

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

1. Call to Order

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, February 14, 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, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, Robert Wilmarth and Jerry Nettik.

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

3. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Eliza Stopa and Megan Nugent, Student Council Representatives, reported on high school spirit events for Valentine's Day, and March Madness.

4. Public Hearing on 2007 Budget

Mr. Meyers reported that the proposed budget for 2007 is \$29,451,224, which is an increase of 6.4%. This is based on 2500 students. Dr. Ross stated that the school department has suffered from deferred field maintenance in the past, and we have under-funded facilities. The Town Council should be aware about the

hole in the maintenance and facilities. Mr. Gregson feels that the Facilities Committee needs to address the capital improvement plan first. Mrs. Friedemann requested a spreadsheet for all benefits. Mrs. Christine Mattos asked if there was an end point for Ernie DeSaia, for the Project Coordinator services, and asked it was budgeted. Mr. Meyers responded that the relationship with Ahlborg was discontinued and Mr. DeSaia will be here throughout the summer. Mr. Meyers stated that he is being paid out of the warrant articles.

Mrs. Mattos also asked about the payment for ticket takers and timekeepers at sporting events.

Mr. Sequino asked the Committee if they could adopt a budget quicker.

5. Technology Plan Report

Jerry Nettik stated that technology was crude when he arrived and today there is a solid infrastructure, but more classroom technology is needed. He also stated that the computer lab at Cole is very outdated. Mrs. Cienki asked about where the school department stands with curriculum and software integration. Mr. Nettik noted that he is impressed with the high school's software requests and the fact that 100% of the teachers are currently using technology. He also noted that all data from 2500 student records needs to be converted to School Max, and the program iparent, which should streamline the process of transcripts, may be available late fall. Mr. Gregson asked if there was a plan to obtain grant money. Mr. Nettik replied that some science teachers at the high school have applied for grant money. He also spoke about having a smart board presentation at

the next meeting. Mrs. Friedemann asked for specs for the new smart board system.

Mr. Bradley thanked Mr. Nettik for getting the school department where they are today and added that Mr. Nettik has made some good decisions. He also thanked him for his patience with School Max.

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6. New Business

6.1a Teacher Advancement on Tenure Track:

first year to second; second year to third year; third year to tenure.

Mr. Meyers noted that the names are more informational and do not need a vote.

6.1b Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the non-renewal of the attached teacher contracts. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Meyers noted that most of the non-renewals were hired for one year only, or hired for teachers on leave, and once the job fair is held some teachers will be brought back.

7. SORICO Report

Mr. Martin stated that SORICO is comprised of nine superintendents from nine southern districts, and one School Committee member from each district, and the Alternate Learning program is housed there also. He added that SORICO offers services and programs to all districts.

8. Report from Health Care Consultant

Mr. Cardello had a meeting with Blue Cross and expects to receive the data he requested. He spoke about mail order programs for medications and where dollars can be saved, but people need to be educated. A wellness program was also discussed. Mr. Cardello noted that North Kingstown is going with United Health. It was stated that our contract with West Bay Community Health expires on April 1, 2006.

9. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Gregson noted that a request for additional parking spaces at the high school should go through the Facilities Committee.

10. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda

Mr. Robert Vespia is disappointed to see the senior project coordinator in the budget. He feels the position is not needed. He would like to see the custodial staff increased since the schools are dirty. Mr. Vespia also noted that the administration is top heavy and priorities need to be set.

11. On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Dr. Ross, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Personnel Issues, Process for Selection of Attorneys, and Discussion on scope and extent of legal representation regarding contract negotiations and special education litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

In Open Session at 10:30 p.m. Dr. Ross made a motion which was

seconded by Mrs. Cienki to direct the Superintendent to negotiate with Richard Ackerman to enter into continued legal services for teacher contract negotiations, and with Oliverio and Marcaccio for all other legal services. The motion passed with Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Friedemann voting no. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. and to seal the minutes of the executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

**Virginia Giuliani
Secretary**