

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 7:10p.m. 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, Assistant Superintendent, Helen O'Hara, and Director of Facilities Robert Wilmarth. Mr. Martin, Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Friedemann were absent.

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Dr. Ross noted that he met a social worker who praised our school system's work when a student needs an IEP.

4. School Committee Liaison Report

Alicia Leite spoke about the upcoming Homecoming and Spirit Week.

This year there will be a pre tailgate party before the homecoming game. Alicia also stated that the new high school kitchen is awesome, and there are a lot of choices. She stated that students want to recycle, but it was never made a priority. Alicia noted that maintenance in the bathrooms is also an issue because they have not been updated.

5. New Business

5.1 Retirement

5.1.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the retirement of Andrea Bassett, Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms School, effective October 27.

5.2 Appointments

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

5.2.1 Elissa Berger and Kellie O'Neill, co-advisors for Mock Trial Club at Cole Middle School

5.2.2 Richard Barrett, Intramural Flag Football Coach for Cole Middle School

5.2.3 Lea Miguel, Intramural Field Hockey Coach at Cole Middle School

5.2.4 Ann O'Grady and Patrick McCrossan, co-advisors for Cole Drama Club

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5.2.5 Brandon Levesque, Orchestra/Band Director and Jazz Band Advisor at Cole Middle School

6. Report from Strategic Building Solutions on Space Quantification and Utilization

Jonathan Winokur, Chip Phillips, and Dennis Flynn from Strategic Building Solutions gave a presentation on Space Quantification and

Utilization. Current space needs and goals were addressed. It was noted that at the November 14 School Committee meeting, Program Modification Planning will be addressed, and at the November 28 meeting, an Enrollment Impact Analysis will be addressed. Mr. Bradley is impressed with the SBS data and asked how other cities and towns with the same problems, get the community on board. Mr. Flynn responded that schools are important but fire and safety are important also. He noted that there are limits to what a community can afford, but the people who are going to make it work are the School Committee, by developing a strategy.

7. Facilities Committee Report on Status of Warrant Articles

Mr. Jay Gowell, Chair of the Facilities Committee, stated that Facilities Committee member Mike Gagne went through a detailed spreadsheet of warrant article expenditures to let everyone know where the numbers came from. He noted that some project items listed as complete without money attached were expended out of the normal operating budget. Mrs. Crawford noted that the undesignated fund balance money was for the boiler and windows at Cole. Mr. Meyers stated that the beginning was slow but over the past fifteen months the efficiency and effectiveness of the warrants improved because of Ernie DeSaia. Mr. Meyers feels that the warrant article projects will be wrapped up by the summer of next year. He noted that building security still needs to be completed. Mike Gagne feels that, for the future, estimates up front on projects are critical.

8. Home School Requests:

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the

Committee

voted unanimously to approve the following home school requests: Samuel Braden, grade 1/2, Gabriel Braden, grade 1/2. Nicholas Braden, grade 4/5; Abigail Braden, grade 7, and Benjamin Braden, grade 9

9. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the field trips to Boston Museum of Science on November 2, 2006 for Cole Middle School, and on November 9 for High School Biology students

10. Public Comments for Items on the agenda

There were no public comments.

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11. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Day asked for the number of consultants employed by the school department, what they are paid, and what they do. He also asked about overtime pay for teachers.

Mrs. Cienki asked about the length of the school day, noting that walkers are dismissed at 3:10 but school is not out until 3:20. Mr. Meyers stated that walkers are dismissed early for safety reasons.

12. 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) Superintendent's Evaluation, and Special Education Litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

**Virginia Giuliani
Secretary**