

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Greenwich High School Auditorium, 300 Avenger Drive

ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sue Cienki at 7:00p.m. The following members were present: William Day, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, JeanAnn Guliano, and Anne Palumbo, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Maryanne Crawford, Helen O'Hara and Robert Wilmarth. Mrs. Friedemann was absent.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the following minutes: November 14, November 28 regular and Executive Session, December 5 regular. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Recognitions

5.1 Katherine Young was recognized for being selected for the 2007 MENC All Eastern Chorus. She was given a certificate by members of the School Committee.

Mr. Vincent Varrecchione, Athletic Director, stated that the student

accomplishments are appreciated and he named all the members and coaches of the following winning fall teams. All members and coaches were given certificates and congratulated by the School Committee.

5.2 East Greenwich High School Varsity Football Team-Division III State Champions

5.3 East Greenwich High School Varsity Girls' and Boys' Cross Country Teams, Class C Champions

5.4 Cole Middle School Boys' Soccer- Middle School State Champions

5.5 East Greenwich High School Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer-JV State Championship

6. New Business

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the following appointment: The motion passed unanimously.

6.1 Appointment

6.1.1 Paula Glod, High School Yearbook Co-Advisor

6.2 Resignation

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to accept the following resignation:

6.2.1 Tim Corrigan, paraprofessional at Hanaford, effective November 17, 2006

Mrs. Guliano stated that his resignation letter was troubling. The Superintendent stated that the administration has already created a better situation for the individual in the classroom.

7. Out-of-State Field Trip

7.1 High School Hockey Team to North Reading, MA. on December 27 and 28 for a Holiday Tournament. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve this trip. The motion passed unanimously.

195

8. Program of Studies Changes: Cole Middle School and East Greenwich High

Mr. Militello and Mr. Zajac presented minor changes to the Cole Program of Studies for the next school year. Family and Consumer Science will have a name change to Visual Arts and Pre-Algebra will be changed to Advanced Pre-Algebra.

Mr. Levine answered questions from the Committee on the proposed changes to the high school Program of Studies. He spoke about the Rhode Island Interscholastic League standards for athletes and noted that he is working with Mr. Varrecchione to make the wording simpler.

Mrs. Records asked about electives, adding that all six credits in one area is not a good idea. Mr. Levine also noted that he may take out Computer Education, Research and the Internet. Mrs. Cienki wants a concise table for English, Math and Social Studies so that parents can see the sequence of events. She also noted that the freshman toolbox is an excellent idea, but she is concerned that there is a conflict of courses offered, and would like better coordination. Mr. Levine spoke about having students take summer courses outside school for graduate credit. He wants to explore this with his team because there is a question of developing a proficiency test,

monitoring it, and then correcting it. Mrs. Cienki asked Mr. Levine to ramp up the Theater for Children course.

9. Bid Awards

9.1 Maintenance Vehicle (utility truck) to Colony Ford for \$44,730

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the bid for a new maintenance vehicle. Mr. Day asked why we could not buy a cheaper truck without a plowing attachment. Mr. Meyers responded that he wants the truck to last longer since he doesn't want to cut back on maintenance. Mrs. Guliano asked if the price for the truck could be negotiated down. Mrs. Crawford stated that we can't negotiate a sealed bid. On the vote to approve the bid for a new maintenance vehicle, Mrs. Guliano and Mr. Palumbo voted yes, and Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Day, Mrs. Winters and Mrs. Records voted no. The motion didn't pass. Mr. Meyers asked the Committee what they wanted for a new truck. There was a consensus to purchase a truck in the range of \$25,000 to \$35,000.

9.2 Snowplowing to Seascape in the estimated amount of \$25,485 on a per event basis

On a motion made by Mrs. Guliano and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the

Committee voted unanimously to approve the bid for snowplowing to Seascape on a per event basis.

Mr. Carl Hoyer stated that it doesn't make sense to have one group plow the roads and one group plow the school parking lots. He feels it is a duplication of effort, and farming out the work to a contractor is ridiculous.

10. Presentations by Bob Houghtaling: Character Counts, Youth to Youth, Cole Leader Program

Mr. Houghtaling was present at the meeting and spoke about the importance of raising good citizens. George Cilley and Michael Ellis as well as other student members of his programs were present to speak about the importance of these programs in their lives. Salina Mohanty, a URI senior spoke about her involvement with these programs since she was a 7th grader.

Mr. Houghtaling also gave his Drug Program report for the first half of the school year. Mrs. Cienki thanked the students for their eloquent and articulate speeches.

196

11. Financial Report

Mrs. Crawford stated that she will have a report in January. She noted that school districts are working on a statewide chart of accounts, from which we can obtain reports. Mrs. Crawford stated that East Greenwich may be a test site. She noted that a new regulation for new school construction states that districts can't apply for the 30 percent reimbursement until their bond is passed.

12. Paraprofessional Substitute Pay

Mr. Meyers stated that the current pay is \$7.50 per hour and there are only four people on the substitute list since we are the lowest paying district. He asked to increase the pay to \$10.00 per hour, which would not be an increase in the budget. He noted that several special

education programs require a paraprofessional. On the motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the increase in paraprofessional substitute pay to \$10.00 per hour.

13. Appoint Members of the Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Meyers noted that the School Committee passed a resolution in January 2005 to have a five member finance advisory committee who would serve a two year term. There will be one ex-officio member from the School Committee, Jean Ann Guliano. This committee will advise the School Committee on budgets, audits and insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

14. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Palumbo feels that the policies in the school district Policy Handbook need to be separated, with a focus on separate sections. Mr. Meyers suggested the administrators read the policies carefully and work on a process. He noted that any revisions have to pass scrutiny of the law, and many of the current policies are outdated. Mrs. Cienki and Mr. Meyers will outline the policies first, work through them piece by piece and give to our attorneys.

School Committee members will attend the meeting in Barrington on State Aid on January 4th, along with Michael Isaacs and John McGurk from the Town Council.

Mrs. Guliano would like a status on EdNets at a future meeting.

15. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the

Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn

**at 10:05p.m., and go into Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)
(2) for Teacher Contract Negotiations.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Virginia Giuliani
Secretary**