

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The following members were present: Vincent Bradley, Sue Cienki, William Day, and Dr. Al Ross, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent, Helen O'Hara. Mr. Martin, Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Friedemann were absent.

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Tricia Colgan, 55 Red Barn Lane, spoke with dismay at the renewal of the Laidlaw Bus contract. She is a Meadowbrook/Hanaford parent and noted that many parents drive their kids to school because of buses being late. Mrs. Colgan also noted that kids are late for religious education classes after school. Mr. Meyers stated that he has been working with Laidlaw and there are still some kinks to work out. He tried to have the same starting times for all schools but that didn't work out for this school year. Mrs. Cienki asked about maintenance and upkeep of buses in the Laidlaw contract. Mrs. Crawford will check this out.

Mrs. Joanne Leach stated concerns in light of the school tragedies. She asked what we could do to better our schools for security.

4. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as follows: September 5 and September 19 Executive Sessions and Regular Meetings.

5. Report from Strategic Building Solutions, Inc.

Jon Winokur, Dennis Flynn and Chip Phillips from SBS gave a power point presentation on the Facilities Conditions Assessment of all six schools.

6. Update on Warrant Article Projects and Summer Maintenance Work
Mr. Wilmarth, Facilities Director, and Mr. Ernie DiSaia, Facilities Consultant, gave an update on the warrant article projects. Mr. DiSaia noted that work is continuing on the Hanaford parking area and windows at Eldredge. Dr. Ross thanked the Town Council for their support in getting the buildings up to code. He also thanked the Facilities Committee for their hard work. Mr. Jay Gowell thanked Dr. Ross for his words. He stated that his committee has been working with Ernie DiSaia, Maryanne Crawford and Charlie Meyers. Mr. Gowell also noted that SBS did a great job telling the school department how to get the buildings up to snuff. Mr. Bradley stated that the new Superintendent helped a lot.

7. Update on Caito Design for Fields at East Greenwich High School and the McHale Property

Mr. Meyers noted that the public information session was well attended, and there were comments both pro and con. He also noted

that the National Grid and Caito will have discussions to resolve any issues. Mr. Isaacs, Town Council President, stated that National Grid built fields as part of the settlement of a suit, but their concern is fields of a permanent nature.

8. New Business

8.1 Appointments

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Dr. Ross, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointments:

8.2.1 Suzanne Chapin, full-time secretary at East Greenwich High School, for 7 hours per day.

8.2.2 Patricia Ustick, .50 Guidance Counselor at East Greenwich High School, for one year only

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8.2.3 Anne-Marie Flaherty, 0.1 Guidance Counselor at East Greenwich High School, for one year only.

9. Report on PreK-12 Literacy

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to table this item. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Second Reading and Vote on Wellness Policy

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the second reading and vote on the Wellness Policy. Dr. Ross noted that the new kitchen at the high school helps meet the food guidelines.

11. Home School Request from September until the end of December

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Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the home school request for the following students: The motion passed unanimously.

Bridget Buckley, grade 8 Chase Buckley, grade 6 Anna Buckley, grade 4

12. Out-of-State Field Trip to Agawam, MA on 5-18-07 for HS Science Dept.

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the field trip to Agawam, Ma. for the high school science department. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Superintendent Evaluation Process

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

14. Bid Awards

14.1 Licensed Electrician to B/Z Electric for three years

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to award the bid for the licensed electrician to B/Z Electric. The motion passed with Mr. Day voting no.

14.2 Asbestos & Assessment Monitoring Contract to Vortex for three years

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to award the bid for Asbestos & Assessment Monitoring to Vortex. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to

award the bid for plumbing to DelTufo Plumbing. The motion passed with Mr. Day voting no.

15. Financial Report

Mrs. Crawford provided a summary of the current fiscal year costs. It was noted that the upcoming budget will be more comprehensive and detailed.

16. Public Comments for Items on the agenda

Ellen Shanos stated that there are no character development issues in the Wellness Policy. She stated that bullying and mental health should be incorporated when we update the policy. Dr. Ross stated that the wellness committee will meet again and the specifics will be implemented.

Jean Ann Guliano asked if the school department anticipates that all warrant projects will be completed. Mr. Meyers responded that they will get to the life safety issues first which are priority 1 issues and some of the priority 2 issues.

17. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Day noted that people have to follow protocol when they put in a complaint.

Mrs. Cienki stated that there was a technology committee led by Peter McLaren but it is not active now. She asked if it could be re-instituted. She also noted that Cole Middle School students are not required to take a computer class as high school students are and would like coordination between the two schools. Mrs. Cienki also stated that computer courses are too simple at the high school and asked for changes.

Dr. Ross stated that some high school students don't have phones and this makes for problems with the scheduling system for students.

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Mr. Bradley feels that the \$6 million bond issue for fields may get defeated and wants to do everything we can to get it passed. He noted that there is an undercurrent that the School Committee has not done what they can to get it. Mr. Meyers stated that he will speak to the PTG groups to solicit their support and have the information on the website.

18. On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:34p.m. under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) for discussion of a Public Forum on Teacher Contract Issues, and Special Education Litigation

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary