

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, April 4, 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: Paul Martin, Dr. Ross, Steve Gregson, William Day, and Sue Cienki, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, and Robert Wilmarth, Director of Facilities. Mrs. Friedemann arrived at the meeting at 7:43 p.m. and Mr. Martin arrived five minutes late.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. State of District

a. Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent spoke about the high school's SALT Report and noted that the Mr. Levine and the high school leadership team will present a report in May. Mr. Meyers spoke about the portrait of the high school in section 3 of the report and noted that the high school has begun to rebuild itself and is poised to make significant progress.

He noted the good leadership and quality special education programs. Mr. Meyers stated that the School Committee needs to support new high school reforms, additional technology, and health and safety issues that exist.

4. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda-There were no public comments.

5. Approval of Minutes

March 7 and March 14 Meetings and March 7 and 14 Executive Sessions

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes with a few minor changes. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Recognitions

6.1 Lauren Cunningham, from East Greenwich High School, was recognized as Alternate Best of Fair Winner for the RI State Science and Engineering Fair and for receiving a First Place Grant Award. Lauren was present at the meeting to receive her certificate.

7. New Business

7.1a Retirements

7.1.1 Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to accept the retirement of Philip Senecal, Grade 4 at Eldredge, at the end of the 2005-2006 school year, after 28 years of service. The motion passed unanimously.

7.1b Parental Leave

7.1.2 Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the parental leave for Denise Champney, Speech and Language Pathologist, from 4-10 to 6-20-06, under article 9-4 of the new teacher's contract. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Vote on Recording Future Meetings

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to

record future meetings. Mr. Bradley stated that he wants to have complete accuracy for all meetings, and feels that people are more disciplined when they speak if they know they are being taped. Mr. Martin stated that the Town Council has been doing this for a long time. Dr. Ross asked if the Fire

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Department records meetings, and asked if it will improve education for our kids. He stated that it doesn't matter what is being said but just the motions and if it passes by a majority vote. Mr. Gregson feels that people will say whatever they want. Dr. Ross made a motion to table the vote until the next meeting to allow our attorney time to evaluate the recordings of meetings and write a policy. This was seconded by Mr. Day and was unanimous.

9. Adding Parking Adjacent to EGHS Building

Mr. Bradley wants ten more parking spaces for parents. Mr. Wilmarth spoke to the town and they will take care of the labor as far as removing trees and paving. Dr. Ross suggested that time slots be put or a meter. He also stated that there are spaces in the teacher's parking lot. Mr. Gregson feels that there is no need for additional parking at the high school, and the Committee is spending dollars they do not have. He added that the facilities committee will have reports on demands for parking. Mr. Meyers will have signage put up to state that there is parking in the back lot at the high school. Mr. Martin does not want any trees removed and feels that the principal of the school designates who has the spots. Mr. Gregson doesn't feel there is a need to reserve the spots for School Committee or anyone

else. Mrs. Friedemann asked for the costs, and noted that the seniors are very angry and everything is anti-school. She added that seniors want to know why the school department is spending money for anything. Mrs. Friedemann also feels that seniors don't want a bond issue; therefore the school department needs to start doing work in the community. Mr. Martin stated that he was aware of the senior tax meeting tonight but feels that if you are elected to the School Committee you should be on time for meetings. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to defer the parking issue to see what happens after the paving and after the facilities committee looks at it. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bradley made a motion to have the Superintendent authorize four parking spaces at the high school during the day. There was no second.

10. Second Reading and Vote on Plagiarism Policy

Mrs. Friedemann asked if our lawyers read the policy. Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to table this vote until the attorneys come back with an opinion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. First Reading of Bus Idling Policy

Mr. Wilmarth stated that this policy is to save fuel and not pollute the environment. He noted that the policy will be written into the bus contract. No action was needed at this time.

12. Discussion on Formulation of Finance and Personnel Advisory Sub-Committees

Mr. Meyers stated that this committee will be similar to the facilities committee which gives advice to the Superintendent and School

Committee. Dr. Ross is in favor of this and feels that we should take advantage of the expertise of townspeople. Dr. Ross made a motion to direct the Superintendent to set policies and procedures to create a finance and personnel subcommittee. Mrs. Cienki seconded the motion. Mr. Martin and Mrs. Friedemann voted no, and the motion passed.

13. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Friedemann feels that the School Committee should focus on hiring a human resources person and the town could have that person also. Mr. Gregson asked to have the door secured in the gym and the principal needs to be aware if it is being broken daily. Mr. Martin asked about the boulder put on the athletic fields to prevent cars on the field. It was noted that the town will remove it.

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Mr. Bradley stated that he didn't go to the senior meeting tonight because he knows the Town Council has no intention of freezing the taxes. Mr. Gregson feels the senior meeting should have been held another night so School Committee could be there.

Mrs. Friedemann asked for an explanation of other in the school budget presentation and noted that the Town Council has a narrative on their budget and the school department should have one also.

14. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda

Renu Engelhart stated that something needs to be in the paper concerning the budget hearing. She noted that she is not happy about the taxes since she cannot afford them. She also asked for the

paperwork ahead of time.

15. On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) for Special Education Litigation and Personnel Grievance Updates.

Respectfully submitted,

**Virginia Giuliani
Secretary**