**expenses disallowed after February 1 will cause public concern.**

**16. On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session, under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) for Special Education Litigation Issues, Personnel, and Principal Contract Renewal.**

**In Open Session at 8:40 p.m., Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to seal the minutes of the January 10, 2006 Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Ross announced the motion he made to send a letter to Principal Tara McAuliffe about her contract renewal. Mr. Gregson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani  
Secretary**