

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, September 5, 2006 in the Town Council Chambers. The following members were present: Vincent Bradley, Merrill Friedemann, Paul Martin, Sue Cienki, William Day, Steve Gregson and Dr. Al Ross, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, Helen O'Hara and Attorney Matthew Oliverio.

7:00 p.m.to 8:00p.m. Executive Session, RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) Student Hearing, Discussion and Vote on a lack of confidence in Merrill Friedemann's performance as Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Matthew Oliverio, School Committee Legal Counsel, was asked how the vice-chair matter scheduled for executive session could be held in executive session. He stated that he previously advised the School Committee that exemptions when the statute refers to entitlement of persons did apply to them. When you have a discussion of job performance, you have to agree unanimously that it be held in Executive Session. Mr. Oliverio stated that an issue was raised on the propriety of the posting and whether it applies to public officials. He also stated that when the vice-chair issue arose, a letter was sent to the vice-chair that she could choose to have it held in open session. Mr. Oliverio feels that we should seek an advisory

**opinion from the Attorney General's Office. On the motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Dr. Ross to table the vote on a lack of confidence in the vice-chair's performance with a recommendation that it be sent to the Attorney General for an advisory opinion, Mr. Day, Dr. Ross, Mrs. Cienki and Mr. Gregson voted yes. Mr. Bradley and Mr. Martin voted no, and Mrs. Friedemann abstained. Mrs. Friedemann stated that Mr. Oliverio agreed that she should abstain. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to go out of Executive Session and to seal the minutes of the September 5, 2006 Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Call to Order**

#### **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**The meeting commenced at 8:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

#### **2. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda**

**Alisha Leite and Ashley Ross, Student Council Liaisons, stated that students are very anxious about the new kitchen and new lights in the student parking lot. They feel more guidance counselors are needed. According to the liaisons, hats are a big issue as far as the new high school dress code is concerned. Students feel if they are allowed to vote, they should be allowed to wear hats in school. Mr. Meyers suggested they go the School Improvement Team about having another guidance counselor at the high school.**

**Mr. Robert Vespia stated that the changes to the high school parking lot are long overdue. He also stated that the School Committee is not setting a good example to the students by bickering.**

### **3. Superintendent's Report on Opening of School**

**Mr. Meyers stated that everything went smoothly for the opening of school and was a team effort. The school year started with 2424 students.**

### **4. Discussion and Vote on Human Resources Consultant**

**Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to accept the same agreement as the Town to hire a human resources consultant. D.I. Jacobs was the company who won the bid and they will look at all aspects of human resources and the level of staff support is part of the study. Mrs. Cienki agrees with the system analysis but has a**

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**problem with budgeting it and how it improves student achievement. On the motion to hire a human resources consultant, Mrs. Friedemann, Mr. Gregson, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Martin and Mr. Day voted yes, and Dr. Ross and Mrs. Cienki voted no. The motion passed. It was noted that the cost to the school department of \$10,900.**

### **5. New Business**

**On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the following resignations with the exception of 5.1.3.**

#### **5.1 Resignations**

**5.1.1 Janice Roccio, Reading Teacher at Cole Middle School, effective August 9, 2006**

**5.1.2 Jennifer Kinsella, Paraprofessional at Eldredge School, effective August 16, 2006**

**5.1.3 Andrew Longo, Biology Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective August 15, 2006**

**5.1.4 Lisa Gemma, Speech and Language pathologist, effective August 29, 2006**

**The Committee was disappointed that Andrew Longo was given an opportunity**

**to participate in Gems Net and then left the school system, noting that the East Greenwich Public Schools will not receive the benefits.**

**Mr. Meyers noted that he spoke to URI and there is no provision that the teacher return, but that will be a case in the future. Mr. Gregson asked for a penalty clause in the upcoming contract to prevent this from happening again. On the motion to accept the resignation of Andrew Longo, Mr. Martin and Mr. Bradley voted yes, and Dr. Ross, Mr. Day and Mrs. Cienki abstained. Mrs. Friedemann and Mr. Gregson didn't vote. The motion did not pass.**

## **5.2 Appointments**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross, the Committee voted**

**unanimously to approve the following appointments:**

**5.2.1 Timothy Smith, Physical Education/Health teacher at East Greenwich High School, for one year only, effective August 29, 2006**

**5.2.2 Rosemary Crocker, Reading Teacher at Cole Middle School, effective August 29, 2006**

**5.2.3 Ashley Ross, 1.0 English/Language Arts Teacher at Cole Middle School, for one year only, effective August 29, 2006**

**5.2.4 Monica Jennings, Grade One Teacher at Meadowbrook Farms**

**School, for one year only, effective August 29, 2006.**

**5.2.5 Psychologist, 0.4 for the preschool program at Meadowbrook Farms School, effective August 29, 2006**

**5.2.6 Speech and Language Pathologist, for one year only, effective August 29, 2006**

**5.2.7 Maria Portugali, 0.9 Science Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective August 29, 2006**

**5.2.8 Steven Levesque, from 0.5 Mathematics at East Greenwich High School, to 1.0 Mathematics at East Greenwich High School.**

**5.2.9 Frances Rochefort, 0.4 Latin Teacher at Cole Middle School, effective August 29, 2006**

**5.2.10 Timothy Corrigan, Paraprofessional at Hanaford School, effective August 30, 2006**

## **6. Discussion of Roles and responsibilities of Vice-chairperson**

**Mr. Martin stated that there are five meetings left for this Committee, therefore we should wait for the new Committee to begin before the new roles and responsibilities are available.**

## **7. Discussion of Caito Design of Fields for EGHS and McHale Property and Involvement of Facilities Committee**

**Mr. Meyers stated that the Facilities Committee met on August 23 but it is highly unlikely that SBS would recommend new building at the high school. He also noted that the Facilities Committee supports the Caito Design concept, with a final say by the School Committee. Mr. Meyers stated that a public information session will be held on September 28 and the design is up for a referendum vote on November 7. Mr. Gregson stated that the**

Facilities Committee needs to be charged by the School Committee since we haven't asked them to work on the fields behind the high school. He noted that we are trying to get access to Frenchtown Road. Mrs. Cienki stated that her concern is that the fields on the McHale Property can't sustain a building. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to charge the Facilities Committee with overseeing the development of the athletic field's project. Mrs. Friedemann is concerned with the abutting land owners and getting them involved, and also the traffic through the River Farm neighborhood. She feels it is too expensive to get Frenchtown Road access. Mr. Caito stated that he can do a preliminary investigation, and he is meeting with DEM. Dr. Ross's motion passed unanimously.

#### **8. Boys and Girls Cross Country Out-of State Trip to Vermont on Oct. 6 and 7**

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Cross Country tri to Vermont.

#### **9. Public Comments for Items on the agenda**

Mr. Vespia asked to have the school's website updated.

10. On a motion made by Mrs. Cienki and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m., under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Athletic Director Unit Clarification Discussion, Student Request for Commissioner's Hearing, and Teacher Contract Negotiations.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**