

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, April 25, 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 Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, Maryanne Crawford, and Robert Wilmarth, Director of Facilities. Mrs. Friedemann was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. State of District

a. Superintendent's Update

b. Updated financial report including variance versus budget.

Mrs. Crawford spoke about factors which increased the budget. Mr. Gregson asked about two sets of numbers on calculations for teacher's salaries; one set approved by Richard Ackerman, and one by Jane Argentieri. Mrs. Connie McCormack stated that she signed the teacher's contract and it was the one that Mr. Ackerman faxed to the Superintendent. Mr. Bradley noted that he was assured by the Superintendent that the salaries were correct, and had the endorsement of Mr. Ackerman.

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

public comments.

5. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2006 School Committee meeting and Executive Session.

6. Recognitions

6.1 Laura Kulm, Cole student, was recognized for winning the State Geography Bee.

6.2 Cole Robotics Team was recognized for earning 2 first place awards, 1 second place award and 2 honorable mentions: Alexander Rickert, Brandon Gomeau, Christopher Capuano, Jamie Liu, Prasanth Somasundar, Daniel Ratigan, Brendan Larcom and Christopher Ryan are the members.

6.3 Courtney Griggs, Foreign Language Teacher at EGHS, was recognized for being selected by the RI Foreign Language Association as the Novice Teacher of the Year Award to attend the Northeast Conference in New York City.

6.4 Monica Rosenberg, Mathew Glantz, and Jason Wong, students at the high school, were recognized for qualifying for the American Invitational Mathematics Competition

6.5 Winter Sports Recognitions-The Boys' Swim Team (sportsmanship award) and Girls' Swim Team (3rd in the state) were recognized by the School Committee. Mr. Vincent Varrecchione, Athletic Director, spoke about their many accomplishments, and recognized their coach, Nicole Mancini.

7. New Business

7.1a Retirements at the end of the 2005-2006 school year under article A-7 of the contract between the East Greenwich School Committee and the EGEA/NEARI/NEA: Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the following teacher retirements: The motion passed unanimously.

7.1.1 Teresa Lynch, Frenchtown Grade two, 32 years of service

Ron Stabile, Cole Music, 27 years of service

Chris Walsh, Cole Social Studies, 29 years of service

Joanne Behrends, High School Special Education, 29 years of service

155

7.1b Appointment

7.1.2 Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the appointment of Deb McMullen as Badminton Advisor at Cole Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.

7.1c Resignation

7.1.3 Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to accept the resignation of Fred Procopio, School Physician for the East Greenwich Public Schools for the past 13 years, effective June 30, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of upcoming meeting on May 1 with Town Council on \$400,000 escrow funds

It was noted that Mr. Gregson, Mrs. Cienki, and Mr. Meyers met to recommend how the money should be distributed and Mrs. Cienki noted that she met with Jerry Nettik to talk about using \$150,000 for the long range plans for technology. Mrs. Cienki also noted that new technology is needed to implement new courses. She also noted that \$250,000 would be used for unanticipated repairs to Cole Middle School and scheduled replacements and repairs to facilities. Mr. Wilmarth stated that the condition of the schools needs to be improved for students and faculty. Dr. Ross feels that the School Committee should ask the Town Council for the money to help kids with education. Mr. Bradley feels we have excellent education and deplorable buildings and we have failed to protect the integrity of our investment. Mr. Gregson feels the School Committee failed to show the need. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to request the \$400,000 escrow that the Town Council established last year for improvements in technology and improvements in facilities. The motion passed with Mr. Gregson and Mr. Day voting no.

9. Second Reading and Vote on Plagiarism Policy

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the Plagiarism Policy for the East Greenwich Public Schools. The honor board has to come up with policies and procedures. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Second Reading and Vote on Bus Idling Policy

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the Bus Idling Policy for the East Greenwich Public Schools. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Vote to Award Bid for Landscaping/Snow Plowing Service

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the bid for landscaping/snow plowing services. This is subject to endorsement by our legal counsel because of a grievance which was filed. Mr. Wilmarth noted that it would allow one maintenance person to go back to work in the schools. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Vote on Issuing an RFP for design and engineering of the McHale Property

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to issue an RFP for the design and engineering of the McHale property fields. It was noted that we are waiting for DEM approval. Peter Dion, physical education teacher at Cole, stated that he is trying to get a home cross country course and walking trails. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Out-of-State Field Trips: 1) Cole Middle School to Deerfield, MA on 5-6. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the Cole field trip to Deerfield, MA on May 6, subject to finalization with our insurance company. Mr. Gregson expressed his concern with liability insurance and the roles and responsibilities for chaperone. The motion passed unanimously.

14. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Gregson asked if the May 2 School Committee meeting could be cancelled.

15. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda-There were no public comments.

16. Executive Session, RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2), Special Education Litigation

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:30p.m. as stated above.

Respectfully submitted,