

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**1. Call to Order**

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were: Paul Martin, Dr. Ross, Steve Gregson, Sue Cienki and Merrill Friedemann , as well as Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Robert Wilmarth, Director of Facilities. Mr. Day 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**

The Superintendent reported that high school graduation was very successful and professionally done.

Mr. Meyers spoke about the reduction in State Aid for East Greenwich. A letter will be sent to legislators urging them to restore our State Aid. Mr. Gregson noted that Representative Robert Watson did a great job standing up for East Greenwich during the State Aid discussions.

**b. Reports - Finance**

Mrs. Crawford stated that the deficit will be \$100,000 but may change.

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

**There were no public comments.**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

### **May 16 Executive Session and Regular Session**

**On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2006 meeting and Executive Session.**

## **6. Recognitions**

**Mr. Meyers noted that the Girls' varsity Lacrosse team won the State Championship, and the Boys' Varsity Baseball team was the runner-up.**

## **7. Approval of EdNets Website Contract**

**Mr. Meyers noted that the contract is not ready for approval. He stated that it provides website services for revenue for special projects in East Greenwich, and will approve the website appearance and content at no cost to the district. He also noted that this is an opportunity for small local businesses to advertise at a reduced price.**

**Mr. Meyers noted that policies regarding commercialization law need to be approved first. Dr. Ross is in favor of pursuing this to do the work on our website.**

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 Appointments**

#### **8.1.1 Domenic Giusti, Principal of Eldredge School**

**Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the appointment of Domenic Giusti as Principal of Eldredge School. Mr. Meyers stated that he has completed all the requirements for principal, and we are fortunate to have someone of Dom's**

character. Mr. Giusti thanked the Committee for their support in allowing him to take a year's leave to be a principal intern. He noted that he will make everyone proud. Mr. Martin has a concern about us not having a policy on future or potential administrators. Mrs. Friedemann stated that Mrs. Sousa deserves the Committee's gratitude for the work she did. She thanked Ms. Uhrin for her service as interim principal. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **8.1.2 Christopher Wren, 1.0 Biology/General Science Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective August 29, 2006**

On a motion made by Mrs. Cienki and seconded by Dr. Ross, the Committee

voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Christopher Wren as Biology/General Science Teacher at EGHS.

#### **8.1.3 Social Studies (2) positions at Cole Middle School**

The appointments were not ready for these positions.

#### **8.1.4 Guidance (1) position at Cole Middle School**

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee

voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Rosie Metcalf as Guidance Counselor at Archie Cole Middle School.

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointments: The motion passed unanimously.

#### **8.1.5 Ramona McGillivray, Science Teacher at Cole, 06-07 school year**

**8.1.6 Raven Quimby, Science Teacher at Cole, 06-07 school year**

**8.1.7 Donna Morris, grade 6 at Hanaford School, effective 8-29-06**

## **9. Bid Awards**

**9.1 Fire Alarm System at Cole to Commercial Electric Co. for \$247,000**

**Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the bid award for Fire Alarms at Cole. The motion passed unanimously.**

**9.2 Bus Transportation – Laidlaw Transit, Inc., 3 year contract**

**Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the bid for Laidlaw for bus transportation, with a three year contract. Mrs. Crawford stated that there are several concerns with Laidlaw, which were expressed in the contract. She noted that they have made an attempt to address these concerns. Mrs. Crawford noted that there will be a performance bond also. Dr. Ross would like us to follow-up with other bus companies to see why they did not bid.**

**Mrs. Friedemann recommends that the School Committee have contracts reviewed before they are signed. Dr. Ross made a motion to table the vote on the Laidlaw contract until the July 18 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**9.3 Technology Lease**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the technology financing for a tax exempt lease for a three year period. Mr. Jerry Nettik stated that this will infuse technology for the high school and middle school. Mrs. Friedemann has reservations about the three year lease. Dr. Ross stated that this is**

**the same risk we take with every contract, but he is concerned with our ability to fund this lease. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **9.4 McHale Property Engineering & Design**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to award the bid for McHale Property Engineering and Design to Kaestle Boos in the amount of \$124,600. Mr. Gregson stated that he met with Ernie DeSaia to**

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**go over the two proposals. Mr. Caito, Principal of the John Caito Group, spoke to the Committee about his and George Gifford's research of the property, noting that they are best equipped to do the work. Mr. Gregson stated that this site has significant challenges because there is not a lot of dry land there. He feels that Caito is the most unique firm to address the issues there. The motion to award the bid to Kaestle Boos did not pass. Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to award the bid to Caito Corporation in the amount of \$13,500. The motion passed with Mr. Martin and Mrs. Cienki voting no.**

#### **9.5 Dust Collector at Cole to RIVCO**

**Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to award the bid for the dust collector to RIVCO in the amount of \$8,200.00. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **10. Presentation on Middle School Concept**

**Mr. Militello, Mr. Zajac and Mrs. Meyer were present at the meeting. Mr. Militello noted that they have been in the middle school concept**

for two years now. He also stated that it is a shame that the students of East Greenwich don't have the facility they deserve. Mrs. Meyer noted the Showcase of Student Work which had great parent feedback.

Mrs. Friedemann left the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

#### **11. High School Student Handbook Changes**

Mr. Levine noted that he removed the World of Difference Pledge. He also noted that the State of Rhode Island has a law about the use of cell phones in schools therefore he had to put this in the handbook. On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the changes to the High School Student Handbook. Mr. Bradley was not present for the vote.

#### **12. Finance Advisory Committee Charge**

There was a consensus to move ahead with the charge and advertise for members. Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to accept the charge with the inclusion of Dr. Ross' question #5. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **13. SORICO Report from Paul Martin**

Mr. Martin stated that he will give this report at a later time.

#### **14. Report from Paul Martin on visits to schools**

Mr. Martin stated that this discussion will be held when there are seven members present.

#### **15. Update on consolidation of finance department and potential for hiring a human resources professional for the Town of East**

## **Greenwich and the School Department**

**Town Manager Sequino has requested that the School Committee join the Town in this study. Mr. Meyers feels that this should be done. Mrs. Friedemann wants the school department to consolidate attorney's fees since we went over budget again. Mr. Meyers fees that the consolidation was not smooth and we are in a reactive mode rather than a proactive mode, since a lot of adjustments had to be made. Dr. Ross is opposed to the study because we may have to pay someone. Mr. Martin echoed Dr. Ross' comments. Mrs. Cienki wants the study to be specific. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to enter into the study with the Town for an RFQ on Human Resources, committing no money. The motion passed with Mrs. Cienki and Dr. Ross voting no.**

## **16. School Committee Concerns**

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**Mr. Bradley would like a letter in Ms. Uhrin's personnel file saying how much the School Committee appreciates the work she did as Interim Principal.**

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

**18. 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 10:08 p.m. under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2), for Personnel, Special Education Litigation, Committee Member Friedemann's question: Where are we going administratively?**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**