

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE February 13, 2007 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Hanaford School, 200 Middle Road, East Greenwich, RI

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sue Cienki at 7:10p.m. The following

members were present: William Day, Merrill Friedemann, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, and Anne Palumbo, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Maryanne Crawford, Helen O'Hara and Robert Wilmarth. Mrs. Guliano arrived at the meeting at 7:25p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

2. Public Comments-There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes-There were no minutes to approve.

4. Recognitions

The following students were given certificates for their achievements in Music:

4.1 Jr. All-State orchestra-Joshua Leveillee, Breanna Lynch and Miriam Pallant

4.2 Jr. All-State Chorus-Jade Genga and Jordan Fowler

4.3 Sr. All-State Jazz Ensemble-Timothy Winters

4.5.4 Sr. All-State Band-Mihir Vohra

4.5 Sr. All-State Orchestra-Steven Savitt, Johna Paolino, Erin Orleck, Diana Schaller, Christina Beachhau, Amanda Serino, Austin Smith, Brendan Hall, Thomas Pritchard, Anika Rounds, Julia Florenz and Maya Sharodi

4.6 Sr. All-State Chorus-Annie Keithline, Benjamin Lovejoy, Jennifer Scanlon, Andrew Shubel and Katherine Young

5. Presentation by Gerald Tirozzi, Executive Director of National Association of Secondary School Principals

Mr. Tirozzi was not able to attend the meeting and Mr. Militello spoke on his behalf. He explained the history of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, sponsors of the National Honor Society, and the National Junior Honor Society

6. New Business

6.1 Appointments

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted to approve the following coaches: Mrs. Records abstained.

Coaches for High School Spring Sports

Bob Downey, Head Baseball

Rob Petrucci, Head Softball

Brian Hesford, Head Volleyball

Stanley Johnson, Head Girls' Track

Marc Brocato, Head Co-Ed Golf

Jim Areson, Head Girls' Lacrosse

Matt Records, Assistant Baseball

Lisa MacFarlane, Assistant Softball

208

Scott Reslow, Assistant Volleyball

Gregor Johnson, Assistant Girls' Track

Cole Middle School Spring Sports-Doug Haynes, Head Baseball Coach

7. Public Hearing on FY 08 Budget

Mr. Meyers stated that the budget needs to be approved at the March 13 School Committee meeting, for Town Council adoption on or before May 15. He noted that the budget has an increase of \$1.4 million, which is a 4.86% increase. The challenge is to maintain our status as a district. Mrs. Friedemann asked for a detail from 05-06 and 06-07 to 07-08.

8. Contract non-renewals and lay-offs

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to non-renew the teacher contracts for the 2007-2008 school year. The list is attached to these minutes.

9. Discussion of School Facilities Options

It was noted that the Facilities Committee will meet with the School Committee on February 15 at 6:30p.m. in the high school library.

Mrs. Guliano noted that she toured Cole with Mrs. Palumbo, and Henry Boezi from the Town Council. They gave a summary of their findings such as heating and ventilating issues, floor tiles, uneven heating in rooms, no insulation, no heat in boys' bathrooms or locker room, deplorable bathroom facilities, low water pressure and

portables with no foundation structures, electrical system that is not up to current standards and roof that needs to be replaced. Mr. Boezi stated that he thought we may be able to renovate Cole but this school is unsafe, unhealthy and worn out. He wants to do this in the most frugal way. Mrs. Friedemann stated that there is a need to look at alternate energy sources if a new school is built. Mr. Wilmarth responded that energy efficiencies will be built into the plans.

David Grandpre has concerns that are academic. Not just for the physical plant. He noted that it is painful to renovate old buildings. His concerns are moving 6th graders to a middle school. He feels that we have a bad trend of kids maturing too fast and watching too much television. He also stated that he feels it deserves more attention that he sees it getting. He wants input from the community. He noted that what drives up costs is how to lay out the building to meet the curriculum. Mrs. Cienki stated that the School Committee will prioritize what will be done.

Mrs. Records noted that she has looked into grade alignment and would like to see how SBS arrived at the grade alignment. She feels that the community should know how the grade alignment was decided. She also stated that studies show that older students help younger students.

Mrs. Friedemann stated that Dr. Ross feels the current middle school grade configuration has been successful and worked in the past so why change it. Mr. Militello responded that the students are flourishing in middle school.

A parent who moved here from Connecticut stated that the design of

their middle school kept the 6th graders apart. He stated that different opinions shouldn't derail the plan. He feels that the public should understand the process and not think about everything that can go wrong.

Mrs. Palumbo stated that whatever the decision is going to be will be in the best interest of the children.

209

10. School Committee Concerns

There were no School Committee concerns.

**On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously at 8:50 p.m. to go into Executive Session on the following item under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2):
Teacher Contract Negotiations.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Virginia Giuliani
Secretary**