

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The following members were present: Vincent Bradley, Paul Martin, William Day, Steve Gregson and Dr. Al Ross, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent, Helen O'Hara. Mrs. Cienki arrived at the meeting at 8:00p.m. and Mrs. Friedemann was absent.

1. Call to Order

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

David Preston, 205 River Farm Drive, addressed the Committee with concerns of the neighborhood on the proposed McHale Property fields. There is a concern with lights, and unanimous opposition to any vehicle access on River Farm Drive.

David Sarlitto, 55 Barrows Drive, stated that his daughter's math book had thirty pages missing but has been in circulation since 2003. He questioned the fact that we can't get books for kids, but the Committee is asking for money for fields.

3. Approval of Minutes – August 15 Executive Session and Regular

Meeting

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 15 Executive and regular session.

4. EGHS Student Liaison Report

It was noted that homecoming will be held from October 23 to 28.

5. New Business

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the following resignation:

5.1 Resignations

5.1.1 Kathleen Dunstan, Coach of Mock Trial Team at Cole, effective 9-5-06

5.2 Appointments

On a motion made by Mr. Gregson and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointments 5.2.1 through 5.2.12

5.2.1 School Physician, Dr. Howard Silversmith

5.2.2 Mary Lamoureux, Elementary Band Director at Eldredge and Hanaford Schools, effective 8-29-06

5.2.3 Michele Pelletier, 0.4 Psychologist at Meadowbrook School, effective 9-19

5.2.4 Theresa DiSegna, Paraprofessional at Eldredge, effective 8-30-06

5.2.5 Brian Eagan, Paraprofessional at EGHS, effective 9-13-06

5.2.6 Kelli Baro, Paraprofessional for Frenchtown, effective 8-30-06

5.2.7 Tracy Cole, Paraprofessional at Frenchtown effective 9-13-06

5.2.8 Carolyn Palazzo, Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook, effective 8-30-06

5.2.9 Jeanne Ferguson, 0.5 Pre-School Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms, effective 9-1-06

5.2.10 Joshua Schatz, Boys' Soccer Coach at Cole for the fall season

5.2.11 Melissa Costa and Kristin Pontarelli, Co-Advisors for Cole National Junior Honor Society

5.2.12 Stephanie Pavone, Newsflash Editor at Cole

5.3 Unpaid Parental Leave

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5.3.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted

unanimously to approve the unpaid parental leave of Lori Patnaude, Special Education Teacher at EGHS, for three weeks at a date to be announced (within the next 4 months)

6. Facilities Committee Update

Jay Gowell, Chair of the Facilities Committee. stated that SBS has completed their assessment of the physical characteristics of the schools. He noted that a preliminary report will be given at the October 3rd meeting. Two focus group sessions were held on September 13 and there was a great response from concerned and interested citizens. Mr. Gowell also noted that the field's proposal was done independently of the Facilities Committee. He stated that the Facilities Committee supports looking forward. Mr. Martin noted that when the new Committee comes aboard, he would like a three

member facilities subcommittee as part of the facilities committee.

Mr. Gowell stated that this School Committee has been very supportive of the Facilities Committee, especially Mr. Gregson.

7. Bid Awards

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to table the vote on the bids until Mr. Wilmarth was present to explain. This was seconded by Mr. Day. Mr. Gregson stated that time and materials contracts are not good. The motion to table passed with Mr. Gregson voting no.

7.1 Licensed Electrician to B/Z Electric

7.2 Asbestos & Assessment Monitoring Contract to Vortex for three years.

7.3 Plumbing Contract to DeTufo Plumbing and Heating, Inc. for three years

8. Process to Approve Electronic Policy Manual

Mr. Meyers stated that the electronic policy manual has not been formally approved. Dr. Ross began the process which created an easier way to manage the policies. There was a consensus to approve the electronic policies in small pieces and have this addressed by the new School Committee.

9. First Reading of Wellness Policy

Dr. Ross, Chair of the Health & Wellness Committee, gave a power point presentation on obesity and poor health problems among students. The East Greenwich Wellness Committee was formed because of a Federal and State requirement. Mrs. Ellise Wolff, a member of the Wellness Committee, stated that this is not just for

students but for the community, faculty and staff. She noted that many communities have walking teams as a result of this initiative. Mr. Meyers thanked all the members of this committee. The policy was presented for a first reading.

10. Discussion of Impact of Wellington Woods Affordable Housing Proposal on East Greenwich Public Schools

Dr. Ross gave a power point presentation on the affect of the proposed Wellington Woods Development on the East Greenwich Schools. He made a motion that the Superintendent and/or his representative and the Chair attend the Zoning Board meeting October 17th at Town Hall at 7:00p.m. to explain the potential effect of Wellington Woods on the East Greenwich Schools. This was seconded by Mr. Gregson and was unanimous. It was noted that the Town belongs to the people already here and this is a threat to the school services.

11. Discussion of Impact of West Warwick Casino on East Greenwich Schools-Possible Vote on Resolution.

Dr. Ross gave a power point presentation on the impact of the proposed casino on East Greenwich Schools. He noted that it will reduce property values and reduce the quality of life. Residential and commercial property values will fall, and East Greenwich will pay more taxes, and see an increase in crime. It will result in a loss of business to East Greenwich, as well as more problems with youth and family gambling. Dr. Ross read a resolution from the East Greenwich School Committee (attached to these minutes). Mr. Gregson seconded the resolution and all members were on record in

opposition to the casino.

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12. Home School Requests

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the following

home school requests: The motion passed unanimously.

Molly Cottrell, grade 8; Kaylyn Murphy, grade 4; Leah Rachel Bode, grade 8; Isaac Bode, grade 3; Phebe Hawes, grade 4; Eamon Westcott Connors, grade 5; Ada Jean Connors, grade 1.

13. Out-of-State Field Trip to Ivoryton, Conn. from November 8 to November 10 for Hanaford School

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the out-of-state field trip to Connecticut. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Public Comments for Items on the agenda

Joanne Leach thanked the Dr. Ross for the presentation on the casino and asked to have the word sent out to the voters.

15. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Cienki stated that the high school parking lot looks great and wondered if it was necessary to number the spaces.

She also stated that she went to the Cole boys' and girls' locker rooms and said they are disgusting and a hazmat suit is needed to be in there. She also noted that the high school class of 08 has their

own website, and the EdNets group was at Meadowbrook open house to get the word out to parents about the new website. Mrs. Cienki feels that there should be a report from the principals every month on the positives and negatives going on in the schools.

Mr. Martin feels it is important to have an annual evaluation of the Superintendent.

Cole transportation is a concern since there is sewer work being done in that area. It was noted that at least 100 vehicles are dropping off students in the morning and there is a congestion problem that we should be concerned about.

Mr. Gregson is appalled at what was brought up at the second public meeting with Strategic Building Solutions, and there is no reason for the condition of the Cole bathrooms.

Mr. Bradley stated that he asked Mrs. Cienki to look at the Cole locker rooms because he had complaints. It was noted that Frenchtown bathrooms are not clean and feels there is an inability to keep the school bathrooms clean. He wants the principals to go through the school once a month to see what is satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Mrs. Cienki asked if the town coordinated the sewer work in front of Cole. She noted that it could have been done in the summer.

16. On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn and go into Executive Session at 8:28p.m. under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Penalty Clause Administrators' Contract, Contract Negotiations, Special Education Litigation and Issues Involving Confidentiality.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary